
PIANOFORTE Activity report: 17th International Congress for Radiation Research 2023

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Thanks to PIANOFORTE Travel Grant for early career researchers, I was able to participate in the 17th International Congress for Radiation Research (ICRR) held in Montreal, Canada on the 27th – 30th of August 2023. This outstanding research meeting is organized every 4 years and brings together top worldwide experts in the different areas of radiation research and broad professional audience including young scientists. Thus, it is an amazing opportunity to share and discuss our data with colleagues from all around the world, to learn about the hot topics in the field and lastly, to network with potential collaborators.

The main focus of this year extensive programme was on following topics: Mechanism in Radiation Effects; High LET Radiation; Emerging Therapy Approaches; Low Dose – Environment – Radiation Protection – Epidemiology; and New Applications in Omics – Big Data – AI. Several plenary sessions provided an excellent state of art overview in various aspects of radiation science, but also inspiring life stories of selected speakers and awardees, their dedication and encouragement. During 30 symposia sessions and over 500 poster onsite presentations, we could learn about the latest advances in research and future perspectives. Since my postdoctoral project concerns about second primary cancers as late toxic effect of radiotherapy, I found particularly interesting the talks regarding genomics in therapeutics and radiation response, chromatin architecture and epigenetics in DNA damage and repair, and novel approaches in radiotherapy. I would like to also highlight the excellent Oxford-model Painter Debate concerned about the role of adverse outcome pathways in radiation science with respect to radiation risk assessment with interactive voting by audience.

Personally, I presented our latest data on the role of different risk factors contributing to overall risk for second primary breast cancer development together with fractionated radiation exposure in the poster format. The discussion about our results during poster session with several colleagues provided highly valued feedback and brought new potential perspectives to our ongoing projects.

During these incredible 4 days, I had an amazing opportunity to broaden my knowledge in radiation science. Furthermore, I was able to interact with senior and junior colleagues during the coffee breaks and conference social events, thus gaining new highly valued contacts.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep gratitude to PIANOFORTE for enabling my participation at ICRR 2023.