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Testimonial - To whom it may concern

However dedicated and professional one likes to be at work, it will often be the case that, as organisations change and develop, there will be a need for staff to do the same. This was certainly the case for me last year when the management at Marcianise Hospital started to plan for the setting up of a fertility unit for the area. I had already received some training in ART at the unit at Chianciano in Northern Italy, but if I was going to be a key player in the setting up of the new unit in Marcianise then I needed to upgrade my skills.

My initial research into the leading providers in training came back with only one real answer - the place to study was in the Andrology department at The Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. All the articles I read confirmed that this department, led by Dr Ashok Agarwal, had a world-wide reputation as the leading training facility in this field. Not only was the facility rated highly, but the curriculum of Dr Agarwal was also incredibly impressive. The web site of the Cleveland Clinic was most informative as well, and so in consultation with my own hospital authorities I downloaded an application form for training and sent it off.

I was delighted when, a few days after submitting my application, I received a phone call from Dr Agarwal's PA setting up a telephone interview. I felt an instant rapport with Dr Agarwal when we spoke on the telephone, and his perceptive questioning and probing to assess the level of my competence was very reassuring as he recommended which units of the training he felt would be needed for me to develop the skills needed for my work here in Italy. I was thrilled when my application proved successful and again the personal involvement of Dr Agarwal at every stage of the process was impressive. He twice telephoned before I left Italy to check everything was fine with regard to pre-reading - things to bring etc, he spoke to my husband who was planning to accompany me on the trip to Ohio and made us both feel we would be very welcome. He has such a confident manner that is both gentle and warm, and this helped me greatly in mentally preparing to spend a month training in a foreign country, in my second language, away from home. When I received my detailed training schedule, I asked for a few changes in emphasis that I felt I needed and he wrote back by return with a new schedule that perfectly suited my needs and addressed my concerns. This willingness to be adaptable is rare I find. He even found a flat for my husband and I to rent that was incredibly convenient for the daily commute !!.

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The atmosphere in the Unit at the Cleveland Clinic could not have been more friendly and welcoming. It was obvious from the first day that the training programme would be rigorous and challenging , yet paced at a rate that would make learning progressive. All the staff who I worked with were both highly qualified professionals themselves , but also staff who obviously enjoyed passing on their knowledge and skills to others. the working ethos in the department was highly professional , yet the management skills of Dr Agarwal have created a team who work very well together , complement one another , and all obviously hold their leader in the highest esteem. The month of training flew by and I returned to work invigorated and equipped with the new skills needed for me to lead in the setting up of the new ART unit here in Maricopa.

I look back on my time at the Cleveland Clinic with great affection, having received a brilliant training programme and having made a lot of new friends and colleagues. I also consider myself extremely fortunate to have worked with such a charismatic and influential practitioner as Dr Ashok Agarwal.

I would recommend the Andrology Unit at the Cleveland Clinic to anyone who is looking to receive a world class, hands on training in ART. I am sure that the knowledge and friendships that I have brought back to Italy will be of immense significance to me for many years to come

Sincerely yours,

Dr Carolina Sellitto