22nd International Vascular Biology Meeting – 13th to 17th October 2022
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Presentation of the Moor Instruments award with Professor Rong Wang and Dr Andrew Benest

Last month I attended the 22nd International Vascular Biology Meeting in Oakland, California. The meeting was composed of a wide variety of themes, from basic to translational vascular biology, so it was a great opportunity to discover the last findings in other fields outside my research topic. This conference was my first international meeting and I am grateful to the BMVBS for giving me the opportunity to participate.

The conference started on Thursday the 13th with the presentation of the Earl P. Beneditte award won by Professor Joyce Bischoff, the Florence Sabin Award awarded to Professor Omolola Eniola-Adefeso and the first keynote speech given by Professor Christer Betsholtz. I found the keynote talk on the anatomy of the vasculature particularly interesting because it introduced the role of perivascular fibroblast in the mature and diseased brain, a topic of which I did not know much about but that is related to my PhD research.
Friday was the first full day of the meeting. Early start in the morning with the "Meet the Editors" workshop, where editors of several journals discussed with us the direction of their journals and reply to our questions on the editorial world. Between the several sessions, I participated in "vascular ageing", "vascular heterogeneity" and "blood-brain barrier". I found the blood-brain barrier session inspiring since a lot of the talks presented the role of endothelial cells on barrier leakage and they were helpful for the development of my thesis, which focuses on the role of endothelial cells in the blood-brain barrier. After the poster session during the lunch break, Professor Jeffrey Bluestone presented a keynote lecture on immune tolerance.

On Saturday, after some interesting talks on translational vascular biology, endothelial organ heterogeneity and neurovascular crosstalk, Professor Stefania Nicoli gave a fascinating lecture on the RNA-based mechanisms guiding endothelial cell behaviours.
On Sunday, scientists from several pharmaceutical companies discussed with us their jobs in the "Industry as a career path" workshop. Finally, after the morning sessions on organ crosstalk and regenerative medicine, at lunchtime, I presented my poster on the effects of defective autophagy on endothelial cell function and barrier integrity. I enjoyed talking to scientists from all over the world about my research and to receive their feedback and suggestions about how to further develop my project. Receiving so many comments made me consider new paths and will help me in the thesis development process.

During the evening, the Gala dinner was held on a cruise in the San Francisco Bay. Not only it was a great occasion to network, but also to enjoy a beautiful view of the city of San Francisco.
Finally, on Monday, Professor Stefanie Dimmeler gave an interesting keynote lecture on the neurovascular crosstalk in the ageing heart. After this, the societies presented the travel awards, and I was humbled to receive the award from the BMVBS.

Overall, it was a great conference, that allowed me not only to deepen my knowledge in my research field but also to discover new topics. I enjoyed very much the possibility of networking with experts from all over the world. It was an amazing experience and I would like to thank the BMVBS for giving me the opportunity to attend.