

37th European Workshop for Rheumatology Research, Athens 2017.

I would like to thank “Österreichische Gesellschaft für Rheumatologie und Rehabilitation” for their sponsorship, that allowed me to attend to the 37th European Workshop for Rheumatology Research in Athens from the 2nd to the 4th March 2017.

It was my first time in this conference and I enjoyed very much being a part of it. The location of the conference was at the Planetarium of Athens, which already gave scientific value to the meeting. During the three days of talks and seminars, I came to know the last results from European groups working in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), especially with fibroblasts, which is my main interest, resulting in very fascinating talks for me. Here I can point out that I met Prof. Buckley, one of the most important group leaders in research in RA from Europe. The rest of the sessions were interesting for me as there is always something new to learn about this disease. I found extremely captivating the talk from Dr. Mariola Kurowska-Stolarska from the University of Glasgow about macrophages and Dr. Gioacchino Natoli from the European Institute of Oncology about genomic landscapes in inflammation.

In the networking events I came to know the founders of the EWRR, who are scientist from all around Europe, from whom, much can be learnt. I also had the chance to speak with Prof. Ingrid Lundberg and Dr. Florence Apparailly about the role of women in science and in particular in RA, a very interesting and motivating conversation from great scientists. However, not everything was about work and I joined also the running session of the conference and enjoyed the athletic spirit from its source, Athens.

During the conference there were two Poster sessions. In one of them, I could present my poster entitled “3D Synovial Organoid Culture Reveals Cellular Mechanisms of Tissue Formation and Inflammatory Remodeling” and met some researchers that were very interested in our work and some of the techniques we use. Now, there is room for future potential collaborations that can expand and strengthen our science. I had the pleasure to realize that there are some groups in Europe that knows our work and the previous publications from my group and they are trying to set up some of the techniques we use and in particular a method that Dr. Kiener developed for the study of 3D synovial cultures. Finally, my poster was one of the six awarded posters, bringing a prize not just to my group and the AKH in Vienna, but also Austria.

Isabel Olmos Calvo.