

A Report on Attending The 11th Asian and Pan-Pacific Connective Tissue Society Symposium & The 3rd National Conference of CSMB, Hangzhou, China, November 16-20, 2018.

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The 11th Asian and Pan-Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium & The 3rd National Conference of CSMB I've attended covered and presented informative and rich topics related to connective tissue such as extracellular matrix, cell-matrix interactions and related areas in biology and medicine. Since my PhD research is about a connective tissue disease and this conference provided useful information on different Matrix diseases and novel techniques in connective tissue regeneration.

It was organized by the Chinese Society of Matrix Biology (CSMB), Peking University, Zhejiang University and Shenzhen University. In addition, it was divided into eight sessions: Novel conceptual and technological advances in matrix biology, Matrix in development and disease, Signalling from the Matrix, Matrix dynamics and turnover, ECM in fibrosis and cancer, ECM in inflammation and immunity, ECM in stem cell and regeneration and ECM and mechanosensing.

The conference included participants and speakers from both domestic and international countries to present their recently published and unpublished work in connective tissue. It has been a pleasant experience attending this conference. I participated in this conference by presenting a poster of my PhD project and had a chance to meet other young scientists, exchange our findings and socialize with internationals. I also awarded a poster prize and honorary certificate for the PPTCSS 2018 best poster presentation.

I enjoyed the presentation by Alain Colige on the function of the pro-college aminopeptidase, ADAMST2, 3 and 14, that these enzymes have functions other than procollagen processing and that it was demonstrated that these enzymes have other extracellular matrix substrates including LTBP family which I am working on one of its members, LTBP4. Very recently he found that double knockout mice (TS2^{-/-} / TS14^{-/-}) showed spontaneous development of superficial wounds, indicating that ADAMST2 and 14 have functions other than aminoprocollagen peptidase activity. And other presentation by James Whiteford on a novel role of Syndecan-4 in pathological angiogenesis, this by finding that the pathological angiogenesis was impaired in syndican-4 null animals. He also suggested that targeting syndican-4 in pathological angiogenesis diseases might be an alternative therapy to anti-VEGF. I also enjoyed other presentation on fancy techniques and principles on tissue clearing for tissue imaging purposes Presented by Xiaowei Li.

I would like to acknowledge the International Society for Matrix Biology (ISMB) for giving me the opportunity to attend the 11th Asian and Pan-pacific Connective Tissue Society Symposium & The 3rd National Conference of CSMB by their travel grant for young scientists that covered part of my expenses.

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