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Travel report NIVI travel grant 2011

16th International Summer School on Immunology
IMMUNE SYSTEM: GENES, RECEPTORS AND REGULATION
September 3-11, 2011, Hvar, Croatia

I attended the summer school on Immunology organized by FEBS, in Hvar, Croatia. The aim of the summer school was to give students a deeper insight into the basic knowledge and novel developments in immunology. The faculty consisted of renowned scientists both from Europe and the USA. Each teacher gave two lectures, a more general talk focusing on the state-of-art of a particular scientific field and the second lecture specialized on the current research project of her/his laboratory. Many aspects of immunology were covered like innate immunity, B and T cell development and function, dendritic cells, tolerance, and mucosal immunity. Some talks focused on a very specific subject like a certain transcription factor involved in T cell development, whereas other talks were more general.

The lectures took place in the morning from 9 to 12:30 and in the late afternoon from 5 to 8:30. The afternoons were free for discussions and swimming. At 4:00 we had the opportunity to meet with the teachers in an informal setting. On two evenings there was a poster session where all students presented their work. Almost every evening a social event was organized. The course was organized in such a way as to promote interactions between students and the faculty. The informal atmosphere really contributed to these interactions.

The venue of the Summer School was the Sirena Hotel on the Island of Hvar, Croatia. The hotel was located at the beach, which was great to spend the free hours in the afternoon. One afternoon an excursion was organized in which we visited several villages on the Island, went to an olive farm where we could taste olives and olive oil. So the social activities of the meeting were organized very well.

Attending the Summer School on Immunology has increased my knowledge on immunology. It helped me to put my project into greater perspective and I also gained many new contacts. I would like to thank the NIVI for the financial support.