

ASMB 2016  
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## Short Report

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My first Matrix Biology meeting was in 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio. For the first time, my abstract was selected for a talk and also for an Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation (EDNF) Travel Award. I was very excited to present our work on “***Type III collagen as a regulator for type I collagen fibrillogenesis and its importance in dermal and cardiovascular development***”. The Matrix Biology meeting was an interesting experience; not only could I interact with prominent researchers who are doing outstanding research, but I also learned much more about development, homeostasis and (genetic) disorders of the extracellular matrix. The past two years, my doctoral research finally moved ahead altogether more quickly because scientific meetings, successful collaborations and hard work helped to progress in both my scientific career and my personal development.

Finally, I'm running to the PhD-finish line and I was honored to get an ISMB Travel Award so I could attend the ASMB 2016 meeting in Saint Petersburg, Florida. The icing on the cake was when my abstract was again selected for a talk. Now that my work and notion had significantly improved since the last ASMB meeting, I was very happy to present our *Type III Collagen* story. Afterwards, I was honored with a great interest in our work and the ability to discuss with great experts in this research field. Overall, the ASMB meeting fulfilled its mission to support the growth and professional development of the ECM research community by promoting interactions among academia, scientific societies, industry, and government; facilitating dissemination of relevant knowledge and new findings; providing mentoring opportunities to junior scientists; and advocating sustained funding for research and education.

Thank you.

Sanne D'hondt