

Dear ESHG,

I would like to express my appreciation for offering me the opportunity to be elected for the ESHG Mentorship Programme 2023.

I am a medical doctor specialised in Ophthalmology (2017) and Medical Genetics (2023) based in Bucharest, Romania.

My career goal is to become a well-trained ophthalmogeneticist and contribute to the development of this field which is extremely underdeveloped in my home country.

With the help of the ESHG Mentorship Programme I was able to visit the Reference Center for Rare Disorders in Ophthalmic Genetics (Strasbourg University Hospital) lead by Professor H el ene Dollfus, which is considered one of the most prestigious institution in the field of Ophthalmogenetics. The grant offered by the ESHG gave me the opportunity to spend two weeks at the Reference Center for Rare Disorders in Ophthalmic Genetics 24.07.2023 – 04.08.2023.

During my mentorship I was exposed to multiple clinical cases that have brought me valuable insights in the field of ophthalmogenetics. Professor H el ene Dollfus and her team have guided me to better understand how an ophthalmogenetic service is organised and how to manage a patient affected by a genetic eye disease.

In September 2023 I created the first private medical department specialized in genetic diagnosis of inherited eye diseases from Romania. For this particular project the ESHG Mentorship Programme helped me benefit from the guidance of a well renowned ophthalmologist, Professor H el ene Dollfus. Her advice and experience will most assuredly help me to expand this service in my home country. Also, having her as a mentor has given me the assurance that, if I encounter difficulties in my practice, her help will be beneficial for me.

In the end, I would like to express my gratitude for all the wonderful projects the ESHG has done to support young geneticists all around the world and I am more than grateful for your commitment in developing the field of human and medical genetics.

Regards,

Elena Avram