

ISMB Travel Award Report (MBE Europe 2014, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

I just defended my PhD thesis dealing with the paracrine interactions of cancer cells and endothelium using two approaches (co-culture & conditioned media) in the Laboratory of Biochemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Patras under the supervision of Prof Nikos Karamanos. Currently, I am working as post-doc researcher within the FP7 Research projects "BioNexGen" and "Nanobarrier" in the research foundation FORTH / ICE-HT dealing with cytotoxicity studies of nanomaterials in terms of cell proliferation, cell morphology, genotoxicity etc

I had the great pleasure of participating in the MBE Europe 2014 recently held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where I presented my ongoing work. The programme covered a wide variety of extracellular matrix biology themes - from posttranslational modifications to mutations, from synthesis to degradation, from physiology to pathology, from techniques to data mining, and from receptors to ligands. These aspects were presented by an outstanding mix of speakers – senior, junior, students. The most important achievement of the MBE Europe 2014 meeting was to bring together scientists from life sciences on an important and rapidly developing "matrix biology" scientific field and create the environment for a superb science, warm collegiality, and an all-around rewarding experience during the meeting. Personally, I had the opportunity to interact with top-notch scientists, helping me to go a step forward my reasearch, as well as broaden my knowledge concerning fellowship opportunities for the future.

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