

Report of the short-term visit

ERN Exchange Programme 2021-2022

ERN ReCONNET

Name of the participant	EMANUELE GOTELLI
Healthcare provider where the participant is employed	Prof. Maurizio Cutolo
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: University Hospital Ghent Address: Corneel Heymanslaan 10, 9000 Gent, Belgium Name of the Head of the Unit: Prof. Vanessa Smith
Start date of the exchange visit	9.1.2023
End date of the exchange visit	20.1.2023

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

MD (Rheumatologist since November 2020), PhD Student in "Clinical and Experimental Immunology" at University of Genova (Italy) and currently Research Fellow at Laboratory of Experimental Rheumatology and Academic Division of Clinical Rheumatology – IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico San Martino, Genova, Italy.

2. The objectives of the exchange visit were:

Technical sharing and update of imaging methods of microcirculation to early diagnose and manage rare connective tissue diseases of the scleroderma spectrum.

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

During the exchange visit, I was involved in the analysis of the microcirculation of patients suffering from systemic sclerosis (SSc) and overlap forms of SSc-inflammatory myopathies, through nailfold videocapillaroscopy (NVC) and laser speckled contrast analysis (LASCA). Furthermore, I managed techniques for the measurement of skin hardness (skin ultrasound and durometry). Finally, I was involved in the scleroderma clinic activities with multidisciplinary management of SSc patients with Cardiologists and Radiologists.

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

During the exchange visit, I managed techniques for microcirculation analysis (NVC and LASCA) and measurement of skin thickness (skin ultrasound, durometry) of SSc patients.



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

I will increasingly integrate the use of the tools mentioned above into the clinical evaluation of SSc patients, for the early diagnosis of this rare disease.

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

I would like to visit the same Center again as well as another Center of the network, to better manage clinical and non-clinical problems of patients suffering from rare connective tissue diseases, in particular SSc.

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

Yes, I would recommend participation in the Exchange Programme to colleagues interested in rare connective tissue diseases. My experience at University Hospital Ghent was very positive and I recommend the attendance to all colleagues interested in SSc early diagnosis, therapeutic management and multidisciplinary care.