

Orthopedic Oncology Fellow's Report

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I am Dr. Edelyn Azurin, a graduate of the Orthopedic Residency Program of the Philippine Orthopedic Center. During my training, I developed an interest in Oncology. Prior to coming to Hong Kong, I have already done an Oncology Fellowship in Kanazawa, Japan.

I am supposed to be the visiting fellow last July to December 2020, but due to the pandemic my appointment was cancelled. That year, I started as a Medical Specialist managing orthopedic tumor patients at a government hospital in a province in the Philippines. It never crossed my mind that I will be given again the opportunity to train. Late last year, I was offered the position and accepted it.



The Orthopedic Oncology & Limb Salvage (OLS) Team: (Left to Right) Dr. Kenneth Ho, Dr. Anderson Leung, Dr. Gabriel Leung, Dr. Edelyn Azurin, Dr. Albert Lam and Dr. Raymond Yau.



The Oncology team always have a full weekly schedule. The team attends to 2 hospitals - Queen Mary Hospital & Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital.

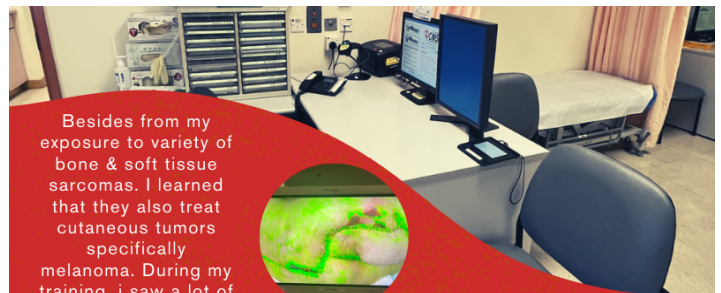
My schedule as their fellow includes, participating to surgeries 3-4x a week, out-patient clinics 2-3x a week and Friday grand rounds. It also includes, attending the weekly section's pre-operative conference, the department's Wednesday conference and sometimes, the Saturday interhospital meeting.



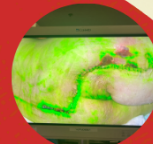
What I find very exceptional is their multidisciplinary approach in managing their patients. They have weekly Pathology rounds, 2x a month Radiology Rounds and combined sarcoma/melanoma meetings. Their multidisciplinary approach is well commended.



Above picture shows the busy OT at QMH. This picture shows the weekly Pathology rounds.



Besides from my exposure to variety of bone & soft tissue sarcomas. I learned that they also treat cutaneous tumors specifically melanoma. During my training, I saw a lot of cases and gain knowledge in the management of it, both surgical and medical aspect.



I also learned different surgical techniques such as using liquid nitrogen recycled autograft, extracortical bone bridge grafting for bone-endoprosthesis junction, radical lymph node dissections for melanoma metastases, soft tissue reconstruction using flaps, and many more.

Lastly, I was lucky enough to witness and be a part of 3 pelvic resection & reconstruction surgeries. I was amazed by the detailed planning and commitment of the different subspecialties in able to perform the surgeries.



This picture shows the Radiology rounds.

Being their fellow, I was able to perform supervised surgeries and see cases at the OP clinic. I am surprised that they have a lot of Filipino patients. Because of this, I really felt part of the team as I can contribute with the work. Also, I am on-call at DKCH at least 2x a month.



What makes my fellowship special is the Annual International Musculoskeletal Tumor Conference held every December. Last 2018, i was an attendee of the 2nd Tumor Course. But this year i was part of the committee, i took part moderating a session and presented a case. Also, i was able to meet the other well-known Professors, not only in orthopedics but in other specialties as well. I have learned a lot from the 2-day tumor course.



Pineapple Hill
at Tuen Muen



Dragon's Back at
Shek O Country Park



Cheung Chau Island



Ngong Ping 360
at Lantau Island

Hong Kong is known as a busy, crowded urban environment full of people and shopping venues. In my stay, I have discovered the quiet and peaceful side of this country. During my free days & weekends, i spent my time exploring the different islands and nature trails. I was able to visit Lantau, Lamma and Cheung Chau Islands. I was able to hike at Pineapple Hill and Dragon's Back, and many more.

Being the active person that I am, if the weather does not permit wandering around, I either run or walk around the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Promenade or go to Central to join an indoor cycling class.



Lamma Island



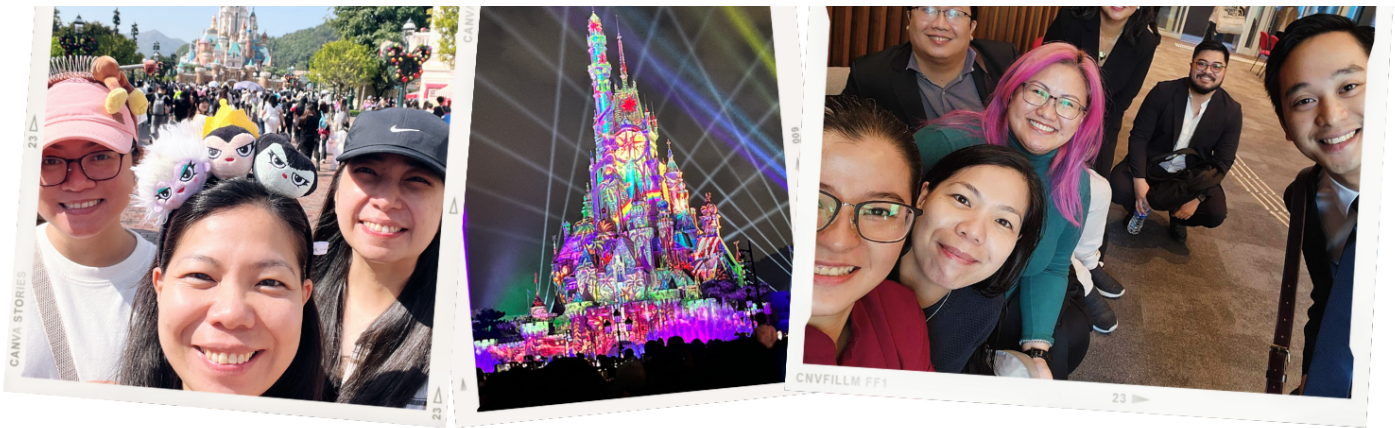
Sun Yat Sen
Memorial Park



Indoor Cycling
Class at XYZ Studio

Food :)

The food here will always have a special place in my heart. The country offers a wide variety as the cuisine is very diverse. You will not get hungry here as there are a lot of restaurants or hole in the wall food stalls that you can choose from. On my 6 months stay, I was on the hunt for the most delicious egg tart – and the one that I will eat over and over again will be the Sourdough egg tarts from bakehouse.



Since HK is very near to the Philippines, I was lucky enough that my friends were able to visit me. Also, this year the tumor course have a lot of delegates from the Philippines. I would like to thank them for coming and attending the course, also for visiting me.



Overall, my entire fellowship was eventful and filled with learning. I want to use this opportunity to thank all of the staff of the Department of Orthopaedics & Traumatology – to the OT staff of both QMH and DKCH, the administrative staff especially Miss Catherine Chiu for coordinating everything prior to me coming here until I finished my training, the wonderful S7 nursing staff (Winnie, Emily & Ms. Lo), the residents I closely worked with (Dr. Lauren Sun & Dr. Gabriel Leung), and lastly to my supervisors – Dr. Albert Lam, Dr. Kenneth Ho, Dr. Raymond Yau and Dr. Anderson Leung. I will be forever grateful. I hope that we will be able to continue the friendship. I will definitely miss working here. See you again and come visit the Philippines!

MARAMING SALAMAT! PAALAM! :)