

TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

Bacterial Morphogenesis, Survival and Virulence: Dynamic genomes & envelopes (EMBO workshop)

Goa, India, 6th-10th February 2023

Molecular Microbiology

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Thanks to the financial support of the SSM, I had the great opportunity to attend the 3rd edition of the EMBO workshop on Bacterial Morphogenesis, Survival and Virulence, which took place in the charming city of Canacona located in the Indian state of Goa.

During this very interesting and inspiring conference, 15 sessions covered various topics in the field of bacteriology including very inspiring talks on genome maintenance, cell wall and cell division. There were also 4 poster sessions organized outdoor in an idyllic location next to the beach, which lead to never ending interesting discussions.

I myself had the chance to give an oral presentation about my postdoctoral work, done in the group of Dr. Justine Collier, on the characterization of a novel cytosine DNA methyltransferase present in the well-known *Caulobacter crescentus* *Alphaproteobacterium*. To date, I found that this cytosine methyltransferase plays an important role in protecting the genome from being cut by a putative endonuclease, preventing DNA damage and SOS response induction. By presenting my research, I got a unique opportunity to meet and discuss about current and future experiments with world-leading experts in this field area. I am very grateful for all the helpful feedback received and for all the fruitful discussions that lead to novel experimental ideas.

Overall, attending this workshop was a wonderful experience and I would like to sincerely thank the SSM for their financial support.



Group photo of the BMSV 2023, Goa (India)