

Viruses of Microbes 2024

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Molecular Microbiology

Author of report

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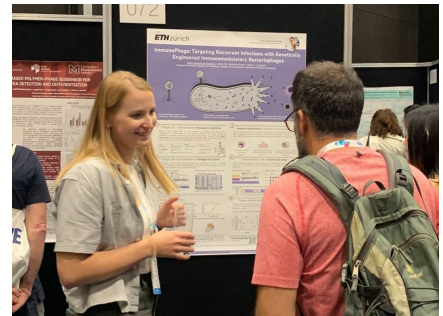
ETH Zürich

Thanks to the SSM's financial support, I could attend the Viruses of Microbes (VOM) conference in Cairns, Australia. In my PhD project, I engineer bacterial viruses (phages) to expand their therapeutic capacities. I presented a poster titled: "**ImmunoPhage: Targeting Recurrent Infections with Genetically Engineered Immunomodulatory Bacteriophages.**"

The VOM was the perfect platform to learn new molecular insights on phage biology, meet influential people from the field, and interact with people in the still niche phage industry. I especially enjoyed the day dedicated to phage therapy, with topics ranging from mechanistic research on phage pharmacology to clinical cases of experimental phage therapy from all over the world.

My favorite experience from the conference was interacting with fellow young researchers on the intricacies of phage engineering and exchanging experiences. Thanks to this conference, I made many new connections around the world and met old friends who are now based in Australia, Thailand, and Spain.

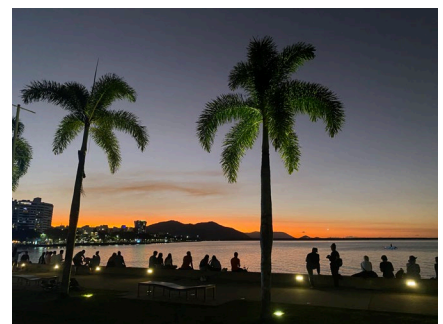
The highlight of the conference was the networking dinner. Since we were in the tropics, traditional white-tablecloth dining was not an option. Instead, we were invited to the Rainforestation Nature Park, where we interacted with native animals, enjoyed a 4WD tour through the tropical forest, and watched a dance performance by Indigenous people of Australia while enjoying snacks from the street food stalls. It was a wonderful way to incorporate the Australian experience into an otherwise very international and diverse conference.



Presenting at a poster session



Indigenous people giving a dance lesson



Sunset in Cairns