

World Immune Regulation Meeting (WIRM) VII 2013
'Innate and adaptive immune response and role of tissues in immune regulation'
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The World Immune Regulation Meeting is an annual meeting on all aspects of immune regulation with the special focus this year on 'Innate and adaptive immune response and role of tissues in immune regulation'. The meeting is organised by prof. Cezmi Akdis, director of the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF) and other members of SIAF. The meeting lasted for four days and every congress day started with plenary sessions by internationally renowned speakers. After lunch the programme continued with workshops on specific topics followed by plenary sessions. In the evening the dip & discuss poster sessions with dinner and drinks took place providing a relaxed and stimulatory atmosphere to discuss your work and meet fellow scientists.

Several plenary presentations covered the metabolism of cells and its effect on the immune response. This was a complete new concept for me, so I found it very interesting to hear from Luke O'Neill that pro- and anti-inflammatory cells use different forms of metabolism and that you can actually discriminate between pro- and anti-inflammatory cells by determining their route of metabolism. Polly Matzinger talked about microbiota and intestinal epithelial cells. She showed that an intracellular infection causes the cell to change its metabolism which results in an up-regulation of immune genes to clear the infection. Mihai Netea presented data showing that metabolism has an effect on histone deacetylation, thereby regulating the transcription of immune genes. In my own work, I am interested in the biological explanation of the strong association between HLA and rheumatoid arthritis. In our hypothesis we propose that the HLA types that predispose to rheumatoid arthritis induce autoreactive T cells while the protective HLA type induces tolerogenic T cells. It would be interesting to investigate whether there is a difference in the metabolism of the T cells of individuals with these respective HLA types.

During the poster sessions I had the opportunity to talk with many scientists in an informal way. Discussing other scientists' work and my own work gave me new insights in the field of immune regulation and my own work.

I would like to thank the Dutch Society for Immunology for providing me with a travel grant, which gave me the opportunity to attend this meeting on immune regulation enabling me to discuss my work, meet new people and learn about the most recent development in the field of immune regulation.