

Travel Report Keystone Symposium “B cells at the intersection of innate and adaptive immunity”

May 29 – June 2 2016

Stockholm, Sweden

The NVVI travel grant allowed me to attend the Keystone Symposium on “B cells at the intersection of innate and adaptive immunity” held in Stockholm, Sweden during 29.05-02.06.2016. As part of my PhD project focuses on factors and pathways driving B cell activation and the development of regulatory properties in B cells upon parasite infections, the scope of this conference proved highly relevant for my own research.

During the first day of the conference, the session on innate B cell activation was especially interesting, with talks on innate signalling networks in B cell activation (by A. Cerutti) and inhibitory receptors on B cells (by A. Getahun). The next day covered various talks on B cell subsets such as B1 B Cells (N. Baumgarth) and MZ B cells (B. Lambrecht) that are highly relevant to me because the same subsets are known to contain the majority of B cells with regulatory properties. On day 3, different talks dove deeper into individual B cell signalling components such as the BAFF-R (H. Eibel) or the PI3K signalling pathway (S. Keppler), which I am interested in as well. The clear highlight of the conference however, was the last day, which contained a dedicated session on B cells as regulators of the immune response including an inspiring presentation by C. Mauri as one of the experts in the field and a co-organizer of the symposium.

I presented my own work in form of a poster and received very valuable feedback. Thanks to the fact that the poster session were split up over all 4 days, I was also able to visit many posters and talk to other scientists working in the field. The conference furthermore gave me the opportunity to re-connect with colleagues and collaborators.

I would like to thank the NVVI for the support I received, and the opportunity to present my data, expand my knowledge and strengthen my professional network at the Keystone Symposium.

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