

**OARSI World Congress on Osteoarthritis 2013  
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The OARSI World Congress is a yearly meeting for clinicians, scientists and other healthcare professionals dedicated to the prevention and treatment of osteoarthritis (OA). The conference consisted of plenary sessions with keynote speakers renowned in the field of OA as well as several parallel sessions. In these parallel sessions, the topic was introduced by a prominent scientist in the respective field of the topic, followed by presentations of postdocs and PhD students. The covered topics ranged from integrative medicine to bone biology in OA.

My current projects evolve around the role of adipose tissue and its secreted factors in inflammation and disease progression in OA patients. Several sessions were relevant for my work, especially the sessions: "Role of the immunological response and complement in OA" and "Cell signaling and inflammation in OA". In these sessions there were many interesting presentations, which have given me new insights in potential mechanisms and pathophysiological processes in the joint. In my opinion, one of the highlights of the conference was the presentation by Virginia Byers Kraus, regarding the possibility to directly label/visualize activated macrophages by FolateScan imaging. Interestingly, these macrophages were not only detected in the affected joint, but also their presence could be detected in other joints throughout the body. Moreover, the presence of these activated macrophages in synovium and the joint capsule in patients with knee OA was shown to correlate with joint space narrowing, osteophyte severity as well as clinical symptoms of the knee, potentially indicating direct in vivo evidence for macrophage activity in the involvement of OA.

During the congress, I presented a poster of my work on two occasions. This resulted in interesting discussions with other scientists in the field. In conclusion, the OARSI conference had multiple interesting presentations which provided me with new insights not only for my current work, but additionally also for my future work as a clinician. Therefore, I am grateful to the Dutch Society for Immunology for providing me with a travel grant to attend the OARSI world conference.