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I am a 3rd year PhD student who is working at the Rheumatology department of Leiden University Medical Center. My major project is identifying and confirming a new autoantibody system in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients, which we named as Anti-carbamylated protein antibodies. Besides, together with my colleagues, I am also working on the glycosylation of Anti-citrullinated protein antibodies and to its association with the pathogenesis of RA.

From 23th to 25th February, 2012, 32nd European Workshop for Rheumatology Research (EWRR) was held on Stockholm, Sweden. EWRR is the primary meeting for European scientists in rheumatology research which facilitates interactions between basic, translational and clinical research. It is a great platform for young PhD students following advances in rheumatology research in Europe and to meet with more experienced researchers. This time the meeting particular focused on translational research and clinical application of basic research in rheumatic diseases including the field of inflammation, immunology, epidemiology, rheumatology and related research areas.

In the workshop, I presented my poster “The ‘Senshu’ method often used to detect citrullinated proteins does not discriminate between citrullination and carbamylation”. I received many valuable feedbacks from the other participants. I also discussed with other participants who are working on the similar projects. We exchanged our experiences and ideas of ourselves and each others work.

Some very nice key note speeches were presented in this workshop which broaden and deepen my understanding of the Rheumatology filed. For example, Dr. Camilla Svensson gave a speech “Mechanisms of pain during and post joint inflammation” discussed the relationship between pain and chronic inflammation which is different to traditional understanding. In the speech “New understanding of the MHC in rheumatic diseases”, Dr. Paul de Bakker introduced a new way of analyzing genetic association studies.

The workshop hotel is settled on the shore of a fantastic frozen lake, which offers me great sightseeing between the scientific talks. In conclusion, this workshop is a great combination of scientific and social parts. I want to sincerely thanks the NVVI offers me this valuable chance to go to this workshop.