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To Foekje Stelma, Penningmeester NVP,

Subject: Conference attendance report

Dear Dr. Stelma,

Last August 21st-26th, 2022 I attended the 15th edition of ICOPA, the congress of the World Federation of Parasitologists, taking place in Copenhagen.

I am truly glad to have been able to participate in this event thanks to the financial support of NVP. As agreed, I would like to share with you a short overview of my attendance of the congress.

First, the conference has been a wonderful personal experience since my work entitled "*Glycomic analysis of the filarial nematode *Brugia malayi* and glycan microarray-assisted characterization of antibody responses during infection*" was selected for an 15 minute oral presentation on Wed., August 24th as part of a session on "Filaria Topic". As a junior researcher, it was the first talk I gave in front of such a large and international audience and I was absolutely honored. It gave me a great opportunity to interact with fellow scientists and elicited stimulating discussions and perspectives of collaborations.

From a broader angle, the conference was extremely interesting with a large coverage of parasitology topics. I particularly enjoyed the balance between the inspiring lectures from key-note speakers opening the day and the more targeted sessions in smaller committee filling the rest of the program. Many sessions tackled subjects highly relevant to my own research. I attended four different sessions focusing on schistosoma, covering topics including diagnostics, morbidity, epidemiology, treatment and immunology of schistosomiasis. I also particularly enjoyed two symposiums, the first one focusing on helminth immunology and the second one on extracellular vesicles. Finally, I was excited to hear about ongoing development of new drug for onchocerciasis and to learn about some molecular studies of *Fasciola hepatica* excreted/secreted (glyco)proteins interacting with the host immune system.

To conclude, I was highly impressed by the quality of the science presented during the congress and satisfied by the networking opportunities as well as by the overall interactive, dynamic and friendly atmosphere.

