



ASDS International Preceptorship Program

Brazilian Dermatologist Gains Mohs Insight Through Preceptorship

As the recipient of the 2019 ASDS International Preceptorship, I was able to learn from two excellent Mohs surgeons: Jeremy Bordeaux, MD, MPH, at University Hospitals/Case Western in Cleveland, Ohio (October 2019) and Victor Neel, MD, PhD, at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts (November 2019). I was also able to attend the 2019 ASDS Annual Meeting in Chicago in between the preceptorships.

Currently, I work as a Mohs surgeon in a private practice and as a volunteer clinical instructor of Mohs surgery in a public academic hospital in Curitiba, Brazil. Throughout my medical training, I have tried to dedicate my time and focus to a career in Mohs micrographic surgery. After four years of training in Brazil, I spent two years at seven different institutions / practices in the U.S., focusing on Mohs surgery. These additional training experiences motivated me to keep an open eye for additional learning opportunities in this field, such as the ASDS International Preceptorship Program.

Dr. Bordeaux is an inspiration to any young Mohs surgeon; very thoughtful and highly skilled. Not only is he passionate about his specialty, he is an excellent teacher and mentor for others. Even after performing 10-12 Mohs surgeries on the same day, he found time to discuss other challenging cases and some of his many interesting papers. One theme that I am very interested in and we were able to thoroughly discuss was the safety of large reconstructions under local anesthesia in

an outpatient setting. Dr. Bordeaux is a perfectionist in reconstruction. For him, every suture needs to be perfect. Furthermore, he displays an excellent bedside manner, always has a broad smile and never fails to carefully listen to his patients. I was lucky to meet his fellow, Wesley Yu, MD, and his Mohs partner Bryan Carroll, MD, PhD; both very friendly and talented.

Dr. Neel is one of the most efficient Mohs surgeons I have seen. He can close most wounds in a matter of minutes with great cosmetic outcomes. He often combines primary closure and second intention healing for wounds that I initially thought would need a flap for a good result. His ability to predict areas where “standing cone” correction may not be necessary is impressive. By seeing the follow up visits and photos, I was able to learn more about this. A typical day included up to 10 Mohs surgeries and follow up visits. After surgeries were finished, Dr. Neel took his time to discuss many challenging cases from my practice in Brazil giving his helpful inputs. I was fortunate to visit with him and his family, who were impeccable hosts.

In both units, I was able to see and discuss different repair options and read slides in between stages. The practices were very efficient; every staff member knew exactly what to do for the flow to be perfect. The staff nurses and histopathology technicians were very friendly and answered all my questions during the preceptorship.

At the 2019 ASDS Annual Meeting in Chicago, I was able to attend several interesting lectures about Mohs surgery and reconstruction. Furthermore, during a networking lunch with international dermatologists, I had the honor to meet Lawrence M. Field, MD, someone who has devoted his career to dermatologic surgery education worldwide.

My main objectives with the ASDS International Preceptorship were to improve my skills and knowledge in



Drs. Cerci and Victor Neel at Mass General Hospital in Boston

surgery, reconstruction and frozen section dermatopathology. These goals were more than fulfilled by my time with these two excellent Mohs surgeons. Additionally, I was able to make new friends and professional connections. Furthermore, although I have been doing Mohs surgery in an outpatient setting for a few years now, it is always reassuring to see that complex and large reconstructions may be safely and successfully performed in an outpatient setting, even for elderly patients.

In order to develop Mohs surgery and enhance patient care in Brazil, I believe it is important to work collaboratively with Mohs surgeons from the U.S., who have decades of expertise in the area in both volume and complexity.

I am very thankful to ASDS for this wonderful opportunity, and I am glad to share these new learnings with residents and colleagues in Brazil. I believe one of the best ways to learn is by teaching. Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Drs. Bordeaux and Neel, and their teams and patients for giving me the opportunity to learn more about my passion in dermatology. ●



Drs. Cerci and Jeremy Bordeaux at University Hospitals/Case Western in Cleveland



Drs. Cerci and Lawrence M. Field at the 2019 ASDS Annual Meeting