

EYIM 2016: celebration of the 10th anniversary!

It was 2006 when the French and German CF patient associations invited young scientists to present their research data on a bilateral CF Young Investigator Meeting. For most of them, it was the first time to explain and discuss their results in English – a sometimes hard, but perfect training for their future career in research! Meanwhile, the CF meeting “EYIM” has grown to a well known European Meeting and is organized by the CF patient associations from France, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. Each year approximately 80 students apply for their attendance and 40 of them are selected by European senior scientists as reviewers.

The networking possibilities on that meeting couldn't be better, since students (~ 40) and senior scientist (~10) spend two and a half days together. That means, discussions start with the first coffee in the morning and are still ongoing in a French bar in the evening. Both scientist generations profit from the networking on the EYIM: the young ones will be introduced in the CF-research community, the established ones will get new data and ideas - and maybe the next student for the own lab. Thus, the French-German young investigator collaboration has developed to an established European meeting, which is recognized outside Europe, too: students from Canada and India attended already during the last years!

The 2016 anniversary was started with two special talks: First, Ulrike Pypops gave a very personal and impressive talk on her life as CF patient – a perfect motivation for everybody in the room to go on with CF research! Secondly, Mathieu Kerbirou explained his life in CF research: he started 10 years ago with the first young investigator meeting and meanwhile he is well experienced CF scientist in a permanent CF research position.

The following scientific program consisted of 37 young scientist talks, 5 introductory talks of the senior scientists and 10 round tables sessions. All the different CF research issues were considered during the program: Microbiology, Cell-biology, Immunology, Clinical Issues and Genetics.

After the meeting, four students were honored by awards, three for the best presentations and one for the most active participating student. The awards this year were given to students from Switzerland, Belgium, The Netherlands and France:

- Marie Beaume (Geneva) gave a talk on the longitudinal analysis of the colonization of microorganism after lung transplantation. She analyzed more than 400 airway samples from 63 patients (CF and non-CF) to understand the dynamics of the bacterial adaptation and competition in the novel environment. The new data will help to develop preventive strategies after lung transplantation.
- Aurelié Crabbé (Ghent) developed a new antibiotics susceptibility test using a biofilm model grown on a three-dimensional lung epithelium. Her findings explain the role of the host and its microenvironment in the efficiency of antimicrobial agents and the putative use of the new 3-D model for antibiotic susceptibility testing.
- Marjolein Mijnders (Utrecht) gave insight into the assembly of the CFTR protein. The order and relevance of different processing steps were deciphered in the laboratory in Utrecht. This knowledge is extremely important for the development of new drugs targeting the CFTR processing.
- Frédéric Velard was noticed upon his qualified and interesting contributions to the discussions. Therefore he won the award as most active participant.