

Compte-rendu pour la SBCF – David Crottès, Congrès “Ion Transport and Cancer” (Würzburg, All.)

Thanks to the SCBF grant for travel, I had the opportunity to participate in the “Ion transport and Cancer” congress which took place in the “Himmelsportfen” monastery in Würzburg (Germany) between Sept 9th and 12th. This was a really nice place, suitable for friendly high level scientific exchange. This congress, organized by Dr. Albrecht Schwab, gathered the best international specialist in the field of ion channels and transporters in cancer.

The schedule was dense but really very exciting. The first evening, after an introductory talk from Dr. Albrecht Schwab, we could get together and about the on going project around a beer. It was the opportunity to meet old friends but also to talk with the leaders of the field including Stefan Reshkin, Albrecht Schwab, Sebastien Roger, Annarosa Arcangeli and a lot of others ... This “get-together” session was a very good start for the meeting.

The second day was the beginning of conference sessions focused on “Apoptosis and Proliferation” and “Tumor cell motility and invasion”. All day long, speakers presented their results about the various facets of the functions of transporter and ion channel in cancer. All these presentations illustrated the huge diversity of the involvement of ion channels in cancer and the powerful therapeutic target that they can provide. The conference given by Pr. Diane Barber was a really good moment. After her talk, proton efflux and its involvement in cancer cell behavior seemed easy to understand. The evening poster session allowed me to present my results and to discuss with other teams (and in some cases to establish new collaborations). The poster session was a short but really good moment for new interactions. The end of day was marked by Pr. Peter Friedl’s presentation. His talk was the nicest demonstration that all cancer research needs to be enlarged in the same study to really understand all facets of cancer progression. It was a nice and elegant manner to bring a more global point of view on this topic.

The third day was oriented on tumor-microenvironment interactions and pancreas cancer. It was also very interesting and we listened to high-quality presentations. I particularly appreciated the point of view of Pr. Robert J. Gillies on the prevention of metastasis dissemination by using only bicarbonate solution to reduce the influence of low pH environment as a driver for metastasis spreading. An apparently simple therapeutic answer to such a complexe disease !

The conclusion of this congress took place in a wine cellar in Würzburg for a wine tasting session. It was the opportunity to get together one last time to discuss about our feelings about this congress and the future of this original field.

Finally, it was a really great experience for me to participate in this congress and I thank very much the French Society of Cellular Biology which allowed me to do so.