

British Society for Immunology and NVVI joined congress 2016
Liverpool, UK, 6-9 December 2016
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The NVVI travel grant allowed me to visit the joined BSI/NVVI congress in Liverpool. This year the Dutch Society for Immunology joined the BSI in organizing the annual symposium, aiming to bring together the best immunological research from the UK and The Netherlands, as well as the rest of the World. As my PhD-research focusses on allergic airway inflammation and the contribution of different immune cells to its development, attending this conference, covering a broad spectrum of immunological cutting edge research, was highly relevant for my own research.

The conference started with a day specifically dedicated to presentations from PhD-students and Post-Docs, the Bright-Sparks sessions. During these sessions great talks were given and ultimately a winner was chosen who could deliver his/her speech at the plenary session during the next days of the congress. This session was very well attended and I think is a great way to provide young scientists with the opportunity to present their data for a large audience.

At the second day I presented my data on the protective role of farm dust on the development of asthma in a very interesting session, in which also prof. Clare Lloyd talked about the function of epithelial cells and epithelial derived cytokines in asthma development. Additionally, she spoke about the role of intraepithelial neutrophils in paediatric severe asthma and the role of ORMDL-3 in a model of *Alternaria Alternata* a great overview of her work of the past year as well as very interesting for my own research. The remainder of the congress was filled with great plenary and parallel sessions on many different immunological topics and with fantastic speakers from both societies (including PhD and Post-Doc's) as well as international leaders in the field (including: David Artis, Steffen Jung, Rafi Ahmed, Yasmine Belkaid, Gabriel Nunez, Ton Schumacher, and many others).

Besides the presentations there was plenty of time for poster viewing, as the poster sessions were scheduled during lunch and directly after the program at the end of the afternoon. Posters could conveniently be located using the congress-app. During the coffee-breaks, poster sessions and the congress party there was considerable time for meeting people and discuss research. In all, it was a very well organized event, with many interesting speakers and a lot of great science.

I'm very thankful to the Dutch Society for Immunology for their financial support, making it possible for me to join this fantastic congress.