

## **NVVI Travel report**

Gordon Research Conference – Immunobiology and Immunochemistry  
Bagni di Lucca, Italy, 19-24 June 2016  
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The travel grant of the NVVI allowed me to go to the Gordon Research Conference on Immunobiology and Immunochemistry in Bagni di Lucca, Italy, June 2016. The conference focused on recent highlights in various immunological fields and aimed to better understand and manipulate immune responses in homeostasis, disease and therapy.

Plenary sessions were scheduled every morning and evening, where different group leaders presented their work. The following topics were addressed: innate sensors, myeloid cell development and gene regulation, transcriptional and post-transcriptional regulation of lymphocytes, immune networks, primary and memory responses, host-microbe interactions, interventions and monitoring in vaccination, cytokines and tissue responses, and microenvironment and immunotherapy in cancer and chronic infections. A great deal of the work that was presented involved mouse models, however seemed to have a translational character. The fact that most of the work was unpublished (new) data gave the whole conference a cutting-edge vibe and motivated the audience to ask questions.

The poster sessions that were held in the afternoon allowed post-docs and PhD students to present their work as well. I also presented my work at the poster sessions and was able to receive feedback from fellow students as well as engage in discussion about the work of others. To my disappointment, most of the senior investigators did not attend the poster session. However, I was still able to ask for their input during breakfast, lunch or dinner sessions.

During the free time I got to explore the town of Lucca, eat real Italian gelato, attend a wine-tasting tour and take in the beautiful views of Tuscany. These trips offered great opportunity to interact with fellow researchers in a fun and relaxed setting which I used to ask about personal experiences in certain institutes, labs and cities, as I am currently exploring my options for post-doc research.

Overall, the conference was very well organized and stimulated me to continue doing research in immunology. The broadly different subjects of the conference helped me identify the kind of research I find most interesting and valuable, which will help me decide what to look for in a post-doc research position.

I gratefully would like to acknowledge the NVVI for their financial support, which made it possible to visit this conference.