

## **Travel report**

### **4<sup>th</sup> European congress of immunology**

September 6-9 2015

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The 4<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Immunology (ECI), for which the NVVI granted me a travel grant, took place from the 6<sup>th</sup> until 9<sup>th</sup> September in Vienna (Austria).

The ECI is a combined effort of many European societies of Immunology and was a great opportunity to gain insight into the research performed in labs all over Europe.

I am working in the Applied Section of the Department of Translational Immunology. I am in particular interested in the development of novel cancer immunotherapy approaches. My PhD itself focuses on the evaluation of IgA antibodies for the treatment of cancer, ranging from solid to hematological malignancies.

At the congress, I had the opportunity to attend sessions covering topics from basic to applied immunology. The keynote speaker of the first day, Klaus Rajewsky, addressed a topic I am highly interested in, namely the role of the B cell receptor in B cell development, memory and malignancies. For me outstanding talks were given during the symposia 'Antibody Therapeutics' and 'Cancer Immunotherapy' by e.g. Falk Nimmerjahn, Roy Jeffries and Ignacio Melero. Falk Nimmerjahn's talk was about the potential of IVIg treatment and their latest findings concerning possible protein engineering approaches to improve its therapeutic potential. Roy Jeffries focused on the basic knowledge of the IgG antibodies and stressed the importance of the glycosylation pattern for their therapeutic function. Tasuku Honjo and the last keynote speaker Michael Milone presented their work on their highly fascinating research dealing with the generation and characterization of chimeric antigen receptors (CARs).

Additionally, the huge amount of workshops in which mostly PhD students and young investigators presented their work, made it possible to always find a session which interested me. I myself had the opportunity to present my research in the 'Imaging & Cancer Therapy' workshop dealing with the potential of IgA antibodies for cancer therapy and the half-life extension. I greatly appreciated the feedback from the audience concerning possible future directions. Furthermore, the poster sessions were a good moment to have fruitful discussions with fellow attendees about our research.

During this very well organized congress I learned a lot and am glad that the Dutch Society for Immunology made it possible for me to attend this meeting by granting me a travel grant.