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IUIS VIC/EVIG Travel Bursary Report

International Veterinary Immunology Symposium (IVIS), Gold Coast, Australia

16-19th September 2016

Firstly, I am incredibly thankful to the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), the Veterinary Immunology Committee (VIC), and the European Veterinary Immunology Group (EVIG) for receiving the travel grant allowing me to attend the International Veterinary Symposium (IVIS) 2016. This year's meeting was located at the beautiful Australian East Coast, specifically, the Gold Coast Convention Centre. Here, the opening, amongst other things, included a dance performance by a local group from the Gold Coast hinterland, the Yugambeh Dance troupe, which gave an insight into Aboriginal culture. Following this, a welcome function was held to officially celebrate the opening of this year's IVIS.



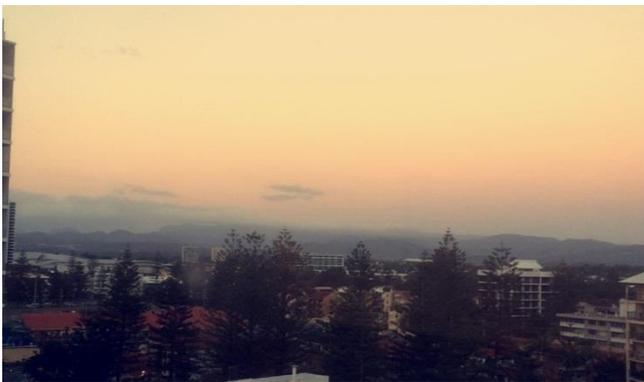
View from the walk towards the Gold Coast Convention Centre



Entrance to the main beach at Surfers Paradise

The next few days at the Gold Coast Convention Centre included a large range of very interesting scientific topics including immunity towards different pathogens; innate, adaptive, mucosal, and clinical immunology; and vaccine research just to mention a few. In particular, the non-rodent animal model session was of high value to me. Here, I got the opportunity to present my PhD research focusing on the potential in using pigs as a large animal model for cancer immune therapies, and I received highly valuable feed-back, which I am very thankful for. Especially Dr Harry Dawson had some very important suggestions, which I am very thankful for, including both choice of vaccine target,

alternative porcine cancer models, and the inclusion of additional read-outs like granzyme B measurements. I believe that this opportunity to present my project followed by a constructive discussion of the data afterwards has given me a better foundation for, hopefully, being able to take this project even further. Additionally, a VIC/IUIS toolkit session was included in the program, allowing the attendees to have a discussion about what is needed in veterinary immunology to push the field in the right direction. Dr Joan Lunney explained about the plans for some upcoming antibodies against various porcine cytokine- and chemokine receptors, which will be very interesting and allow the porcine immunologist to expand their tool box substantially.



View of the Gold Coast hinterland from the hotel



Sunrise at the beach; walking distance from the Gold Coast Convention Centre

The IUIS VIC EVIG travel award was handed out the first night at the conference, which was very helpful in terms of getting to know some of the other attendees at an early stage. Also, the conference dinner was very well planned and gave the opportunity to get to know other attendees even further. In general I was very pleased to experience the positive and friendly atmosphere during the entire meeting, which resulted in spontaneous dinner plans during the week and interesting conversations during the coffee breaks. Taken together, I feel that I have obtained very valuable networking, which I can contact for guidance, future collaborations, or I can simply meet friendly faces all around the world. Also, the wide variety of immunological topics included in the program was inspiring and gave me the opportunity to gain knowledge within fields outside of my own. Once again, I am very thankful to the IUIS, VIC, and EVIG committee for their support, which allowed me to attend IVIS 2016.

Best wishes,

Nana Haahr Overgaard



Kayaks resting on the beach outside Port Douglas



Beautiful stone formations outside Cairns



View from the hotel balcony with Surfers Paradise's skyline in the background



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