

## **Matrix Biology Europe (MBE) 2016, Athens, Greece, June 11-14 2016**

Matrix Biology Europe is the most important European conference dealing with Matrix Biology, bringing together young scientists and world-class speakers in the field. It was a great honor and pleasure for me to be there and to hear about the most exciting aspects of the research performed on the extracellular matrix. The meeting was organized in plenary sessions followed by more specific parallel workshops. Covered topics ranged from the roles of proteoglycans, collagen modifications and enzymatic signaling to tissue engineering and cell adhesion.

As I am close to the end of my PhD, I expected this conference to be a major opportunity to present and discuss my PhD results with international scientists and I was not disappointed. My poster on the proteolytic modifications of thrombospondin-1 attracted a lot of people with whom I had very interesting discussions. I was surprised to discover that another group was working on a similar topic but, fortunately, their focus was slightly different and there was no direct competition!

I also enjoyed the plenary sessions and the workshops which provided an exceptional opportunity to learn and deepen my knowledge of matrix biology through the diversity of the subjects which were covered and of the approaches used to study the extracellular matrix. This scientific experience had been really great thanks to all the speakers and the social interactions during the breaks! Also, I could stay in Athens for a few more days after the meeting and discover this beautiful city. For all these reasons, I would like to thank the conference organizers and also the ISMB for giving me a travel award and the opportunity to experience this.