

2019年度 Fellowship 訪問レポート

Name of Fellow: Koji Ishikawa

Spine Center: Spine Education and Research Foundation, Denver, USA

Spine Center Director: Michael Janssen

Duration: 8 weeks



I am Koji Ishikawa from Showa University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan. It was my great honour to grant the AO Spine fellowship at the Scientific Education and Research Foundation (SERI) & The Center for Spine and Orthopedics, Denver, Colorado, USA. My stay in Denver, Colorado was definitely satisfying! First, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the staffs related to this fellowship. All the staffs of SERI were very kind and they were willing to help me all the time including my daily life.

Dr. Michael Janssen, who is my supervisor, is an outstanding spine surgeon as a Ex-AO Spine Chairman. At the same time he was sportsman beyond my imagination and he has won the world champion of powerboat several time. I also had a chance to learn medicine from Dr. Joseph Morreale who is a co-supervisor and Dr. Christiana Ottomeyer who is a spine fellow. Dr. Morreale was a great spine surgeon in that his

fast, safe and accuracy to the operation. I have scrubbed in operations many times with Dr. Ottomeyer and could learned together. She was a beautiful spine surgeon with promising career. I enjoyed spending time discussing many cases with her.

During my stay in Colorado, I study a lot of things besides surgery technique. This fellowship program taught me not only the operative techniques but also the differences in medical systems between USA and that of Japan. Thus, I can grasp how to care the patients under USA medical insurance including clinic appointment, surgery, perioperative management and the follow up after they are discharged. I was surprised to see when the patient was discharged immediately after surgery (A patient who performed cervical disc replacement and was discharged a day after surgery! [Note: she went back to Wisconsin by airplane]). There were variety of surgeries in Denver including spinal fusion, total disc replacement, decompression surgery, spinal cord stimulator, etc. The surgery of total disc replacement, ALIF, SI joint fusion was very impressive to me. Even though I was not familiar with these surgeries, Dr. Janssen and Dr. Morreale gave me instructions about the detail of operation in every case, and thanks to their advices, I could understand about the surgery very well. I also enjoyed the clinics, discussions, journal club, physician's meeting, lecture by Dr. Janssen at international spine meeting. Furthermore, Dr. Janssen was very nice and he invited me the trip to Missouri, Wyoming, and Nevada (attend the meeting). It was very memorable, and it impressed me all the time.

In daily life, I would like to thank everyone for the support to my family for the wonderful time in Denver. It couldn't be better without their support. I am glad that our family could cerebrate my son's birthday party at Denver with my neighbourhood. The thanksgiving party invited by Dr. Morreale was one of my best memory for my family.

Finally, I cannot find the words to express my gratitude to everyone including the staffs of SERI (special thanks to Dr. Janssen), to AO Spine (special thanks to Adele Chan) and to my family. I realize how blessed my career has been to make relationship with an awesome place. Thank you so much and keep in touch! I can't wait to meet everyone in Global Spine Congress near future.