

Dear ESHG,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to the ESHG Educational Committee for selecting me for the 2025 Mentorship Programme. After completing my training in Medical Genetics, I recently joined the Clinical Genetics Department at ULS Coimbra, Portugal, as a consultant in the Oncogenetics team. I am committed to deepening my expertise and enhancing care for patients with hereditary cancer syndromes.

As part of the mentorship, I spent a week in Stockholm under the guidance of Prof. Svetlana Bajalica-Lagercrantz and her team at the Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center (KCCC), Karolinska University Hospital, and Karolinska Institutet. During this time, I had the opportunity to experience all facets of KCCC's work, particularly within the Centrum för Personanpassad Cancerprevention. I attended multidisciplinary meetings, participated in patient consultations, and observed research group discussions. I also gained valuable insight into the structure and evolution of a hereditary cancer clinic, as well as the collaborative multidisciplinary framework required to deliver high-quality care - highlighting the essential roles of clinical geneticists, oncologists, gynecologists, gastroenterologists, endocrinologists, neurologists, genetic counsellors, nurses, psychologists, among others. I was also introduced to other national initiatives such as cancer registry projects that aim to further advance the field in Sweden.

Although I already work with patients with hereditary cancer syndromes, this experience offered fresh perspectives and inspiration for enhancing our services in Portugal. I had the privilege of meeting and learning from many clinicians and healthcare professionals. Prof. Svetlana Bajalica-Lagercrantz and her colleagues were exceptionally generous with their time, openly sharing insights on current challenges, management strategies, and personalized approaches to surveillance and risk reduction - many of which are highly applicable to our local context.

Throughout my stay, I felt warmly welcomed and fully supported. Thoughtful efforts were made to ensure that language was never a barrier, and I greatly appreciated the generous effort to make my time in Stockholm both educationally and personally rewarding. I am immensely grateful to Prof. Svetlana Bajalica-Lagercrantz and to the ESHG Mentorship Programme for this inspiring opportunity. It offered me a privileged view into an exemplary center of excellence in hereditary cancer care and further strengthened my motivation to pursue a career that bridges clinical practice and research in this field. I truly hope to stay in close contact and look forward to future collaborations with great enthusiasm.

Tusen tack!

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