**Parasitology Joint Spring Meeting - Manchester**

From April 15th to April 17th I attended the Joint spring meeting on parasitology in Manchester. Which was a collaboration of the British Society of Parasitology (BSP), the Belgian Society for Parasitology and Protistology (BSPP) and the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Parasitology (NVP).

During this three day conference the theme was “one health”. The sessions were divided in a variety of themes including Host Pathogen Interaction, Human Interventions, Cell Biology and Science Communication. I tried to visited oral presentations and posters related to my PhD project as well as those with my personal interest, which is mainly focused on host-pathogen interactions.

During the conference there were some plenary sessions (+/- 50 minutes) while the rest of the time there were sessions with invited speakers (30 minutes) followed by oral presentations (15 minutes) where other speakers, mainly young/junior researchers, had the chance to present their data. At the first two days there were poster pitches, where a 2 minute poster pitch was held by a selected group of poster presenters. On those days there was also the option to discuss posters with their presenters. The third day ended with a round of science communications followed by awards.

On Monday April 15th the program started with an interesting presentation on primate parasites in Madagascar which was told very enthusiastic by Patricia Wright and left the entire lecture hall wanting to visit Madagascar. It was followed by a presentation on the impact of poultry disease on public health by Fiona Tomley. A topic that is unrelated to most research presented, but nevertheless of great importance to us all in our personal lives. At the end of the day I visited the session Human Interventions. Here I thought one presentations was especially interesting. This presentation by Lisette van Lieshout discussed the serum and urine CAA levels in Belgian travelers after exposure to *Schistosoma* cercariae. This data is highly related to data found in my PhD project on controlled human infection with *Schistosoma mansoni* cercariae. Related to this topic I attended the presentation in the session Host-Pathogen interaction on swimmer's itch in a faculty pool. Which described the presence of swimmers itch after exposure to cercariae which do not have humans as intermediate/definite host.

On Tuesday April 16th the most interesting presentation of the conference, to my opinion, was given by Prof. Andrea Graham, who discussed the impact of the environment on the outcome of mice experiments. Here, she discussed that C57Bl/6 mice are resistant to a high dose of *Trichuris muris* eggs under laboratory conditions, while mice released outdoors in a more natural environment developed worm infections. I think this research is of great importance in showing that the results of mice experiments performed under the standard laboratory conditions can be very different from those found in a less experimental setting and possibly the latter situation may, for some types of research, be more comparable to the human situation. Another interesting session was on cell biology, where the winner of the oral presentations, Clarize de Korne, gave a presentation on imaging-based analysis of sporozoite motility. Even though this is a very specific research field the presentation was very easy to understand due to the explanatory figures and interesting video’s during the presentation.

The last day, Wednesday April 17th I visited both Host-Pathogen interactions sessions in the morning. In the last session I presented data of the ‘Controlled human *Schistosoma mansoni* infection’ that we performed the last few years. In the same session two presentations were given with samples from this controlled infection study. One by Anna Kildemoes, who presented data on glycan specific antibodies in schistosomiasis assessed by glycan microarrays. And the other by Emma Houlder, who got the second price of oral presentations. She discussed the pulmonary immune response in schistosomiasis.

Altogether, this conference provided a great opportunity to hear about parasitological research from our neighbor countries. Also it gave me the opportunity to give my first international oral presentation. For these reasons I am grateful that the NVP supported my participation in this event.

Marijke Langenberg

PhD student / AIOS internal medicine-infectious diseases,

Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC)