

EDITORIAL NOTE

More than a year has passed since the ENLIGHT-TEN PhD program was officially called into life at the kick-off meeting in October 2015. A lot has happened since and it is time to glance back at this exciting year in our second ENLIGHT-TEN newsletter: All 13 PhD students have now started with their PhD projects in the fascinating research field between T cell biology and big data analysis. During the summer school in Turku, Finland, in June 2016, all ENLIGHT-TEN members were united for the first time and discussed the state-of-knowledge in T helper cell biology. In October 2016, we held our first Annual Network Meeting in Rade, Germany. Also, ENLIGHT-TEN has finally entered the world of social media! Thus, this newsletter features Martina, an ENLIGHT-TEN PhD student who reached out and shared her ENLIGHT-TEN experience via the internet. This and more below! [Authors: Thomas Faux, Marisa Stebegg]

ENLIGHT-TEN: CROSSING BORDERS

Report about the Annual Network Meeting in Rade, Germany



Remains of the inner German border wall in Rade

Scientific research is not only about gaining insight, it is also about crossing borders: In science, people of all nationalities come together to push against the boundaries of the current state of knowledge. In the process, they often overcome geographical as well as mental barriers. Traditionally, the concept of the border has been closely linked with geography and topography, but also philosophers and mathematicians have developed concepts of the border. Nowadays, borders can have geographical, political, historical, ethical, as well as psychological implications. They should not only be seen as barriers, however, but also as potential points of contact.

At the start of their PhD studies all students of the ENLIGHT-TEN programme crossed country borders to join a lab in a European country where they did not live before. The annual meeting of ENLIGHT-TEN in the tiny German village Rade saw lively discussions of first results and an intense exchange of ideas how to even better cross the borders between T cell immunology and big data. But the most impressive border crossing experience was a walk to the former inner German border in Rade. Seeing the remains of the border fortifications and being told about the pain it brought to the region but also to Europe made a strong case to cherish and foster the freedom and peace we might take for granted and to continue to contribute to a science without borders. [Authors: Thomas Faux, Rebecca Ludwig]



Crossing the borders of science at the former inner German border: Picture of the ENLIGHT-TEN group at the former inner German border in Rade (right). The ENLIGHT-TEN program does not only cross geographical borders, but also the scientific borders between T cell biology and big data analysis – this was enacted by the PhD student Anna Ntalli who is rising above all borders at the border wall in Rade (left).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT Part 1



Early Stage Researcher: Martina Lubrano Di Ricco

Martina Lubrano Di Ricco was born in Mantova, a small city in the North of Italy. At the age of 18, she moved to Milan to complete her Bachelor degree of “Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology” at the San Raffaele University. As part of her Master degree in “Medical, Molecular and Cellular Biotechnology”, she did a 1-year internship in Yale in the USA where she studied the role of gut microbiota in systemic autoimmunity. After this, she started her PhD in Paris as part of the ENLIGHT-TEN programme in January 2016. Here, Martina is studying the role of TNF(tumour necrosis factor)-family receptors in regulatory T cell biology under the supervision of Dr. Benoit Salomon.

Recently, an article about Martina and the ENLIGHT-TEN PhD programme was published in the “UniScienza&Ricerca” newspaper produced by science students of the University San Raffaele. I interviewed Martina about this article and about her personal experience with ENLIGHT-TEN.

There was recently an article about you and the ENLIGHT-TEN programme in the UniScienza&Ricerca newspaper – this is amazing! How did this come about?

One of my class-mates from the Bachelor programme now works for the University newspaper and read about ENLIGHT-TEN on my Facebook page. She sent me an email, asking for more information – in the end, a really nice article came out of this.

How to you feel about sharing your PhD experience with people outside of the programme?

I think that it is important to share your experience with science students. When I was doing my degree, I heard a lot about the PhD and was quite confused. I would have liked to hear and read more about PhD students who shared my career path. What is more, interactions with the general public are also important, so they become more aware of what we do as scientists.

Your 1st year in the ENLIGHT-TEN programme is coming to an end – what do you enjoy most about it so far?

First of all, I really enjoy doing science. What I like about ENLIGHT-TEN in particular, is that I had the opportunity to move to a new city: Paris. Every day I love this city more and more. Also, I had the opportunity to travel to Finland and Germany (for the ENLIGHT-TEN summer school and Annual Network Meeting [author’s note]) where I had never been before. It was also a great to meet the other PhD students on the ENLIGHT-TEN programme who became new friends and who I share this PhD experience with.

To read the article about Martina in the “UniScienza&Ricerca”, enter this link:

<http://scienzaericerca.unisr.it/2016/11/14/la-storia-di-martina-vincitrice-di-enlight-ten-dal-biotech-unisr-al-phd-a-parigi-carbonara-inclusa/>

[Author: Marisa Stebegg]

COMING UP

**12th – 16th June 2017: 2nd Summer School at the EMBL-EBI
Cambridge, UK**

This summer school will cover common data resources and bioinformatic tools for immunologists. External participants can now register their interest on: <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/training/events/2017/data-resources-and-bioinformatics-tools-immunologists>

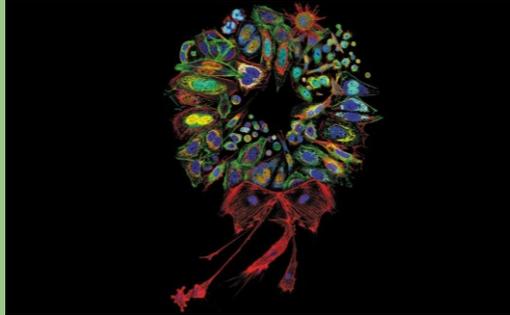
4th – 6th October 2017: 2nd Annual Network Meeting in Vienna, Austria



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SEASONAL GREETINGS

from the ENLIGHT-TEN program



CELLULAR CHRISTMAS: *"Mammalian cell collage stained for various proteins and organelles, assembled into a wreath"* Donna Stolz, a biologist at the University of Pittsburgh, assembled confocal images of mammalian cells to create this festive image which made 19th place in the 2011 Nikon Small World photography competition.
(D. STOLZ/Univ. Pittsburgh/Nikon Small World)

ENLIGHT-TEN: FIND US ONLINE

Are you craving to know what the ENLIGHT-TEN programme is up to next? Want to keep updated about advances in the research linking T cell biology with big data? Follow our brand-new social media channels!



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