

Greetings from Iceland

A mere 3 hours and 15 minutes flight will take you from Copenhagen and the sunniest summer in the history of Danish weather records to Iceland and the wettest summer since 1914. Could you ask for a better subject to break the ice?

My visit was facilitated by my PhD supervisor and the official purpose of was to observe and learn. In secrecy I was also looking for possible future research collaboration – e.g. introducing prostate artery embolisation which is the topic of my thesis.



Fortunately, a polite and patient interventional radiologist called Fernando had agreed to let me follow him around during my stay and we agreed to meet Monday morning at The National University Hospital of Iceland (Landspítali). I quickly learned that Landspítali consists of two main facilities, Hringbraut and Fossvogi. I was at the first and the angio suite was hidden at the latter. Fortunately, the other facility was only an additional half an hour walking and I later learned that a shuttle connected the facilities for both staff and patients.

I thought the day would mainly be spent in the angio suite, but I was pleasantly surprised. The workday was refreshingly dynamic and there was never a dull moment observing Fernando taking care of his duties. The mornings offered CT guided biopsies with no regard to anatomical location; pleural, lung, lymph nodes, soft tissue or bone. Not something I have seen a lot of in my early pre-training career.

Time in the angiosuite was equally varied as different cases from percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, superficial femoral and iliac artery stenosis to cerebral angio- and percutaneous transhepatic cholangiograms were dealt with. The staffs were very friendly, used to visitors and colleagues from abroad - gladly elaborating in English when needed.

The interventional radiologist, in addition to the CT and X-ray guided interventions, also covered ultrasound guided procedures; during my stay pleurocentesis, kidney biopsies and the occasional abscess drainage (sometimes at the other facility).

It was a great stay that helped me grow my network and to be introduced to and discuss a vast amount of cases and procedures. Experiencing work in another institution have made me reflect of my approach in both clinic and research and I hope we will find future research to collaborate on.

