

Report, FEBS-MPST 2017, Spetses, 25th -30th May, Greece

In 25th - 30th of May, I participated in the 6th FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Matrix Pathobiology, Signaling and Molecular Targets, held in Spetses, Greece. This meeting was mainly sponsored by the Federation of European Biochemical Societies and it is one of the most important meetings for the Matrix Biology society. In order to participate in this meeting, I was awarded with the International Travel Grant from ISMB. This award gave me the ability to present my PhD work to the field experts. This study was associated with the role of syndecan-4 in ER α -positive breast cancer and especially on its role in regulation of cytoskeleton arrangement as well as cellular functions, such as cell adhesion and migration.

My participation gave me also the opportunity to meet and discuss with other scientists, which helped me to focus on solutions concerning experimental problems, questions and to better understand certain theoretical concepts. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to communicate with experts of the field, which stimulated me and gave me new ideas for my postdoctoral research as well as for my future plans. Moreover, during this course I had the honour to be a member of the young scientist committee. As an organiser, I had to organize the first day session of the conference and participate in it as a chairperson. This session was constituted by general lectures, panel discussion and career development session. Additionally, the young scientist organizing committee was responsible for organizing social events that created a friendly atmosphere and provided the opportunity for interactions between the young scientists and the outstanding experts.

To conclude, I highly suggest this meeting for all scientists who are working on the matrix biology field and I would like to thank ISMB for supporting me to travel from Israel to Greece, in order to participate on this course and gain all these experiences.

Nikolaos Afratis, MSc, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Irit Sagi's Lab, Department of Biological Regulation, UK Building for Biocomplexity Research,
Weizmann Institute of Science, 234 Herzl Street, Rehovot 7610001, Israel

Tel: +972-585-110688, Email: nikolaos.afratis@weizmann.ac.il