

## 1<sup>st</sup> ESM-EVBO summer school 2018 in Dresden - Nele Warmke

The 1<sup>st</sup> ESM-EVBO summer school, organised by the Transcampus (a campus partnership between Technische Universitaet Dresden and Kings College London), started on Sunday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 in Dresden. Our group of 30 students from all over Europe were warmly welcomed by Professor Henning Morawietz and Professor Richard Siow. After a small get-together in the evening to introduce ourselves and meet invited speakers, we were looking forward to an exciting week ahead of us. All students and speakers stayed at the same hotel close to the city centre of Dresden, so we could meet for breakfast or have a scientific discussion in the evening at the hotel bar.

The first day was opened by a fantastic talk on long non-coding RNAs by Reinier Boon from Amsterdam, followed by the first small-group workshop. Over the week, everyone could attend three workshops organised by ibidi, DMT and Imedos. These workshops gave us a brilliant introduction to their products or services, with a demonstration and a hands-on experience. For me, the workshop on retinal vessel analysis given by Imedos was the most fascinating. Imedos develops software which automatically identifies the arterial-venous ratio in the retina which can be used as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease.



*In-vivo* retinal image of my left eye, taken by Benedikt Krauss (Imedos) during the vascular function *in vivo* workshop.

The afternoons were packed with talks by excellent speakers, mainly from the UK (Angela Shore, Graeme Birdsey, Fiona Wilkinson, Charalambos Antoniades), and the Netherlands (Jaap van Buul, Esther Lutgens, Boy Houben). There was always enough time to ask questions and then discuss our research with the speakers in the coffee breaks. Moreover, we had the opportunity to tour the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and the Center of Regenerative Therapies. There we got to see the zebrafish facilities of MPI and the axolotl facility at the Center of Regenerative Therapies. The campus in Dresden is fascinating, with its concentration of high calibre research institutes, embedded in the university hospital site.

In the evenings, students were in the spotlight. Everyone had to prepare a poster, which was on display for the whole week, and there were two poster sessions on Monday and Tuesday evening. The speakers, organisers and students came around to listen to the poster presentations and to discuss the project. It was a great atmosphere and everyone was trying to help to address remaining questions and give advice on how to proceed.

On Wednesday, we were all invited on a wonderful trip to the Saxon Switzerland national park to visit the Bastei (a rock formation towering 194 meters above the Elbe River in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains of Germany) and to have a lovely walk down to the river. On our way we passed a beautiful lake called Amselsee where we took the chance to refresh.



At the Bastei: Me (2<sup>nd</sup> right) with students from Hungary, Sweden, Germany, Netherlands and UK.

On our last evening, we were invited for dinner at the lovely restaurant Amselgrundschloesschen, at the river Elbe in Rathen. It was a fantastic evening after an exciting week which brought us further together as a group.

The last scientific session on Thursday was all about the process of publishing. The editors Ulrich Pohl and Tomasz Guzik (representing ESM's Journal of Vascular Research and Cardiovascular Research, respectively) talked about the publishing process and common pitfalls. Finally, Jeremy Pearson (British Heart Foundation) gave an insightful talk on how to write a successful research proposal.

I would like to thank the British Microcirculation Society for their support, and for giving me this great opportunity to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> ESM-EVBO summer school in Dresden. It was a fantastic week of fruitful discussions, some new insights into the field of vascular biology and the microcirculation, and the chance to meet great early career researchers from all over Europe.



Group picture after the excursion to Saxon Switzerland national park during the 1<sup>st</sup> ESM-EVBO summer school 2018.