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Metabolism and Immunity: A Rediscovered Frontier

On 29 and 30 May, Trinity College Dublin hosted the conference "*Metabolism and Immunity: A Rediscovered Frontier*". Accelerating interest in this field is being fuelled by the recent realization that metabolic disorders are often associated with inflammation, and that metabolic pathways influence immune cell functioning. As my PhD project ties into both of these lines of research, the conference provided a great opportunity to learn more about recent advances, and to share my own data with experts in the field.

During the conference, top notch speakers gave lectures on metabolic control of immune responses. Quite a few talks described how regulated changes in metabolism control functioning of a wide array of immune cells, including antigen-presenting cells, T cells, macrophages and NK cells. Specifically, a switch from oxidative phosphorylation to either glycolytic metabolism or lipid metabolism was shown to be crucial for immune cell activation. In addition, a few talks discussed the interplay between immune cells in metabolic homeostasis. For example, IL-6 promotes alternative activation of macrophages, and thereby protects against insulin resistance. And leptin, in addition to its metabolic actions, mediates inflammation.

My own presentation centred around *Schistosoma mansoni* infection and its effect on metabolic homeostasis in diet-induced obesity. Following my talk, I exchanged ideas with senior scientists, who provided useful feedback for completion of the study. In addition, due to the small nature of the conference (100 participants), it was easy to interact with many other scientists during the breaks and the welcome drinks.

Overall, the conference was inspiring and provided an excellent overview of the state of the art at the interface of metabolism and immunity. I met many (established) researchers and attending the conference has provided new insights that will help me finalize my PhD project. I would like to thank the NVVI for the financial contribution.