

A comment on the 8th International Conference on Proteoglycans (August 25-29, 2013, Frankfurt/Main, Germany)

I had the great pleasure of participating in the 8th International Conference on Proteoglycans. The congress itself took part in the relaxing environment of Glashütten near Frankfurt/Main. The buses from Frankfurt to Glashütten and backwards were provided, greatly facilitating both the arrival and departure. The scientific programme of the congress perfectly covered all the most fascinating aspects of proteoglycan field yielding many interesting presentations and posters, since each session was followed by extensive discussions. The organizers were very helpful and their assistance was really outstanding. The accommodation and food were excellent. Moreover, there were additional attractions available such as gym facilities and a pool. Scientific sessions were accompanied by many stimulating and integrating social events, including Apple Wine Express – a joyful trip around Frankfurt combined with tasting local drinks.

Despite me being rather new in the field, many attendees of the congress were curious about my work. I also received a lot of warm comments regarding my speech, which was very supportive and motivating. From among many interesting presentations I was especially impressed by the one given by Marian Young from Craniofacial and Skeletal Diseases Branch (Bethesda, USA). She was talking about biglycan-mediated mechanisms of skeletal repair. Although I was unfamiliar with the subject itself as well as the experimental approaches described, I could easily follow the presentation because of its unusual intelligibility. Marian's speech was just perfect in every respect.

In conclusion, the 8th International Conference on Proteoglycans was a very inspiring scientific event and an unforgettable opportunity to meet plenty of fascinating people.

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