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Travel Report: 24th Annual International Conference of the European Respiratory Society.

Munich, Germany, 6-10 September 2014.

The kind support of the NVVI Travel grant gave me the opportunity to attend the annual international conference of the European Respirator Society (ERS). The ERS conference is the largest conference on respiratory health and disease in the world, with more than 20.000 researchers and clinicians participating in 2014. During the five conference days, state-of-the-art research in the respiratory field was presented in symposia, oral presentation and poster presentation sessions.

Two abstracts with data from two different studies conducted during my PhD, in which I'm focussing on the role of Pim1 kinase in the airway epithelium, were accepted for poster presentations. The first study, presented in a poster discussion session, showed that inhibition of Pim1 kinase activity can reduce viral replication in air-liquid interface cultures of primary bronchial epithelial cells from healthy individuals and severe asthmatic patients. The second study, presented in a thematic poster session, suggested that Pim1 kinase affects allergic asthma in a house dust mite driven mouse model. Both of my posters were well appreciated and led to interesting discussions with other researchers working in the same area, which will definitively be helpful for my future research.

Next to presenting my own data, I visited many other sessions related to the topics of my own research. Since I'm interested in respiratory viral infections, I especially attended several virus-related sessions. Here, new approaches to study viral infections *in vivo* and *in vitro* were presented, which might be very useful to continue my own research.

Overall, attending the ERS conference contributed to my current understanding of the respiratory system in health and disease and will definitively be beneficial for my future research career. Therefore, I would like to thank the Dutch Society of Immunology for their financial support to visit the ERS conference in Munich.