

DC2012 Travel report

12th International Symposium on Dendritic cells
October 7-11, Daegu, South Korea

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The DC symposium is organised biannually and this year the event took place in Daegu, South Korea. During the meeting the latest developments in the field of DC development and function were discussed. This year special attention was given to memorize Ralph Steinman.

In plenary sessions, renowned speakers presented the most recent data of their groups. Many talks focussed on ontology of DCs and novel markers to identify different subsets.

Of my interest were mostly the presentations about the role of DCs in infection. To point out a few, Yong-jun Liu talked about diversity amongst helicases in viral recognition. As it turns out, specific helicases can act as DNA sensors and use different adaptor proteins. And helicases can have a specific function to either initiate or amplify antiviral responses. Tadatsugu Taniguchi presented his work on IRF-binding sites within the promoter regions of multiple inflammatory cytokines and how IRFs on the interface of TLR and RLR signaling can actually lead to Th2 skewing. Gregory Barton talked about the role of UNC93B1 in trafficking of intracellular TLRs and how disruption of this tightly-regulated process impairs their function. One of the presentations more outside of my own research scope that I found really interesting was given by Yasmine Belkaid. She showed the importance of the skin microbiota in T cell responses.

Besides the plenary sessions there were poster sessions, where I also had the opportunity to present my own data. These sessions were held after the plenary sessions and well attended. I had some nice discussions and got some interesting questions regarding my own poster on the role of DC-SIGN+ cells in initiation of measles virus infection in non-human primates.

Overall I have heard and learned many things at the conference within and outside the scope of my own research. I would like to thank the NIVI for giving me not only the opportunity to discuss my own data and gather new information, but also for orientation regarding future career steps.