

# **Fellowships in Europe: Practical tips from a former fellow**

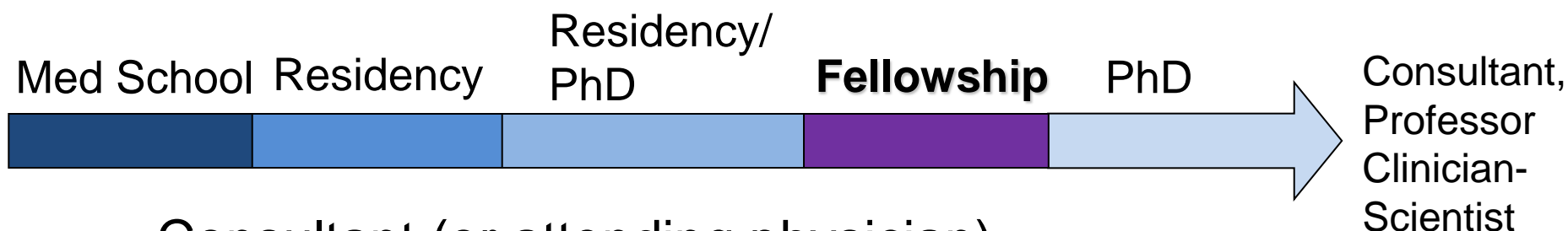
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I have no conflicts of interest to declare.

# Topics I will discuss

- Why do we need a fellowship? Expectations and objectives
- How to find a fellowship... and make the best of it!
- What to do after a fellowship

# So you are finishing residency ..... what's next?



- Consultant (or attending physician)
- Academic research
  - clinical research?
  - translational research?
  - need training !!
- M.Sc / PhD

# **Why do we need a fellowship?**

## **Expectations and objectives**

# Why do we need a fellowship?

- To develop and improve our skills in an area of research
- To create an environment for future academic work
- To get experience in running a project from the beginning to the end (design project/protocol, run experiment/clinical trial, wrap up results and write manuscript)



# Why do we need a fellowship?

- To understand better science so we can improve our patients' treatments and prognosis
- To develop a successful academic career

**BUT first, list your aims and objectives and where do you want to be in 5 and 10 years !**

# **How to find a fellowship... and make the best of it!**



# Application process: steps

- **Question # 1:** What are the new and important areas of research in oncology?  
What are my areas of interest?
- **Tips:** talk to colleagues and ex fellows, talk to PIs, attend conferences and workshops.
- **Question # 2:** Do I have the skills to be successful in the chosen area?
- **Tips:** if you have a passion for a topic and background... work hard and learn more!



# Application process: steps

- **Question # 3:** Where should I go?
- **Tips:** Look for a program (hospital/ cancer center) and mentor (an expert in your area of interest)
  - ESMO fellowships
  - ASCO fellowships
  - National Societies
  - Philanthropic institutions
- **Question # 4:** how to find a good mentor? (Really important!)
- **Tips:** The mentor should guide and train you, be an expert/leader in his field.

“the success of my fellow is my success”



# Application process: steps

- **Question # 5: How do I start the paperwork for a fellowship application?**
- **Tips:**
  - Keep your CV in good shape
  - Develop a good project proposal
  - Apply for funding



# ESMO Fellowships options



# Translational Research Fellowship

## *My personal experience*

- **The ESMO 2-year programme:**
  - Training in translational research
  - Career development
  - Support to develop specific translational research projects in oncology



# Translational Research Fellowship

## *My personal experience*

- What did I experience / learn:
  - Developed a translational research project and adapted to its challenges
  - Created a new niche in my host institute
  - Attended educational activities
  - Learned how to do public presentation and write and peer-review scientific publications
  - Networked, met new fellows colleagues and worked with great collaborators
  - Attended conferences and presented my work

**You got accepted in a fellowship.. now  
make the best of it!**



**Learning is a never  
ending process**

- Read articles
- Go to congresses
- Present your data
- Network

# **You got accepted in a fellowship.. now make the best of it!**

**But be aware of.....**

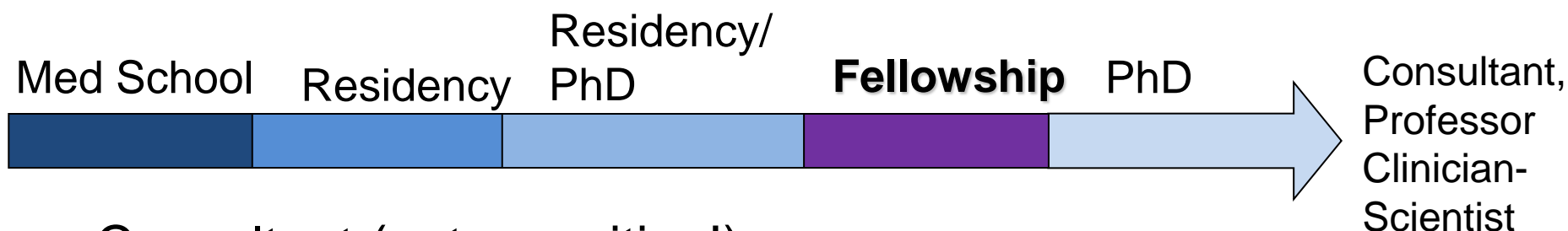
- Competition
- Challenges
- Research may not work on a first attempt...





# What to do after a fellowship?

# So you are finishing fellowship ..... what's next?



- Consultant (get a position!)
- Starting an academic research carrier? – more training  
-> PhD
- Tips:
  - Talk to your mentor
  - Network always
  - **Have a plan!**



**Learn as much as you can and have  
fun with what you are doing!**

**Thank you!**

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