

Matrix Biology Europe 2018, Manchester, United Kingdom, 21-24 November 2018

I am a first year postdoc in the lab of Dr. Alain Colige at University of Liege in Belgium where I mainly study the function of ADAMTS2, 3 and 14.

My first Matrix Biology meeting was in 2016 in Athens, Greece. For the first time, my abstract was selected for a talk. I was very excited to present our work on **“ADAMTS3 activity is mandatory for embryonic lymphangiogenesis and regulates placental angiogenesis”**. The Matrix Biology meeting was an interesting experience; not only could I interact with prominent researchers who are doing outstanding research, but I also learned much more about development, homeostasis and (genetic) disorders of the extracellular matrix.

Finally, I was honored to get an ISMB Travel Award so I could attend the MBE2018 meeting in Manchester, United Kingdom. This meeting marked 50 years since the very first conference of European matrix biology societies in Cambridge (30th June-2nd July 1968). The conference grew out of a need for young researchers to have a forum for their research and to meet experts in the field. The organizers have planned a series of international plenary and workshop presentations from leaders in the field and every workshop will be included at least 4 presentations selected from abstracts submitted. There will be plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues at various receptions and poster sessions.

During the meeting I was very happy to present my poster on recently published work: **“Spontaneous atopic dermatitis due to immune dysregulation in mice lacking Adamts2 and 14”**. The results presented aroused the interest of several participants of the congress by their innovative aspect and the widening of the dogma concerning the amino procollagen peptidases that are the ADAMTS2, 3 and 14 and which are key actors of the extracellular matrix. The discussions related to this work mainly concerned the techniques used or related to certain aspects also dealt with by other participants in the congress. By attending some of the oral presentations of the MBE2018 or by chatting with other participants, some ideas came to my mind regarding the continuation of the project, which would not necessarily have been the case without my participation in this conference.

Participation in this congress was intended to broaden my knowledge in the field of extracellular matrix. It was also intended to bring new ideas to the fore for my project, drawing on what is being done elsewhere, and to discuss with the participants in order to establish contact with them and to establish future collaborations. I believe that the MBE2018 conference has fully met these objectives as it brought together world-renowned researchers in the field of extracellular matrix and collagens; it allowed me to chat with other researchers to get some details about particular techniques, or about some aspects of my project.

The congress was, in my opinion, well organized. The oral presentations were of good quality and the researchers were generally available for discussion during the various "poster sessions". This congress was a great opportunity to present our work and represent the laboratory internationally.

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