

BAD/NIHR Travel Bursary Report

*5th International Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition Meeting, 10 – 13 October 2011, Biopolis
- Singapore*

The 5th International Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) Meeting was held at the international research and development centre for biomedical sciences Biopolis. The conference took place during 4 days where we had the opportunity to learn about the field of EMT from 51 oral presentations and 583 posters. Several topics relevant in the field were covered such as cell/molecular development of EMT, developmental EMT, stem cells and EMT as well as cancer and EMT. Keynote speakers included Jean Paul Thiery, David M. Epstein and M. Angela Nieto. Overall, the work presented at this meeting was outstanding and gave a notable idea of the advances going on in EMT research worldwide.

The meeting had a very friendly environment and it was extremely well organised with all the oral presentations running according to schedule. There was a concept new to me which I particularly appreciated called “dialogue session” where different participants would meet in a round table with some of the senior committee members to discuss EMT topics in an informal setting.

I presented a poster describing how loss of type VII collagen in SCC affects TGF-beta signalling and EMT in vivo. This meeting gave me the opportunity to meet and discuss my work with various participants, including some of the keynote speakers, contributing to my knowledge in the field and giving me new ideas to advance my research. I would like to thank the BAD/NIHR committee for giving me the opportunity to attend this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Vera Martins