

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND TRAVEL & CONFERENCE BURSARY

AWARD REPORT - Dr. Lucia Cottone

109th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research

April 14-18, 2018 - Chicago, Illinois (U.S.A)

I would like to begin this report by thanking the Pathological Society for awarding this bursary that allowed me to attend the 109th Annual Meeting of the AACR in Chicago.

AACR annual meeting is a vast hub of scientists contributing to all fields of cancer research and gathering from all over the world. This year meeting, with about 22,000 participants, has been an exciting and lively event focusing on "Driving Innovative Cancer Science to Patient Care".

I have attended interesting sessions that gave a rich overview about the most recent advances in the field of cancer modelling. In particular I have learnt about novel predictive models for tumorigenesis including patient-derived xenografts animal models and 3D cultures/organoids. I have also been fascinated by the use of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) to understand cancer biology. Interesting posters gave me new ideas on how to model cancer *in vitro*.

Lots of emphasis was given to the contribution of genetic alterations to cancer development. A very comprehensive plenary session included talks about the global relevance of actionable mutations and about the role of epigenetic alterations in cancer mechanism.

During the meeting, I have also presented a poster entitled "Jumonji domain-containing lysine demethylases control brachyury expression and are potential novel therapeutic targets for chordoma" which gathered good attention. During the poster session I have received valuable suggestions and have met possible new collaborators.

At the AACR Annual Meeting I also had the possibility to meet former colleagues and interact with scientists from all over the world.

I have also found the lectures given by outstanding women - awarded for their work in cancer research - extremely stimulating and inspiring.

Overall the participation to the AACR Annual Meeting was particularly useful for my career, as it gave me inspiration and knowledge about developing models to understand the pathogenesis of cancer.

Thanking once again the Pathological Society for this precious support,

Sincerely,

Lucia Cottone, PhD

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