

Beste Ozsezen

Project title: *Piccolo E Respiro" (PER) in Tuscany - Health conditions at 18 years of age in an area-based cohort of subjects born severely preterm: the PER-2 project.*

Duration	3 months
Short Bio	I am originally from Izmir, Turkey. I have been practicing medicine for 13 years which I have focused on pediatric pulmonology for the last 4 years in Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. I have a special interest on lung function tests performed in children.
Home Institution	Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Pediatric Pulmonology Unit
Host institution	AOU Meyer Hospital, Pediatric Pulmonary Unit
Project description	<p>Respiratory morbidity is not restricted to preterm children with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), but also apparent in those without BPD. Although spirometry is a well-established method to assess lung function, other lung function techniques aiming to assess peripheral airway function and mechanics, such as forced oscillation technique (FOT), have been shown to be more sensitive than spirometry for detection of airway obstruction in children with lung disease, including follow-up studies of children born very preterm.</p> <p>Main focus of this fellowship was to provide a respiratory assessment including pulmonary function for children born with gestational age < 28 weeks or requiring oxygen at 36 weeks of post-conception age and children born at gestational age 28-31 weeks recruited in a previous project (ACTION project) in the Tuscany region.</p> <p>Lung functions were measured with FOT and spirometry in basal conditions and after bronchodilator with the aim of assessing the possible presence of bronchial obstruction, its degree and its reversibility.</p>
Personal statement	Thanks to EJPRD fellowship I had the possibility to work with an experienced and also warm, friendly and welcoming team.

The best part of this fellowship was that, I had a chance to perform and discuss lung function tests of each patient with my mentor and learn the intricacies of these tests. Being able to perform FOT and in my home institution will be useful in monitoring lung complications related to prematurity. Besides being noninvasive and easily conducted measuring modalities for lung function it can be generalizable to other chronic lung conditions. This fellowship has been a great experience for me and I recommend it to any of my colleagues. I am looking forward to implementing my new skills in my home institute.