

Report on the FASEB meeting « Matricellular Proteins in Development, Health, and Disease »

July 28 - August 2, 2013

Saxtons River, VT, USA

With an attendance restricted to 71 scientists, this FASEB Science Research Conference held in the peaceful Vermont Academy campus was a great place for dialogue and exchange within the matrix pathobiology community. Joanne E. Murphy-Ullrich (University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL) and Amy Bradshaw (Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC), respectively chair and co-chair of the meeting, organized a program mainly focused on thrombospondins, SPARC and CCN. As I'm particularly interested in TSP-1, Josephine Adams (University of Bristol, UK) first told me about this conference during the XXIIIrd FECTS&ISMB joint meeting last summer in Poland. The short talk I gave in the "Matricellular proteins in carcinogenesis and angiogenesis" session chaired by Gertraud Orend (Strasbourg, France) dealt with the design of new peptides antagonizing TSP-1:CD47 interaction to exhibit subsequent anti-angiogenesis and anti-tumor properties. As it was my first meeting in the US, it was a fantastic opportunity to get insightful advices from a critical audience composed of the most well-known TSP experts worldwide.

In addition to oral communications, three posters sessions were organized, for a total number of 29 posters, to consider a wider range of diseases and related matrix proteins. Indeed noteworthy posters were presented focusing on proteins that have not been previously considered during the oral sessions such as collagens, including the outstanding presentation of Marion Jeanne (UCSF, CA) about mutations in collagen 4 alpha1 and alpha2 chains inducing hemorrhagic stroke. As I'm currently a third-year Ph.D. student, those poster sessions were also an opportunity to get feedback and advices from post-doctoral fellows. Moreover, a "Meet the Experts" session was organized on behalf on young scientists to discuss about how to get funding, employment or make career plans, and also to share views and ideas about the future of matrix biology and translational research. For all these reasons and for the numerous high-quality lectures given during this meeting, I strongly recommend to young scientists to pay attention to future FASEB conferences announcements and I am really grateful to the ISMB for awarding me with a travel grant.

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