

Travel report American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT), Washington D.C

Last year, in 2018, the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT) hosted a competition on Model Informed Drug Development (MIDD) in which a Leiden team won the public vote and was award runner-up by the jury as well. As part of that team, together with my fellow PhD students Sinziana Cristea, Michiel van Esdonk, and Bas Goulooze (last member Linda Aulin unfortunately couldn't attend) I had the opportunity to visit the ASCPT annual meeting for the first time. I was very impressed with the high quality both in programming, scientific content, and the welcoming community consisting of academia, industry, and regulatory partners.



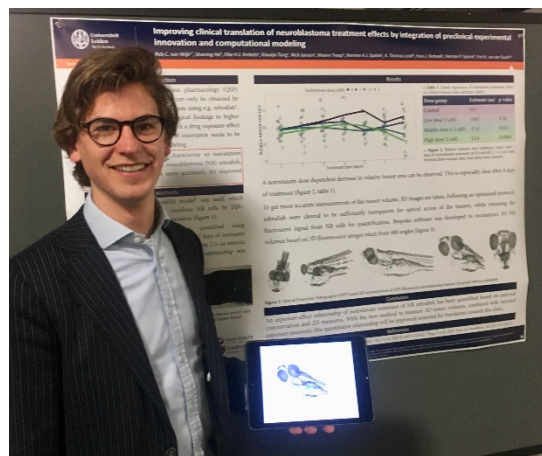
I was therefore very honoured that the abstract on our research on preclinical-clinical drug development for neuroblastoma was accepted for the 2019 meeting in Washington D.C. in March, and even more so when I was granted the Leiden Network of Personalized Therapy travel grant to attend the meeting.



I first attended the pre-conference on quantitative systems pharmacology, which had a well-balanced program on moving this new field forward from academic, industry, and regulatory perspectives. The theme of the main meeting was 'From molecule to man' and the scientific committee was chaired by Leiden professor and my promotor prof. dr. Piet Hein van der Graaf. On this theme, in addition to

excellent plenary state of the art lectures (including on Artificial Intelligence in drug development, and on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation new initiative to develop medicines and vaccines), parallel session in four disciplines (quantitative pharmacology; development, regulatory & outcomes; translational & precision medicine; and early career/career development) were organised. Especially the first theme I found scientifically interesting, including applications from quantitative systems pharmacology, to immune systems based therapies in oncology, and immunogenicity. During both the pre-conference and the main meeting, I had the opportunity to present my poster, which lead to interesting discussions and new ideas for this translational project from zebrafish towards the clinic.

Within the early career / career development programme, I attended the speed-mentoring session, which consisted of three discussions of fifteen minutes each with leaders from academia, industry, regulatory, or consultancy. An excellent opportunity to brainstorm on further career steps and also to network. In general, I learned many new things during the ASCPT meeting!



Rob van Wijk