

Conference Report

The 26th International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) and the European Society for Neurochemistry (ESN) Biennial meeting 20-24 August 2017, Paris, France

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I am very delighted indeed that I had the opportunity to attend the 26th International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) and the European Society for Neurochemistry (ESN) in Paris France, 20-24 August 2017. It was a very valuable experience that it provided me a chance to learn from numerous innovative studies presented, and also to meet and discuss with world renowned researchers.

The conference was conducted for 4 days (21-24 August) with morning plenary lectures including a senior keynote speaker and a junior keynote speaker, followed by two breakout sessions covering different topics including development, gene and genetics, synapses and neurotransmission, molecular basis of diseases, neurodegeneration or cell energetics. It was indeed an excellent occasion for me to develop ideas, raise visibility, and get inspired. I was tremendously fascinated by Prof. Giovanna Mallucci who is a professor of clinical neurosciences at the University of Cambridge. She talked on the importance of unfolded-protein response stress and its contribution to several neurodegenerative diseases, with the importance of elongation factor 2E (eIF2E) as a rescue pathway in neurodegeneration. More interesting portion was the description in the second part of the cold-shock response and the contribution of RBM3 as a neuroprotective agent. Another interesting keynote lecture was from Dr. Deborah Toiber, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Her group used mice to show that levels of the stress responsive protein Sirtuin-6 (SIRT6) are correlated with DNA repair functions. A decrease in SIRT6 protein levels resulted in increased DNA damage and preceded other indications of neurodegenerative diseases. Fortunately, I got the chance to talk and discuss with her about my research and interesting point in neurodegeneration. Therefore, I consider this was a unique opportunity for me to discuss with number of academics and professionals from different countries who have similar research interests.

My submitted abstract entitled "Isoform-independent and -dependent phosphorylation of microtubule-associated protein tau in mouse brain during postnatal development", was accepted for poster presentation. My findings, in summary, indicate that tau phosphorylation state change is not required their isoforms change. During poster session, I discussed my findings with other researchers and also



Writer (center) is talking with Dr. Deborah Toiber (right).



Writer (third from right) at farewell party.

received valuable feedbacks that might contribute to improve my research in future. Moreover, I got a chance to visit Dr. Mitchell K.P. Lai Lab at National University of Singapore. It was a great opportunity for me to meet people, hone my communication skill, discuss ideas and get input about my work.

Attending the ISN-ESN biennial meeting exposed me to many novel techniques and interesting findings within my field, which have given me new ideas for my research. It also provided me an opportunity to establish a network of connections, which will grow throughout my PhD and hopefully contribute to my career. I am very thankful for the excellent opportunity that I could meet many eminent personalities and share my views with them effectively. I greatly appreciate Japanese Society for Neurochemistry for supporting my travel to Paris to attend this conference.