Bacterial infections still represent a threat to human health worldwide as major pathogens are becoming resistant to all available antibiotics. The investigations of the mechanisms of host-pathogen interactions is a traditional field that keeps bringing new insights into eukaryotic biology, pathogenesis and mode of action of bacterial toxins and thus identifies potential targets for development of novel therapies.

By hosting the “European Workshop on Bacterial Protein Toxins – ETOX19” Conference, our goal was to promote interactions among the world’s leading scientists in this area and to offer a variety of opportunities for scientific exchanges. This goal was reached as the meeting attracted close to 120 participants from 5 continents. The program was well-balanced and featured talks covering the topics of: “Diversity of bacterial toxins and their functions”, “Mechanisms of toxin secretion”, “Toxin receptors and intracellular trafficking”, “Toxin structures and mode of action”, “Bacterial pathogenesis, host response and immunity” and “Technological advances, novel approaches”. In addition, two poster sessions provided opportunities for more focused discussions. By fostering interactions among participants from different disciplines and by presenting the latest scientific achievements, we strived to catalyze new collaborations and to pave the way for the next wave of scientific breakthroughs in this research area.

Hotel Schatzalp_ a former Tuberculosis sanatorium_ offered the perfect setting to host the conference and provided a stimulating platform to help the fight against bacterial infections gain momentum.