I had a very productive three days in Hungary, and I am extremely happy with what I learned and all the arrangements that I was able to make. I want to thank Dr. Zimmerman and Vanessa McFadden for making this trip possible.

I am pleased to announce, The Citadel’s new Healthcare Study Abroad Program will take place in Székesfehérvár, Hungary (pronounced Seck-kesh-fay-er-var), from June 6th to July 3rd, 2020.

Székesfehérvár is a beautiful small town, about 45 minutes by train, from Budapest, the capital of Hungary. It is a beautiful town with many buildings and monuments dating back to the middle ages. There are lakes and forests, making Székesfehérvár very scenic.

The students will be gaining their shadowing experience in Szent György Teaching Hospital (St. George Hospital). The hospital has 1600 beds (MUSC also has 1600!) and annually, more than 60,000 inpatients are treated in 35 departments. 2 million doctor-patient interactions occur. The hospital is part of the University of Pécs Medical School. The hospital has a very large pediatric department, which has its own pediatric emergency room, ICU, infectious disease dept. and rehab unit.

My first day, I met Viktoria Bedo, Regional Director for Atlantis, at my hotel, and we went to lunch with the Medical Director of Transdanubia Hospital Network, which is comprised of 22 hospitals. It was quite an honor to meet Dr. István Reiber. He was extremely pleasant and was happy to learn that The Citadel may develop a program with Szent György Teaching Hospital. Dr. Reiber, after learning about The Citadel, said he would happily assist us with whatever we may need to make our program as beneficial an experience for the students as possible.

Train ride with Viktoria
The following day, I met János Pálinkás. He is the Atlantis Site Manager. The Site Manager stays in the hospital the entire time our students shadow. He is a local person who is there to assist our group 24/7. In Lithuania, we also had a Site Manager. The group and Site Manager work very closely together, as they organize the excursions and group dinners, and are present for any form of assistance we may need.

Together with Viktoria and János, I met Prof., deputy-director of the Szent György University Teaching Hospital. He was incredibly welcoming and was very happy to work with me when negotiating the experience for the students. He is extremely excited to have us! I was given a tour of the hospital and introduced to the main faculty and staff. Everyone was very nice.

I was able to organize the following rotations:

1. Cardiology / Cardiothoracic Surgery/CCU
2. Gastroenterology / GI Surgery
3. General surgery
4. Pediatrics
5. Infectious disease
6. Pediatric Infectious Disease
7. Obstetrics and Gynecology
8. Pathology
9. Urology
10. Emergency Medicine
11. Otorhinolaryngology
12. Neurology
13. Traumatology (term used for Emergency / Trauma Surgery)
14. ICU
15. Physical Therapy

As an added extra, I was able to get one autopsy experience per student (if desired) and access to the high-fidelity sim lab, where our students will be allowed access to learn from the simulation dummies when no class is taking place there.

I am excited about the opportunities our students will have at the new location. They will have an opportunity to see live-births and C-sections, autopsies, surgeries, work in out-patient clinics as well as in the hospital, and see a multitude of surgeries.

The beautiful hospital gardens.
Note the solar panels on the left side that provide electricity to part of the hospital.
I had a tour of the Pediatric Division with The Head of Pediatric Nursing and The Head of NICU.

A radiology resident gave me a tour of The Dept. of Radiology. Our students will have access to radiology as part of other specializations.

ERCP – Dilated vessels seen on the right

The hospital rooms have two patients to a room.

Pediatric Unit

Cardiac Care Unit
Our students will have an opportunity to volunteer in the pediatric unit if they would like to. This will involve keeping the children company and playing with them.

**Housing**

The entry to the apartment building in Székesfehérvár

A pleasant 15-minute walk from the apartment to the hospital

Local bus service

A quaint local coffee shop
On the last day, I chose the housing facilities from the choices given to me. I selected a clean and spacious apartment building with units that can sleep a varying number of students. It is more like a dormitory. I have requested no more than 3 to a unit. I requested washing to be included as no washing machine was in the unit. The students will be permitted to wash two loads of laundry per week, which they will do themselves, and this will be included as part of the amenities of the program. Breakfast will be served in the breakfast room on the ground floor every morning.

Classes will take place in the same building. Conference facilities are available, so I will have the use of presentation audio-visual equipment.
I am satisfied with the arrangements that have been made. I have tried to make the Healthcare Study Abroad Program as beneficial for our students as possible. We will be permitted to have up to 12 students, completing 4 weeks of shadowing in 4 different specialties. The Hungarian healthcare system is a universal healthcare system that covers 100% of the population. Life expectancy is increasing, and the Infant Mortality Rate is at 4.6 per 1,000 live births (compared to the USA, which has a rate of 5.8 per 1,000 live births). I hope the experience will be as impactful and beneficial as the Lithuania program was. Thank you for all your continued support in our student success.

Sarah