

2019 OARSI Collaborative Scholarship

Recipient: Aleksandra Turkiewicz, PhD, CStat, Clinical Epidemiology Unit, Orthopedics, Clinical Sciences, Lund, Lund University, Sweden

Host Institution: Observational Research, Centre for Statistics in Medicine, NDORMS, Oxford University, UK.

Host supervisor: Prof. Daniel Prieto Alhambra, MD, MSc, PhD

Summary

In June 2019 I had the privilege to visit Prof. Prieto-Alhambra in Oxford, UK and also collaborate with a Spanish epidemiologist from Primary Care Research Institute (IDIAPJGol) in Barcelona, Spain, Talita Duarte-Salles. The collaborative project was focused on studying cancer risk in persons with and without OA and there were several novel aspects of the collaboration. First, I had the opportunity to work with Spanish healthcare register data - very exciting for me, as one of my main research interests is using register data for epidemiological studies. Collaboration with prof. Prieto-Alhambra enabled me to learn new approaches to handling of missing data in such register data and to apply novel parametric survival models in the analysis of risk of cancer. The stay at Centre for Statistics in Medicine, one of the best centres for applied statistics in the world, was a great experience to me as a statistician. By participating in the group meetings in prof. Alhambra's group, I've seen novel applications of using register data for epidemiological questions within musculoskeletal diseases. Through collaboration with Talita Duarte-Salles, I've been introduced into the challenging field of cancer epidemiology.

The stay led to exciting results concerning the association of OA with incident cancer (Figure 1) and has brought together Spain, UK and Sweden in a novel collaboration that hopefully will continue.

I'm extremely grateful to OARSI and my host institution for this great opportunity and I encourage all to apply.

Figure 1. Hazard ratios (95% confidence intervals) for incident cancer in 10 sites comparing persons with and without knee OA, adjusted for age, sex, BMI, smoking, alcohol use, socioeconomic status, diabetes and cardiovascular comorbidities.



