

Report

The course was an opportunity for me to gain a lot of knowledge and broaden my immunological perspective. The course was also chosen because taken part in an advanced immunology-course is obligatory to become an (SMBWO) registered Immunologist in the Netherlands. My supervisor of the Dutch Society of Immunology (DSI/ NVVI) advised me to register for the course of the ENII (European Network of Immunology Institutes). This conference is one of the highest recommended European Immunological courses for PhD-students and postdocs, which is also shown by the fact that it has become an EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organization) supported course. 126 PhD-students and postdocs of more than 22 nationalities working in 15 different European countries participated this year. Moreover, 18 first-class senior scientists discussed the cutting-edge approaches to reveal mechanisms that regulate Immunity.

To prepare for the training, relevant literature (49 peer-reviewed articles) were provided for the lectures. In addition, I was asked to prepare a poster presentation covering my own research findings.

In the mornings and early afternoons, lectures were given by senior scientists followed by student presentations. In the late afternoons, tutorial sessions were organized. In smaller groups, one could have an interactive discussion together with one of the speakers linked to the lecture of that morning. This included detailed discussions about the content of the lecture and remaining questions.

During the first four evenings (21h-00h) the program included poster sessions to discuss each other's work. I have presented my own research on Thursday evening. These sessions led to dynamic discussions among PhD-student but also with senior scientists. The attendance of this course has resulted in some valuable contacts and collaborations with other PhD-students and departments that will help me during future career.