

Travel Report

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**13th International CMV/Beta-Herpesvirus Workshop
May 14-17, 2011, Nuremberg, Germany**

In May 2011, I attended the 13th International CMV/Beta-herpesvirus Workshop in Nuremberg, Germany. Around 300 researchers attended this meeting, which consisted of 10 plenary workshop sessions with oral presentations discussing all aspects on (mainly) cytomegalovirus infections, two poster sessions, and two symposia. Most of the experts in the field of CMV biology attended this meeting, including Ed Mocarski (Atlanta, USA), Deborah Spector (San Diego, USA), John Sinclair (Cambridge, UK) and others. The topics varied from clinical studies (diagnostic correlates, vaccination, antiviral therapy) to molecular viral biology (gene expression, viral proteins during lytic replication and latency), and therefore this meeting nicely provides insights into CMV biology on multiple levels. Furthermore, the organising committee of this workshop encourage participants to present data ahead on publication. As a result, many presentations and posters showed novel data, which makes this meeting more interestingly.

The two symposia focused on recent advances in the CMV field and novel clinical manifestations of beta-herpesvirus infections. Every workshop session started with an invited speaker presenting an overview of his or her data (30 minutes, including discussion), followed by six short presentations selected from submitted abstracts (12 minutes, including discussion). At the second and third day of the workshop there were poster sessions directly after dinner. Those presenting their data via an oral presentation also presented a poster. This gives you an additional opportunity to discuss the work of those researchers.

I was most interested in the workshop session on innate and adaptive immunity and presentations showing the unique immune response against human CMV infections, particularly during latency. Furthermore, I was given the opportunity to present my own data in this session at the final day of the workshop. During the poster sessions, I had some interesting discussions with other researchers.

Altogether, this meeting was a great experience and I would like to encourage other NVVI members working in the field of CMV biology to attend future CMV/Beta-herpesvirus workshops. And I would like to thank the NVVI for their financial support, thereby giving me the opportunity to attend this meeting.