

## **ERS Fellowship Report – Graz Course on Rhinosurgery 2025**

**Name:** Dr. André Sousa-Machado

**Course:** *60th Graz Course on Rhinosurgery – Functional Endoscopic Sinus Techniques (Basic & Advanced)*

**Dates:** July 9–12, 2025

**Location:** Medical University of Graz, Austria

**Under the auspices of the European Rhinologic Society (ERS)**

The 60th Graz Course on Rhinosurgery, held at the Division of Macroscopic & Clinical Anatomy of the Medical University of Graz, offered a unique and comprehensive opportunity to deepen anatomical and surgical understanding of the sinonasal cavity and skull base. Organized by Prof. Hannes Braun and Prof. Josef Kainz, the program gathered an outstanding international faculty including Professors Joannis Constantinidis, Jan Gosepath, Andreas Leunig, Jens Ponikau, and Marc Scheithauer, continuing the strong educational tradition initiated by Prof. Heinz Stammberger.

The course provided a well-structured progression from fundamental functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS) principles to advanced skull base approaches. Mornings were dedicated to lectures and live surgical demonstrations, while the afternoons focused on intensive cadaveric dissections. The dissection sessions allowed participants to consolidate stepwise surgical strategies, from basic ethmoidectomy and Draf IIb procedures to complex Draf III, transethmoidal, and transorbital approaches, under direct supervision of expert faculty. Special emphasis was placed on mucosal preservation, anatomical variation, and the correlation between radiological and endoscopic anatomy.

This hands-on training was complemented by case-based discussions on surgical decision-making, complication management, and reconstruction techniques. The sessions on endoscopic anatomy of the skull base and RhinoNeurosurgery were particularly valuable, reinforcing key landmarks and techniques that are directly applicable to both everyday rhinologic surgery and more advanced pathology.

The fellowship provided major professional and personal growth and knowledge that directly reinforces my clinical practice in Portugal. The exposure to diverse techniques and philosophies from internationally recognized experts has already translated into more precise surgical planning and greater anatomical confidence in my endoscopic work.

The main challenge was the intensity of the program, balancing the dense scientific content with full-day dissection sessions, but the structured format, collegial atmosphere and the social events made it a rewarding experience throughout. Beyond technical improvement, the course adopted a sense of community and academic exchange that aligns perfectly with the ERS mission to promote excellence in European Rhinology.

Looking ahead, I have already integrated the anatomical concepts learned in Graz into both my hospital practice and teaching activities.

This fellowship has been a great step in my professional development and will continue to influence my clinical, academic, and research work in the years to come.

Thank you once again for this opportunity.