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## **Congress Report**

### **7th European Congress for Immunology held in Dublin on September 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>**

Thanks to the support from the NVVI I was able to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> European Congress for Immunology in Dublin from the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2024, an event with over 2600 international scientists which only happens every three years.

The conference included keynote lectures from Nobel prize winner James P Allison who pioneered the field of checkpoint immunotherapy in particular the success of anti-CTLA4 and Tak Mak with his founding research into the TCR which I found particularly exciting given the T cell focus of my PhD.

The conference also included over 55 workshops spread across the four days ranging from control of tissue inflammation and repair to CAR-T cell therapeutic design and, a particular favourite of mine, mechanisms of antigen presentation. There were also a number of larger symposium covering stromal cell immunology, tolerance and molecular signatures in the RA synovium which closely aligned with my PhD research. Another particular highlight was the Satellite symposium I was able to attend before the start of the official congress entitled 'A new era of T cell research' which included detailed T cell talks from the likes of David Masopust and Axel Kallies.

Furthermore there were three poster sessions where everybody could share results, gain insights into new topics in an informal setting and foster new connections. During this time I was able to present my poster entitled 'Exploring the reduced cytokine production in lymph node T cells during the earliest phases of autoimmunity' where I gained some new insights which will aid finalising this manuscript for my PhD thesis.

The conference finished with an exciting Networking Dinner where you were able to chat about science in a more relaxed manner and gain insights into future career prospects as well as exchanging ideas and opinions. Attending this conference would not have been possible without the financial support of the NVVI Travel Grant which allowed me to experience this inspiring international conference.