

Report of the short-term visit

ERN Exchange Programme 2021-2022

ERN ReCONNET

Name of the participant	Elena Elefante
Healthcare provider where the participant is employed	Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana, Pisa, Italy
Name of the Healthcare provider and Head of the Unit hosting the exchange visit Address Name of the Head of the Unit	Name of the HCPs: Amsterdam University Medical Centers Address: .AMC, Meibergdreef 9, Amsterdam Name of the Head of the Unit: R.F. van Vollenhoven
Start date of the exchange visit	23 rd January 2023
End date of the exchange visit	27 th January 2023

1. Please introduce your position/employment (MD, HAP, patient, other) and years of practice of your profession:

I am a Medical Doctor. I did my fellowship from 2013 to 2018 at the University of Pisa, and after that, I practised as a rheumatologist at the Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana. So I have 9 years of practice in my profession.

2. The objectives of the exchange visit were:

To share knowledge, experiences and good practices in the care of rCTDs, particularly of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus; to stimulate international collaboration with other colleagues; to see how different reference centres for the care of patients with rCTDs work and how other colleagues manage the daily care, follow-up and treatment of complex cases of patients with systemic autoimmune diseases.

3. Please describe the activities performed during your exchange visit:

During the exchange visit, I had the opportunity to discuss with the colleagues of the hosting centre their clinical practices in the care of patients with rare and complex CTDs; we shared our experiences and discussed the way in which the daily work and research activity are organized in our centres. I had the opportunity to join their internal and multidisciplinary meetings to discuss difficult clinical cases. I also participated in the outpatient and inpatient activities of the hosting clinic.



4. Please describe below what you have learned and which new information/novelties you got during the exchange visit:

During the exchange visit, I had the opportunity to see how patients with autoimmune diseases are managed in a European reference centre. I found it very important to have had the opportunity to share our experiences discussing real clinical cases during the week. Moreover, I could appreciate how the colleagues organize their work both for clinical practice and for research activity, through very useful internal and multidisciplinary meetings and through the creation of different teams that work on specific projects.

5. Please describe below how you plan to implement what you have learned in your Healthcare provider/clinic/practice:

In my clinical practice, I would like to implement the regular use of internal and multidisciplinary meetings to discuss difficult clinical cases and to plan current and future activities from a clinical point of view and for research purposes.

6. Would you visit in the future the same center or another ERN centre for update/new topics?

Yes, I would like to visit another ERN centre for sharing experiences on the care of patients with rCTDs.

7. Would you recommend the Exchange Programme to your colleagues? If yes, why?

Yes, I would recommend the Exchange Programme to my colleagues because I think that having the opportunity to visit another European Reference Centre is the best way to share clinical experiences and to try to standardize the care of patients with rare and complex diseases at a European level as much as possible. Moreover, this experience gave me the opportunity to know new colleagues which is the starting point for future collaboration in the care of patients with rCTDs.