

PIANOFORTE travel grant activity report

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Activity report

Because I was awarded with a PIANOFORTE travel grant as part of the PIANOFORTE Mobility Program for early career researchers, I was able to attend the second International Workshop on Radiobiology of Molecular Radiotherapy organized from the 13th to 14th of March 2023 at the Francis Crick Institute in London. This workshop was organized by the European Working Group on Radiobiology of Molecular Radiotherapy that is aiming at bringing together people researching molecular radiotherapy as the field is rapidly growing.

During this 2-day workshop, various presentations were given regarding cutting-edge research in the field of understanding the radiobiology of radiopharmaceutical treatments. As my own PhD project is about understanding mechanisms of salivary gland toxicity after PSMA-targeted radiopharmaceutical treatment of prostate cancer, it was very interesting for me to attend all the given presentation. They highlighted the variety of research that is currently being performed (from preclinical to clinical studies) in the field of radiopharmaceutical research.

I presented a poster during 2 dedicated poster sessions throughout the workshop in which I presented potential non-specific retention mechanisms of the compound [¹⁷⁷Lu]Lu-PSMA-617 in the salivary glands. Throughout these sessions, I had very nice discussions with fellow workshop attendees regarding my own research or their research of which my own project will only benefit.

The main aim of this conference was to bring together people working in similar fields of research, being radiopharmaceuticals in order to come up with strategies to harmonize and standardize this fairly new field of research. During the workshop, there was a dedicated discussion session in smaller groups in which we discussed current problems in the field and what would be needed to overcome these. This was very interesting, as the experience of more advanced researchers, newly started PhD student, clinicians and authority representatives were mixed during this sessions so we could each learn from each other about different problems. This sessions also facilitated connecting to fellow researchers, which might hold potential for future collaborations.

During this conference, I gained knowledge of broader research in the field of radiopharmaceutical research, which can be beneficial for my own project. For example, I learned of new assays or pathways that can be involved in therapeutic and toxic effects in radiopharmaceutical therapy, which can be translated to my own project. Additionally, I managed to connect to fellow researchers in a similar field, which holds promise for collaboration of which my project can also benefit.

