

11th World Congress for Microcirculation- 9th to 13th September 2018

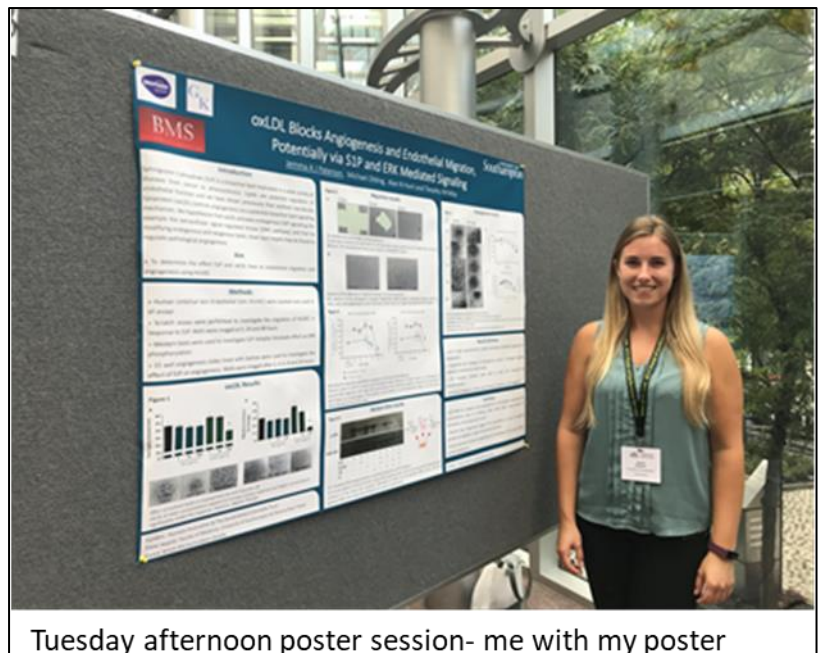
Jemma Paterson

I have just returned from a very enjoyable trip to Vancouver, Canada to attend the 11th World Congress for Microcirculation. The themes for this conference were “microcirculation in health and disease” and “emerging research and technologies” and the variety of talks certainly reflected this. This was my first international conference and I am very grateful to the BMS for giving me the opportunity to attend.

The conference started on Sunday evening (9th September) with a welcome reception hosted by the conference Co-Chairs and a keynote speech given by Dr Sussan Nourshargh. I found this talk very interesting as it was on how neutrophils can interact with the walls of the blood vessels, a topic I did not know much about prior to attending this meeting.

Monday morning began with sessions ranging from ion channels to carbon monoxide to the mouse microcirculation and prompted some lively discussion that set the tone for the rest of the week. A quick coffee break and we were back in for some more talks, this time covering topics such as cardiovascular disease and lymphatics. Lunchtime saw the start of the workshops with the poster session taking up the rest of the afternoon.

Tuesday was the day I presented my poster; we were instructed to prepare an “elevator pitch” for the judges and I will admit that I was nervous at the thought of presenting my work to some of the high profile researchers that were present. I ended up enjoying the whole experience, everyone who I spoke to was positive and had helpful comments or thoughts on where I could go next with my research. I felt so much more confident after this session and I know this will make future presentations easier.



Tuesday afternoon poster session- me with my poster

The Gala dinner was held on Wednesday evening after another full

day of talks and posters. This was a great opportunity to spend time with the people we had met during the week and continue on the scientific (and some not so scientific!) discussion. Again, we had a keynote speaker, this time it was Dr David Kleinfeld giving an account of “How blood flows throughout the brain”. Although we were all full from our 4-course dinner, his talk was riveting enough to keep us interested and resulted in some very thoughtful questions being put forward.

The final two sessions were held on Thursday morning and after saying goodbye to our new friends and colleagues (and one last stop at the Canadian institution that is Tim Hortons!) we headed to the airport to catch our long flight home.

Overall, this was a very enjoyable and productive conference, with a real focus on early career scientists, making everyone feel welcome and encouraging valuable discussion between those just starting out in the field and those well established. I have no doubt that I will stay in contact with the people I met during this conference and I would like to thank the BMS again for the opportunity to make such valuable international connections this early on in my research career.