

12th International symposium on Dendritic cells in Daegu, South Korea

Having received amongst others the NVVI, I was able to attend the 12th International symposium on Dendritic cells that was held in Daegu, South Korea from October 7th until October 11th.

This meeting is usually a truly international event, that is organized every 2nd year by a local as well as an international scientific advisory board. Plenary session as well as symposia and so-called and forum and workshop sessions covered recent developments in dendritic cell research in topics like development and subsets, cancer, Ag-processing, general immune regulation, inflammation, PRR signaling & adjuvants, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, migration, lung and mucosal immunology.

I very much enjoyed hearing from the leading scientist about their work in various fields at first hand. Especially a number of sessions were directly relevant for my own research (dendritic cells, autoimmunity and inflammation), providing me new ideas and paths to carry on and further extent my own research on the role of dendritic cells in a psoriasis-mouse model. In particular because a series of papers nicely illustrated new tools and methods to dissect inflammatory-bone marrow derived from classical dendritic cells.

On the other hand, the conference was also a great opportunity to increase my awareness of current work in other directions of the field i.e. origin and development of DC subsets, the role of dendritic cells in the healthy steady-state or other diseases, and even in clinical application in form of immunotherapy.

The DC 2012 meeting was also dedicated to R. Steinman, who received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in the year 2011 posthumous, for his discovery of the dendritic cell and its role in adaptive immunity.

During the first and last day of the conference 4 researchers, who worked in his lab gave an overview of his way of discovering this professional Ag-presenting cell type of the immune system and how he was able to expand and spread his research.

Furthermore three poster sessions with over 300 papers covered a wide range of specialist subjects that were mostly presented by PhD students and post-docs. This environment gave an excellent opportunity to directly meet and discuss experimental approaches and techniques with a lot of other researchers. Also I was able to present my/our own research in the form of a poster and was really pleased with the encouraging and helpful feedback that I received from a variety of other researchers.

It was rewarding to be able to contribute to the meeting, and I felt a real sense of achievement about what I have accomplished over the last three years as a PhD student. I also have a number of new contacts and promising ideas to follow up as I plan my last experiments and studies in the last year.

I would therefore like to thank the NVVI for their part in making it possible for me to attend this excellent meeting.

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