

**Gordon Research Conference on Immunobiology & Immunochemistry  
June 10-15 2012, Les Diablerets, Switzerland**

The Gordon research conference on Immunobiology and Immunochemistry is organized every two years and covers a broad range of topics, related to both innate and adaptive immunity. This year the meeting was held in Les Diablerets, a beautiful mountain village in Switzerland, and organized by Cynthia J. Guidos and Adrian Hayday. The organizers aimed for discussing the frontiers of science and attracted well-known scientists from all over the world, and asked them to present their unpublished data. In general, all speakers presented very well, and this meeting was a nice opportunity for me to find out what is currently 'hot' in the field of immunology research.

Various topics were discussed in 9 morning and afternoon sessions. As my PhD project focuses on lymphocyte dynamics, I was mainly interested in the sessions which discussed lymphocytes and adaptive immunity. In the session about leukocyte trafficking and cell-cell interactions, fascinating images were presented showing the dynamic interactions of T cells with infected cells (*Philippe Bousso*), antigen transfer between dendritic cells (*Irina Gurevich*), and chemotactic movement of leukocytes (*Michael Sixt*). Moreover, many aspects of T-cell recognition and activation were discussed, including studies on T-cell receptor affinities and repertoires (*Mark Davis, Carolyn King, Sarah Enouz*), (regulation of) T-cell activation (*Rose Zamoyska, Takeshi Saito, Mike Bevan, Susan Kaech*) and memory formation (*John Werry, Marc Jenkins*).

The talk by Pam Fink was particularly interesting for me, as she is an expert in the field of recent thymic emigrants (RTE). The last 3 years I've been working on the dynamics (production rate and life span) of RTE, whereas Pam and her coworkers have studied the functionality of these young T cells. Her talk refreshed my knowledge on published work and gave insight into ongoing research. During the poster session in which I presented my own work (entitled: 'Quantification of the lifespan and frequency of Recent Thymic Emigrants') I got the unique opportunity to share my data with her, and we had a fruitful conversation, which will definitely help me in writing my paper.

In conclusion, this Gordon conference was an excellent opportunity to find out which immunology-related topics intrigue me most. As I'm in the final year of my PhD trajectory and in the middle of making choices for my future career, I believe that I will benefit from the variety of topics that were discussed. Moreover, it was a great experience to meet Pam Fink and to discuss our work. Therefore, I thank the NVVI for the financial support which enabled me to attend this conference.