

Report

Epilepsy Surgery Fellowship Program Tokyo Women's Medical University, Adachi Medical Center

I'm Galih Indra Permana, a neurosurgeon from Dr. Moewardi General Hospital in Surakarta, Indonesia. Our hospital is a tertiary referral hospital and also the main academic hospital for the Faculty of Medicine, Sebelas Maret University. I would like to explain about my experience completing the epilepsy surgery fellowship program at the Department of Neurosurgery, Tokyo Women's Medical University (TWMU) Adachi Medical Center in Tokyo, Japan. Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank Prof. Yuichi Kubota, as my supervisor and head of the Neurosurgery Department at TWMU, Adachi Medical Center, for giving me the opportunity to attend the six-month epilepsy surgery program. Dr. Mikhail Chernov, in my daily work and studying, has taught me a lot, which has been really beneficial to me. Throughout our conferences and ward rounds, he has gently explained everything to me. Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Takeda Science Foundation (TSF) for funding my study in Japan during this fellowship program. It was an exceptionally valuable learning experience.

Studying epilepsy surgery under the guidance of Professor Yuichi Kubota was my main reason for taking advantage of this fellowship program. I chose TWMU, Adachi Medical Center, because I was impressed by Prof. Kubota's experience with epilepsy surgery and his commitment to the area. There are more cases of epilepsy with surgical or nonsurgical management during my period of fellowship than there were during my previous residency program. I will use the experience that I acquire in this hospital to develop surgical services for patients with epilepsy in my country, Indonesia. I am aware that finishing this area of research in neurosurgery would not be feasible in a short amount of time. However, this center provides me with everything to facilitate my training and make it possible during this brief period.

Throughout my fellowship program, I was fortunate to learn about epilepsy, from basic concept to surgical procedure. I had the experience to observe epilepsy patients, understand all diagnostic procedures for epilepsy, including the WADA test, learn to read EEG, and join the surgical procedure for epilepsy. It is a great opportunity to learn many surgical approaches in epilepsy, from corpus callosotomy, anterior temporal lobectomy, epilepsy surgery guided by intraoperative ECoG, and deep brain stimulation (DBS), which is still a rare procedure in my country. I had the opportunity to see the stereoelectroencephalography (SEEG) implantation procedure using a Robotic Stereotactic Assistance (ROSA) One Brain system, one of the advanced procedures in epilepsy surgery. My experience with epilepsy surgery during this period was extensive and comprehensive. I participated often of epilepsy from patient selection, diagnosis, surgical planning, and surgical procedure, which helped me develop a broad understanding of these epilepsy surgeries.

I got the chance to attend every conference and meeting held by the neurosurgery department. We have a journal club every Tuesday that includes every staff member. We have a conference with the pathological anatomy department once a month to discuss the cases from the last surgery. My supervisor supported me to attend the epilepsy surgery conference and the Japan Neurosurgical Annual meeting in Tokyo, Japan. Witnessing Japan's advancement in neurosurgery experience was a good experience. I can also understand Japan's scientific culture. In my scientific work, I had the opportunity to experience how to write and publish a good research paper about epilepsy under the guidance of Prof. Yuichi Kubota and Dr. Mikhail Chernov, who have extensive experience and have published numerous peer-reviewed articles, especially in this field of study, epilepsy and functional surgery. As a result, within my short period of the fellowship program, I completed my work and submitted it before returning to Indonesia.

I was able to further develop my relationships with my Japanese colleagues and gain a better understanding of Japanese culture by having dinner with them outside of work. We share similar experiences and cultures with each other. My participation in this fellowship program not only provided me with extensive training and knowledge in epilepsy surgery but also gave me unique opportunities to network with colleagues, which I found enriching. In order to facilitate my learning experience and give me the best education during my fellowship program, I am grateful to the Takeda Science Foundation, professors, staff, residents, and officers at TWMU, Adachi Medical Center. I feel honored to have been a part of this program, and I hope to see you in the future, even in Japan or Indonesia.

Sincerely,



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