

Swiss Society of Infectious Diseases/International Society of Infectious Diseases (SSI/ISID) Research Fellowship Program Final Report



Dr. Vandack Nobre, 36, currently works as Associate Professor at the Medical School of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil's largest school of medicine.

Dr. Nobre earned his Medical Degree in 1994, with further specializations in Internal Medicine, Intensive Care and Infectious Diseases (Master Degree and Doctorate). He was selected for ISID/SSID fellowship program in April 2005 and he started with the scholarship program in November 2005.

Dr. Vandack Nobre has recently concluded his ISID/SSID fellowship program in the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), Geneva, Switzerland. During his 20-months stay in Geneva, Dr. Nobre worked as co-investigator in several multi-centric randomized controlled trials in the Infectious Diseases field, all of them locally coordinated by Dr. Jorge Garbino (Infectious Disease Division of HUG), who worked as Principal Investigator.

The Trials in Summary

PACT Study/Genzyme

A randomized, double-blind study of GT267-004 (Tolvamer) versus vancomycin, and GT267-004 (Tolvamer) versus metronidazol, in patients with *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea (CDAD) (Protocol No. GD3-170-302).

CHOPIN II Study/Johnson & Johnson

A phase 3 randomized double-blind study of cetobiprole medocaril versus linezolid plus ceftazidime in the treatment of nosocomial pneumonia (Protocol No. BAP00307).

Tyger Study/Wyeth

Comparative study between Tigecyclina and Ceftriaxona + Metronidazol for the treatment of complicated peritonitis. (Protocol No. 3074A1-315WW).

Fujisawa Study

A phase 3, randomized, double-blind, comparative study of mycalfungin (FK463) versus caspofungin as antifungal treatment in patients with invasive candidiasis or candidemia (Protocol No. 03.0.192).

As co-investigator, Dr. Nobre was responsible for the screening, enrollment and follow-up of patients in these studies, as well as for filling out Clinical Report Forms and discussion with monitors. Furthermore, he worked in an epidemiological study on *Candida* spp. infections supported by the Fungal Infection Network of Switzerland (FUNGINOS), and took part in a pre-clinical study on the combined therapy for *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia. This latter was a multi-centric study, conducted in the five University Hospitals of Switzerland, and sponsored by Kenta Biotech.

Dr. Nobre was involved in other important and original research activities. These were composed of local studies coordinated by Dr. Jérôme Pugin and Stephan Harbarth, respectively from the Intensive Care and the Infection Control Services of HUG. Dr. Nobre conducted a randomized trial to test a procalcitonine-guided protocol to reduce the antibiotic exposure in septic patients hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit. The preliminary results of this trial were selected for oral presentation in the 47th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC), to be held in September 2007, in Chicago, United States. Another relevant local

work was an observational study on the implementation of the "sepsis bundles" for the management of patients with severe sepsis and septic shock admitted to the Emergency Department. A report of the preliminary results of this study was presented (orally) in the American Thoracic Society Conference, held in April 2006, in San Francisco, CA, United States. Additional activities were a 5-months training in the Laboratory of Microbiology headed by Dr. Jérôme Pugin, and participation as co-investigator in a cooperative multi-centric retrospective study on *Pseudomonas* spp bacteremia. Dr. Nobre also attended several international meetings on Infectious Diseases field, such as the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) 2006, in Nice, France; the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC) 2006, in San Francisco, United States; the Congress of the International Society of Infectious Diseases (ISID), in Lisbon, Portugal. Working as co-investigator of multi-centric trials, Dr. Nobre took part in three Investigators Meetings in 2006. To close his list of activities, Dr. Nobre had the following complementary tasks: 1) participation on twice-weekly clinical-rounds of the Infectious Diseases Service and Internal Medicine Department, 2) presentation of clinical cases and results of ongoing studies; 3) participation in regular meetings with mentors for discussion of the clinical and laboratorial studies; 4) attending a 1-day course of the *Club de Pathologie Infectieuse* supported by the Swiss Society of Infectious Diseases, in Berne, Switzerland. Besides the intensive and consistent learning they provided, the scientific activities accomplished by Dr. Nobre during his stay in Geneva resulted in approximately six reports in peer-reviewed medical journals, one of which has already been published, three of which are "in press," and two are to be submitted for publication within the next weeks. Dr. Nobre recommenced his activities in the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, in July 2007. ❖

During my 20-month stay in Geneva I was able to work directly with recognized scientists and make good friends. It was a unique opportunity to improve my skills in infectious diseases and in clinical research. My fellowship was a great academic and personal learning opportunity, for which I am strongly thankful.