October 11th, 2018

FEBS ALC on Extracellular Matrix, Cell Regulation, Epigenetics and Modeling: a personal perspective

Based in the Spanish National Research Council in Madrid, I am currently involved as a post-doctoral researcher in a translational project aiming to the implementation of matrix biomolecules in novel anti-tumoral therapeutics. In particular, my research project focuses to the structural analysis of an adenocarcinoma-related, carbohydrate-based epitope defined by the monoclonal antibody A10. Upon earning my PhD in the field of functional glycomics and high-throughput analytical platforms, I have trailed a shift towards the structural elucidation of matrix biomolecules by biophysical methods, especially Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. As an entry-level young scientist in the field of matrix pathobiology, this Course was particularly appealing to me for encompassing a multifaceted repertoire of lectures and seminars on basic and applied topics, practically covering all pillars of the ECM research today.

As expected, the ALC provided me with a firm base for discussions on my yet unpublished work in the field and, foremost, wide networking prospects in a crucial moment for my career. The panel of invited lecturers, constituted by leading scientists at a worldwide level, already guaranteed the establishment of a hub of excellence and a superb innovation-exchange forum. What is more, interaction with younger and senior participants was favored in a friendly environment, during several poster- and brainstorming sessions as well as speaker corners. I was really pleased to share my latest results and openly discuss them with the experts, who greatly contributed to transmitting to us, the younger scientists, their passion and enthusiasm for Matrix Biology.

I would like to thank wholeheartedly the International Society for Matrix Biology for their excellent travel-grant initiative, supporting young scientists to explore, discover and deepen their knowledge in all facets of our field. Notably, my participation in this Course gave me the opportunity to become familiar with the latest advances in tools and strategies for unravelling the matrix components´ structure and functions and, rendered me confident enough to apply this knowledge in my Project, back home. On top of that, it has certainly added value in my global training and allowed for my complete integration in the ECM community, along with offering further stimulation and engagement.

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