

Travel report

Conference: British Society of Immunology Annual Congress 2010 (BSI2010)

When: 6-10 December 2010

Where: Liverpool, UK

Who: Bisheng Liu, PhD student at ErasmusMC Medical Center in Rotterdam

British Society of Immunology Annual Congress 2010 (BSI2010) was a very exciting meeting of immunology, which covered several scientific sessions as follows:

- Bright Sparks in Immunology
- parallel sessions featuring diverse topics in immunology
- 3 plenary sessions
 - Protection against infection - responding to the BIG Challenge.
 - Have regulatory T cells come of age?
 - TLRs and infection: the 700 million year conflict.

The session of Bright Sparks in Immunology, held on 6 December, was run by PhD students, for PhD students, which proved a great opportunity for PhD students to present their research projects. This was a great opportunity to see what other students are up to, and to learn about some of the science that they are involved in. I met and talked with many PhD students, from whom I had the chance to learn new techniques in immunology and also to know broader immunology research topics, and clinical trials.

The plenary and parallel session started from 7-9 December, which provided an excellent overview of recent advances of immunology. I was particularly impressed by the following talks: 1) The work presented by **F.E. Lund** (University of Rochester Medical Center, USA) on cytokine-producing B-cells and their role in regulating dendritic cell and T-cell responses, a topic I have never touched since my postgraduate. 2) The talk by **P. J. Openshaw** (Imperial College London, UK) who explained to us how the mechanism of severe acute influenza Consortium has begun a large collaborative project to research influenza. I also enjoyed the talk **A.V.S. Hill** (University of Oxford, UK) giving a broad overview of how we are progressing with vaccinations against infectious diseases including HIV, TB and influenza. 3) The talks on regulatory T cells by **Prof. Sakaguchi** (Japan), in which CTLA-4 was shown to be critically required by natural Tregs to suppress immune responses by affecting the potency of antigen-presenting cells to activate other T cells, which was very interesting and also new to me. 4) The final plenary session concentrated on toll-like receptors. Subject matter ranged from the evolution of toll-like receptors to recent advances in our understanding of their roles in inflammatory disease such as type-II diabetes.

In the parallel session titled "the biology of monocytes and macrophages steady state and inflammation", my abstract was selected for an oral presentation. I was honoured to present my research to other researchers. Also, I learned how to explain my research, and how to answer questions.

BSI2010 was an interesting and a pleasant conference to get informed about what is going on in the field of immunology. I'd like to thank NVVI for the financial support that allowed me to attend this conference.