

## **12th international symposium on Dendritic Cells New Paradigm on DC Science and Application**

October 7-11, 2012, Daegu, South Korea

This year, the Korean Association of Immunologists and The Korean Dendritic Cell Academic Society organized the international symposium on dendritic cells in Daegu, South Korea. This biennial symposium was dedicated to Ralph Steinman, one of the discoverers of the DC who passed away in 2011, 3 days before receiving the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine. The importance Ralph Steinman and his research that inspired all immunologists working in the DC field were greatly emphasised during the whole conference.

During these 4 days, many interesting presentations were given by researchers from all over the world. Because of my interest in DC development, especially the talks during the first session on development and subsets of dendritic cells drew my attention. For example, *Caetano Reis e Sousa* shared his data obtained from lineage tracing studies on various DC precursor stages. Also the presentation given by *Steffen Jung* in which he highlighted the relationship between various monocyte populations in the colon was very interesting.

Additionally, the role for DCs in various diseases was discussed by many speakers such as in asthma (*Bart Lambrecht*), viral infections (*Rafi Ahmed*) and allergy (*Hamida Hammad*).

And finally, the potent role for DCs in treating diseases was topic of many interesting talks. For example by *William Heath*, who shared his latest findings concerning antigen targeting to Cleg9A which results in potent Tfh and antibody responses. Taken together, I think the organizing committee managed to compose a program that covers all major aspects of DC research.

The great variety of posters that were presented was overwhelming. During one of these poster sessions, I got the opportunity to present my own data. This resulted in many interesting questions and fruitful discussions with various researchers from all over the world. Especially the conversation with *Boris Reizis*, who recently published a paper that gave me very useful clues to continue one of my own projects, was very interesting. I was very happy and honoured to hear that my poster presentation was awarded with one of the poster awards.

And even during one of the social events, I had very inspiring conversations with great scientists that got me thinking about my future career.

Overall, it was a great experience to participate in this very interesting symposium. It was great to learn from and talk to the people that I only knew by name from their publications. I would highly recommend all immunologists interested in dendritic cells, their development, function and applications to participate in this conference in the future. I would like to take this chance to thank the NVVI for their financial support and for giving me the opportunity to participate in this meeting.