

**Report for annual meeting of Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand (MBSANZ 2018) held from Dec 4-7 in Auckland, NZ**

First of all, I would like to thank the International Society for Matrix Biology (ISMB) for providing an International travel grant that allowed me to attend the MBSANZ 2018 conference in Auckland, New Zealand. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow researchers working in the field of Matrix Biology and also present my work to international experts working in the field.

The plenary talk of the conference was delivered by Professor Larry Sherman from OHSU, USA where he played Piano and talked about the effects of music on developing and ageing brain. Very different from the usual plenaries. Next morning, the keynote was delivered by Prof. Toshiro Ohashi on mechanical properties of primary cilia. It was a very relevant talk to my current project as I am looking at the role of microtubules in apicobasal polarisation of epithelial cells. A new technique that I learnt from the talk is - it is possible to isolate primary cilia from cells. The full conference program was very diverse and covered topics from cell to tissue to organ level.

Second day of the conference was at Goldie Estate, a University of Auckland owned vineyard on Waiheke Island. We took a ferry to the island and back, which was fun and an opportunity to explore picturesque surrounds of Auckland. There, I delivered a 10 min oral presentation on my current project which was well received. A couple of relevant questions were asked and the feedback I received would be extremely valuable and would allow me to improve my current research. In addition, as a result of this conference I have initiated a conversation to develop a collaboration with another research group in University of Sydney with similar interests. Hopefully, in near future it will come to fruition. Overall, attending the conference improved my understanding and depth of knowledge about the biology of matrix.