



I attended the Matrix Biology Europe 2018 Conference hosted at The University of Manchester on the 21-24th of July as a postdoc, being awarded by ISMB with an international travel grant. This was a big opportunity as well as an honor and I sincerely thank to the ISMB Committee for consideration.

The conference impressed me from day one as the organizers gave us the occasion as a start up to gather all together in the spectacular building of Manchester Museum which was fascinating to explore.

The scientific research communicated at the conference covered a diversity of aspects of the extracellular matrix components, their function as structural components as well as matrix component dynamics and signaling with translation in physiology and pathology. The interesting ideas and concepts as well as the newly advanced methodologies impacted consistently my overview on the progress of the projects I am working with.

Moreover, I appreciated very much the sessions where both seniors in the field as well as young investigators starting their own independent groups were awarded for their important contribution to the extracellular matrix field. The sessions were very interesting and dynamic.

The presentation of our laboratory research including the talk held by my PI and a poster presented by me was focused on the key signaling pathways promoted by the matrix-derived component biglycan in acute and chronic renal inflammation. I found our work complementary with the research of other scientists from where we had nice feedbacks and suggestions.

Finally, the social events including the coffee breaks, meals, gathering together at the Manchester Museum or the dinner held at Manchester United Football Club were very good occasions to group together in very nice locations and in a friendly atmosphere. It was a great pleasure and honor for me to meet so many experts in the matrix field.

I was really enjoying to participate at this event of the matrix scientific community which is putting the scientific skills, passion for science, creativity and human qualities at the service of science and mankind needs.

Madalina-Viviana Nastase, PostDoc
Institute of General Pharmacology and Toxicology
Frankfurt am Main, Germany