

2012-2013 ISOC Traveling Fellowship

Dr. Aldo Izaguirre, an accomplished orthopedic surgeon and researcher in Mexico, applied for a traveling fellowship program to broaden his horizons. His impressive credentials earned him an ISOC international fellowship. Each year, ISOC, the International Society of Orthopaedic Centers, selects a physician to complete a six-month traveling fellowship.

The fellowship is designed to provide a highly qualified post-residency orthopedic surgeon exceptional training in the management and treatment of orthopedic conditions at three leading orthopedic centers. The Fellow also works on a research project of both personal interest and of benefit to the ISOC member centers.

“By working in hospitals in different countries, the Fellow can experience first-hand different health care systems and cultures, and how this impacts patient care and outcomes,” explained **Thomas Sculco, M.D.**, surgeon-in-chief, who founded ISOC in 2006. “In terms of his research project, Dr. Izaguirre’s ambitious study seeks to shed light on the pattern of expression of different biomarkers of osteoarthritis in patients in the preoperative phase of ACL/meniscus surgery.”

Dr. Izaguirre, who treats patients and conducts research at the Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación in Mexico City, began his fellowship in Belgium at University Hospitals Leuven, then moved on to Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli in Bologna, Italy. He concluded his fellowship with a two month stay at Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. “Hospital for Special Surgery is leading the world in orthopedic surgery research, and it’s an amazing place. Everyone here is very professional, committed to hard work, highly experienced and open to expanding their knowledge,” said Dr. Izaguirre, who came to New York with his wife, also an orthopedic surgeon.

Dr. Izaguirre, who is 33 years old, specializes in joint replacement and sports medicine. He's from Tampico, a small town on the Gulf of Mexico, where his father is also an orthopedic surgeon. As many people in the town are of limited means and have no insurance, it's not uncommon for them to give his father home-cooked meals in return for their care.

"There are many cultural differences, including the way research is conducted and the way we treat patients," said Dr. Izaguirre. "The fellowship addresses philosophical questions and encourages us to keep an open mind."

"We started the program last year and are hoping the research the Fellows conduct will ultimately benefit everyone, while enhancing their own professional development," said **Mathias Bostrom, M.D.**, chair of the ISOC Traveling Fellowship Program.

Dr. Izaguirre has mainly with Dr. Bellemans at University Hospitals Leuven, Drs. Giannini, Zaffagnini and Bruni at Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, and Drs. Sculco, Bostrom, **Robert Marx** and **Riley Williams at Hospital for Special Surgery**.

ISOC was founded to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices among the premier orthopedic institutions in the world. The Society's members, who come from 17 centers in 14 countries that span six continents, collaborate on patient care, education and research to gain improvements in orthopedic care on a global scale. The traveling fellowship program is one more way to advance the field, according to Dr. Sculco.