PIANOFORTE Travel Grant Activity Report – Participation at the European Radiation Protection Week (ERPW2026), Berlin, Germany

My participation in the European Radiation Protection Week (ERPW 2026) in Berlin from 5 to 9 October 2026 was a significant milestone in my academic and professional development. The event featured a rich, comprehensive programme tailored to both early-career researchers and established experts in radiation protection:

5 October (ECRad Workshop): Prior to the main scientific sessions, I attended the Early Career Researcher (ECRad) workshop dedicated to Artificial Intelligence and its impact on the future careers of young researchers. The session provided a valuable platform for discussions on how emerging AI tools are reshaping methodologies, data analysis, and long-term career trajectories in radiation protection and medical science.

6–8 October (Main Scientific Conference): The core programme offered diverse scientific sessions, presentations, and poster displays covering cutting-edge developments in radiation protection, biology, and medicine.

9 October (Institutional Technical Visit): On the final day, I participated in an insightful visit to the Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz (BfS) in Berlin. Researchers from BfS guided us through their institute and laboratories, presenting ongoing projects and facilities. This provided a practical perspective on operational radiation protection research in Germany.

During the conference, I presented a poster titled: “Transcriptomic biomarkers of systemic response to radiotherapy alone and combined radiotherapy–immunotherapy in breast cancer – IMAGEOMICS project”. This study is an integral part of our contribution to the IMAGEOMICS project, which focuses on improving diagnostic capabilities and advancing personalized treatment strategies for breast cancer. Presenting this research generated significant interest among conference attendees. Numerous researchers and professionals visited my poster, leading to engaging discussions regarding our methodology and clinical implications. This interaction significantly enhanced the international visibility of the IMAGEOMICS project and provided valuable feedback on our findings.

Furthermore, ERPW 2026 served as an excellent platform for networking. I had the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, exchange ideas with international peers, and establish new contacts with researchers from various institutions. These conversations opened promising avenues for future joint projects and scientific collaborations across borders.

Conclusion

Participation in ERPW 2026 enriched my research perspectives, broadened my professional network, and deepened my understanding of current priorities in radiation protection and medical biology.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PIANOFORTE Partnership for awarding me the travel grant and providing the financial support that made my attendance, presentation, and subsequent networking opportunities possible.

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