



## ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

### Rapporteur Report

Partnership:	ESF-EMBO
Conference Title:	B Cells from Bedside to Bench and Back Again
Dates:	2-7 September 2013
Chair:	Deborah Dunn-Walters
Rapporteur:	Martin Röllinghoff

The chair Dr. Deborah Dunn-Walters, King's College London UK, together with the Co-chair Prof. Idit Shachar, Weizmann IL, and supported by a highly respected international faculty have come up with an excellent program of lectures and some short talks, that covered almost all major areas of "B cells from bedside to bench and back again".

More than 70 participants out of more than 15 countries attended the conference (almost 50 students and post-docs and 24 invited speakers). The delegates were mostly from Europe, but also from Australia, USA, Taiwan, Canada, Israel. It was noted that only 2 participants came from the former Eastern European countries.

The meeting started off with a short presentation of ESF by the Rapporteur.

Thereafter 5 sessions covered the following topics:

Revelations from the bedside	Regulation and communication
Short talks from early carrier stage researchers	New insights into antibody
function	B-cell microenvironment: regulation of
differentiation, survival, and function	

More than 35 posters were on display and discussed in 2 separate evening sessions.

Of great interest were the vivid discussions during lunch, dinner and coffee breaks. The outstanding faculty by their way of presenting and discussing the various topics was able to attract and fascinate almost all participants. A high light was the keynote presentation by Francis Lund on Cytokine producing effector cells in health and disease. I also liked very much the contribution by Ludvig Sollid on Environmental control of the celiac disease antibody response.

The conference took place at Polonia Castle Hotel, set in the lovely little town Pultusk, PL. and located near by the river Narew, about 70 km north of Warsaw. The accommodation was good and the catering was excellent. In most part of the hotel participants could use the internet free of charge. The hotel is surrounded by a lovely park.



Altogether, I feel, the conference was a great success, because it was very well organized by both the chairs and the conference unit of ESF. The faculty was well selected. The abstract booklet, available in the net, was very informative. It was a pleasure to see how well the young people interacted and discussed. Talking to some of them, they stressed the fact that they really had learned a lot. At the end of the meeting all participants were asked to fill in a questionnaire to rank the lectures, accommodation, catering ect. and to make suggestions if they felt to do. Certainly there was no gender issue at this meeting.

The Chair and Co-chair must be congratulated as they were able to raise additional sponsor-money, that allowed to facilitate the trip for several students. Thus the modest ESF-seed money was well spent.

At the end of the conference a clear interest and necessity was aired, that in two years time a follow-up meeting must take place again on a European level, as there is apparently no other comparable forum and the B-cell field is very much booming and thus many questions remain to be tackled.

Erlangen, 10.09.2013      Martin Röllinghoff