

## European Congress of Immunology – 6-9 September 2015 – Vienna, Austria

From September 6<sup>th</sup> until September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, I attended the ECI in Vienna. Since it was a large-scale congress with every day at least 8 parallel sessions in 5 or 6 time sets I would like to share some highlights of each day.

On Sunday (September 6<sup>th</sup>) the organizing committee arranged a classical concert from the Wiener Klankvereiniging, which played wonderful compositions of Mozart, Schubert, Strauss Sr. and Strauss Jr. After this cultural opening, prof.dr. Klaus Rajewsky gave an inspiring presentation about his work in B cell receptor signaling and survival, germinal center control and selection of high affinity B cells and germinal center-independent B cell memory formation.

Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> my poster session was scheduled, and I was pleased to see the divergence of TCR $\gamma\delta$ + T cell research – which is also my main topic in my PhD project. One of the moderators of my poster group – Stephanie Grass – was also impressed by the amount of data that I could present. Even though the other researchers, mainly from Dieter Kabelitz' group in Kiel, Germany, did not work on TCR $\gamma\delta$ + T cells in the context of leukemia, I was nonetheless inspired by the approaches (such as epigenetic research) which could also be applicable for my research. The other highlight of Monday was the presentation of Jenny Ting on NLRs in the inflammasome and checkpoint in viral response, and the workshop on Primary Immunodeficiencies, where the novel technique whole-exome sequencing, which I used as well, was discussed. Even though I have a different research question, the presenters were able to give me other insights in how to analyze the data on a different level.

The best highlight of Tuesday was the key-note speaker Luke O'Neill and his enthusiasm and great sense of humor. His presentation focused mainly on metabolism, especially in inflammation and "inflammaging", and how metabolites of the Krebs cycle could regulate histone modification which could lead to production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. Furthermore, I attended the joint symposium on flow cytometry, in which they focused on future options such as 40-color flow cytometry. This also gave me the opportunity to visit the BD (and many other companies) stand where they could give me advice on novel antibody panels.

Finally on Wednesday the best presentation was of Adrien Hayday, one of the pioneers in the discovery of TCR $\gamma\delta$ + T cells. His enthusiasm and persuasiveness in how important and "special" TCR $\gamma\delta$ + T cells are were a great inspiration. We were able to chat with Adrien after his presentation, in which he described the differences in T cell receptor repertoire in different tissues in mice, and he was enthusiastic about our approach of investigating the TCR $\gamma\delta$ + repertoire in humans, from developing to aging healthy individuals. In the final session of the congress, Aging and the immune system, especially Martina Prelog gave a well-structured presentation about the effect of aging – already from birth onwards – per cell type.

Despite the fact that it was a large congress, I was surprised by how diverse but still focused the topics and presentations were. It was great to see so many big names in the field of Immunology, and the organization was done perfectly.