
Travel report PIANOFORTE travel grant for early career researchers

I had the privilege to receive a PIANOFORTE travel grant for early career researchers for presenting my work on cardiac late effects after radiotherapy for breast cancer in Germany at the 1st conference of the International Society of Radiation, Epidemiology and Dosimetry (ISoRED) on 16th-18th May 2023 in Sitges, Spain. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to present my work at this conference with the support of the PIANOFORTE travel grant for early career researchers and would like to share my experiences of the conference in this travel report.

The primary purpose of my travel to Sitges, Spain was to present a talk at the 1st ISORED conference held from 16th-18th May 2023. ISORED is the first international society of scientists interested in radiation epidemiology and dosimetry. The society's mission is to bring together radiation researcher from around the world to discuss new results of studies on ionizing radiation effects in humans, epidemiological methods in this field and dosimetry. The society also supports capacity building and training for the next generation of epidemiologist, statisticians and dosimetrists in radiation research and promote und facilitate international collaborations. This mission was clearly reflected in the program of the conference. The program included 10 sessions with topics such as occupational radiation exposure in medical professionals, environmental exposures, methodology, imaging procedures, dosimetry for radiotherapy, diagnostic and therapeutic radiation exposure. Besides the numerous talks during the sessions, additionally so called "Flash Talk sessions" were included. These sessions were used to give a very short presentation on posters.

My talk titled "Radiation dose-response for cardiac events in breast cancer patients in Germany treated with 3D-conformal radiotherapy: a nested case-control study of the ESCaRa project" was included in the session radiotherapy (non-pediatric). The presentation was well-received by the audience, comprising scientists from key international institutions involved in radiation research such as ISGlobal, IRSN, NCI or IARC. Therefore, this conference was an excellent platform for me to showcase my research on an international stage and receive valuable insights and feedback from peers and other professionals in the field.

Additionally, I actively participated in others sessions during the conference. I have co-chaired a session on imaging procedures and was part of a panel discussion where I shared my experience on ISORED's mentoring program for early career researchers. Furthermore, the conference provided ample networking opportunities. I had the privilege of engaging in fruitful discussions with renowned researchers and experts in radiation epidemiology. These interactions opened doors for potential collaborations and knowledge-sharing that will undoubtedly contribute to my professional growth as an early career researcher.

Besides the scientific side of the conference, it should be noted that Sitges is a wonderful harbor town in Spain, close to Barcelona. The conference was next to the port of Sitges with a great view during the coffee breaks and the social dinner, which enriched the experience of this conference. The opportunity for a sailing trip from Sitges harbor as one many opportunities for social activities in the evening made an unforgettable memory.

Again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PIANOFORTE travel grant committee for their support and investment in early career researchers like myself. This opportunity has undoubtedly paved the way for future research collaborations and career advancements.