

This past July I had the great fortune of being able to attend the 2015 Collagen Gordon Research Seminar and Conference where I gave presentations of my PhD work at both events. Being my first GRC, I was somewhat nervous of all the big names in the field that would be present. The seminar and conference however far exceeded my expectations on all levels. Most importantly, the science showcased was outstanding with personal highlights being the latest developments on collagen VI research as presented by Dr. Bönemann, Dr. Lamandé and Prof. Bonaldo. I also highly enjoyed Professor Bruckner-Tuderman's talk about her group's elegant and translational work on the treatment of dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa. In addition the atmosphere during the talks, poster sessions and social events was surprisingly relaxed and everyone was more than happy to chat about their work, offer valuable insight and discuss potential collaborations. The great set of activities planned by the organisers sure helped a lot with team bonding! And special mention to the food and the ice cream stand in particular! All in all this was an amazing experience that helped me communicate my work and interact with prominent scientists from around the world that allowed me to advance my own research with their ideas and suggestions, as well as providing future networking and employment options. I am really grateful to ISMB for the travel grant award and will be most definitely looking into attending the next GRC in 2017!

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