

PhD student is first Danish / Australian exchange visitor



Cheryl Bass, Stephanie Pritchard, Mary Langdale, Christoffer Brushøj and Frank Burke

In January, Victoria House Medical Imaging was lucky enough to host the inaugural Danish-Australian exchange visitor, Christoffer Brushøj. Dr Brushøj is a Danish doctor currently enrolled in a PhD on patello-femoral pain at the Department of Radiology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen. He is also the team physician for swimming and football teams in Copenhagen. In the long term, he aims to complete the Danish orthopaedic specialty education, with a special interest in sports medicine; ultrasound evaluation of his own patients will be an integral part of his practice.

Victoria House Medical Imaging has a number of short stay visitors but Dr Brushøj's visit over a four-week period allowed us to form an in depth relationship with him. We enjoyed exchanging thoughts and ideas on the different health care systems of each of our countries and their differing use of ultrasound.

His main aim was to improve his technical and interpretive ultrasound skills and his enthusiasm and dedication were evident. At Victoria House Medical Imaging, he was involved in a wide variety of musculoskeletal ultrasounds and he saw a vast

spectrum of pathology. Initially Dr Brushøj watched us scan, but was soon able to pick up the transducer himself, and progressed rapidly from L plate to P plate status. He watched, with interest, our injection techniques and has since been able to put this into practice in Denmark.

Dr Brushøj's delightful personality meant he was well accepted by our patients who also enjoyed hearing about this innovative exchange scheme.

While in Melbourne, he was able to spend time with a sports' medicine physician, Dr Gary Zimmerman and an orthopaedic surgeon, Mr David Young, allowing him further opportunities to contrast Danish and Australian medical practice.

Dr Jill Cook, from the Musculoskeletal Research Centre at La Trobe University, assisted him in his placements outside of Victoria House Medical Imaging and was particularly helpful in putting him in contact with Dr Kay Crossly from the Centre for Sports Medicine Research and Education at the University of Melbourne. Dr Brushøj found her work on patello-femoral knee pain very relevant to his PhD study.



He was accompanied by his wife, Been, and children Ingrid and Otto. They left a freezing Denmark on Christmas Day to be warmly welcomed by a very hot Melbourne with temperatures in the high 30s for much of their stay (and yes, it was still snowing when they got back to Copenhagen in February).

The Brushøj family made the most of their free time by visiting Melbourne's many famous attractions and, after the placement, took the opportunity to 'do' the Great Ocean Road, ending up in Adelaide.

It was a pleasure to host Dr Brushøj; the success of his visit augurs well for the future of the Danish-Australian exchange program.

Cheryl Bass

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