

I am a second year PhD student under the supervision of Dr. Nathalie Theret and Dr. Vincent Legagneux at University of Rennes1 in France. My project aims to study the involvement of matrix metalloproteases in tissue remodeling events that occur in chronic liver diseases and tumor progression. With matrix biology being the main focus of my research, it was a great opportunity for me to attend for the first time an international meeting on Matrix Biology. My abstract was selected for a poster presentation for the 6th FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Matrix Pathobiology, Signaling and Molecular Targets in Spetses - Greece the past 25th to 30th of May 2017.

As member of the International Society for Matrix Biology (ISMB), I candidate to the international travel grants and I am very grateful for having obtained this grant.

I was very excited to attend my first International meeting and to present our work on “*In silico* screening identified ADAMTS12 as a new actor in liver injuries” in a poster session. This gave me the ability to discuss with great experts in this research field. Finally, I got a poster prize from the Matrix Biology of Ireland (MBI), which is very encouraging for the rest of my thesis work.

These five scientific days with outstanding researchers all over the world were a good opportunity for me to enrich my scientific knowledge. This meeting covered a large range of themes in the field, illustrating to what extent the Extracellular Matrix (ECM) and its components are pivotal for the future of researches in biology. The program was divided in different sessions separated by lectures from worldwide experts, selected talks of PhD students and very helpful sessions of career development. In addition, speaker corner sessions gave me a unique chance to discuss with outstanding researchers like “Liliana Schaefer” and “Geir Christensen” who gave me new exciting ideas for my research project. Moreover, social activities organized beside scientific sessions, like boat trip, Museum visit, and football game, have been very pleasant moments that allowed me to meet other international researchers and PhD students, as well as my former professors and colleagues from University of Reims.

In summary, FEBS meeting has been personally a successful and an excellent seminar to acquire much useful information about current research in ECM field, and to interact with both junior and senior researchers for future collaborations and hopefully postdoctoral research position. Finally, I am profoundly thankful to the ISMB for providing me the international travel grants, and to the MBI for the poster prize that give me even more enthusiasm to evolve in my scientific research.

Bassil Dekky (University of Rennes 1, France)