



## LEIBINGER AWARD REPORT

<b>DATE</b>	4/05/2025
<b>MEMBER NAME</b>	FEDERICA SOBRERO
<b>COUNTRY</b>	ITALY
<b>POSITION</b>	Maxillofacial Surgery Resident, University of Torino, Italy
<b>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</b>	SPECIALIST TRAINEE MEMBER
<b>NAME OF AWARD</b> (ie Hugo Obwegeser, Leibinger etc)	Leibinger Award
<b>LOCATION/DATE OF VISIT</b>	Clínica Santa María, Santiago, Chile 3/03/2025 – 3/04/2025
<b>NAME OF HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF UNIT VISITED</b>	Dr. CARLOS GAETE
<b>LOGBOOK - during visitation, if applicable (please add as addendum)</b>	In addendum
<b>SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE GAINED:</b>  During my fellowship at Clínica Santa María under the supervision of Dr. Carlos Gaete, I had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge and practical skills in temporomandibular joint (TMJ) surgery, particularly in the field of TMJ arthroscopy. The experience provided a well-	



rounded and structured learning environment, combining both theoretical and clinical training.

I gained substantial theoretical insights into TMJ pathology through group classes, one-to-one teaching sessions, and the self-study of theoretical resources. Clinically, I was actively involved in the examination of patients presenting with TMJ-related complaints, learning to perform comprehensive evaluations and participate in differential diagnosis. I improved my ability to interpret imaging modalities, including MRI and CT scans, which are essential tools for accurate diagnosis and surgical planning.

A significant part of the training was dedicated to understanding the indications for surgical intervention and the importance of coordinating treatment within a multidisciplinary team. This collaborative approach emphasized the integration of surgery with other therapeutic modalities such as physiotherapy and stabilization splint therapy.

Surgically, I acquired a thorough understanding of the procedural steps involved in TMJ arthroscopy across levels 1, 2, and 3, as well as in open surgical techniques. I was exposed to different discopexy techniques, including those described by McCain and Yang, broadening my surgical perspective and adaptability.

Postoperative care was also a focus of the fellowship. I learned to manage patient recovery through pharmacological protocols, physiotherapy regimens, and stabilization splint therapy. Additionally, I was trained in evaluating long-term outcomes and interpreting follow-up imaging, gaining insights into how to manage persistent or recurrent symptoms after arthroscopic procedures.

Hands-on training on surgical simulators and on cadavers allowed me to perform the technical steps of TMJ arthroscopy in a controlled environment, enhancing my practical skill set and confidence in approaching live procedures in the future.

#### **OBJECTIVES FOLLOWING VISITATION:**

This fellowship has strongly influenced my career trajectory and shaped my short- and long-term professional goals.

I am committed to continuing my theoretical education in TMJ pathology, and to this end, I have recently enrolled in a University Master's program in Orofacial Pain and Temporomandibular Disorders, organized by the University of Siena.



On a practical level, I intend to further develop my surgical skills by participating in cadaveric dissection courses focused on TMJ arthroscopy. My ultimate objective is to introduce and implement this technique at my home institution, with the valuable support and mentorship of Dr. Gaete.

Furthermore, I aim to remain actively involved in scientific research in the field of TMJ disorders. The fellowship has enabled me to build important professional connections that will serve as a foundation for future collaborative projects.

### FEEDBACK

This experience has been extremely fruitful and enriching, both professionally and personally. It has fully met the objectives I had initially set.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Carlos Gaete and his team at Clínica Santa María for their warm welcome, guidance, and continuous support throughout the fellowship. Their dedication to teaching and openness to sharing their expertise made this a truly formative experience.

Being immersed in a different cultural and linguistic environment also contributed significantly to my growth. It challenged me to adapt and strengthened my communication and collaboration skills, which are crucial in both clinical and academic contexts. This experience has enhanced my ability to work effectively with patients and colleagues from diverse backgrounds.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the EACMFS, Stryker, and the Leibinger Award Committee. The generous scholarship provided essential support for my stay, and the communication from the EACMFS Secretariat was always prompt and helpful.

*Federica Lbano*

Signature

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Date