

DBM PhD Retreat 2020

The 8th annual PhD retreat this year led us to a beautiful location in Schwarzsee, FR. After an early departure from Basel everyone was positively surprised by a welcoming coffee time including everything you could hope for. We had fantastic guest speakers providing us with insight into their work, joined virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This year, we were grateful to have our four guests speak on:

David Blum (Lille, France) – Caffeine, Alzheimer’s Disease & Tauopathies: the role of adenosine A2A receptors

Janine Erler (Copenhagen, Denmark) – Targeting the tumor microenvironment to disrupt metastasis

Michael Reth (Freiburg, Germany) – The tale of Ramos and a gatekeeper of the nanoworld on the B cell surface

Paula Da Costa Martins (Maastricht, Netherlands) – Regulation of cardiac (microvascular) function through intercellular transfer of non-coding RNAs

We thank all the speakers again for participating even in the pandemic situation and for their openness for discussion.

In the evening, a combined Apéro and poster session was then the first chance for the students to show off their own research in a relaxing and engaging atmosphere.

We concluded the program with a Pop Quiz (put together expertly by Lucas), which inspired some not-so scientific discussions in a relaxed setting.

Second day was focused on our own research, done at the different locations that comprise the DBM. In four sessions and another poster session in the afternoon our student speakers introduced us to their projects. We were very delighted by the high quality of the contributions and want to thank everyone for participating. The best posters and presentations were as always awarded an Innerstadt Voucher and of course, The Golden Pipette to show off to their co-workers back in Basel.

The winners this year were:

Posters

1st Rishika Agarwal

2nd Julia Hirsiger

3rd Lilia Malamelli

Presentations

1st Sophia Wiedemann

2nd Natalia Tousiaki Efthalia

3rd Jonas Malkmus

Mirella Dimitrova

The Keynote speaker this year was Adriano Aguzzi, a professor in University of Zurich, Switzerland. Currently, Aguzzi is investigating the fundamental mechanisms of neurodegeneration. His project, Exploring the Locales of Cognitive Decline: Cellular and Molecular 3D Atlases of Brain Pathology in Aging and in Neurodegeneration, proposes combining high-content three-dimensional morphology with sophisticated fluorochrome chemistry and molecular methods of genome interrogation/perturbation. It was very inspiring for us to discuss about the new technique and his research. We also want to thank him again for taking the time and for setting up the session with us.

With this we concluded the scientific program and gathered everyone for a bonfire to celebrate another successful retreat.

We, the PhD Club, greatly appreciate everyone who participated in making this retreat a great experience, especially during the difficult time of COVID-19 Pandemic. A special thanks go to Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers, who we are lucky to support us during our studies and who is always enthusiastic about helping us with the activities we organize and the retreat.

We hope to see some of you again next year and look forward to the next retreat.

Your DBM PhD Club











