

Attendance at Gordon Research Conference in Maine, USA 2024

27th July – 2nd August 2024, Newry, USA.

Thanks to the generosity of PIANOFORTE and the University of Gothenburg, I was given the opportunity to travel to the town of Newry in Maine, USA and attend my very first Gordon Research Conference (GRC). The GRCs are a series of conferences held by a non-profit organization that focuses on advancing the frontiers of science by holding seminars and conferences. The topic of the conference I attended was cell death, a broad and growing field in science today. Researchers from all around the world and of all career stages were invited, and the conference offered ample time for networking in a casual setting. There was a great emphasis on informal networking opportunities to foster interactions between scientists. Trainees and young researchers early in their career had the opportunity to present their work, both in the form of formal talks and poster presentations.

During the conference, which spanned over 6 days, I attended all scheduled talks and discussions, which were organized such that different topics regarding cell death were presented on different days. I was surprised to learn about aspects of cell death that was entirely foreign to me, and thus I attained a great introduction to topics that will be beneficial to keep in mind in my own research. For me, the talks about apoptosis, a form of programmed cell death, was the most relevant since it connects directly to my own research. I had the opportunity to talk to other researchers working with apoptosis and gained ideas and inspiration from the interactions.

There were poster sessions held every day, and during two of these days I presented my own poster. This gave me a great opportunity to practice presenting my own work, and I obtained interesting comments from the people that I talked to, leading to many great ideas that I will look further into as I work on my project. Thus, I found the poster sessions very valuable, and not only when I presented my own work, but also when reading about and speaking to other poster presenters about their projects.

Attending this conference has been a fruitful experience for me, not only because I was introduced to new aspects of cell death that I was barely aware of previously, but also because I got the opportunity to speak to and learn a lot from people working in the same field. I gained experience and confidence by attending this conference, and I believe this experience will help me grow as a researcher.

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