

# TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

## International Fungal Biology Conference

*Chania, Crete, Grece, 27-30 September 2025*

*Fungal societal interactions - Microbiomes*

Author of report

Emma Alessandri

Affiliation of author

ETH Zürich



The SSM gave me the opportunity to attend this year's edition of the International Fungal Biology Conference (IFBC25), where I had the pleasure of showcasing the main story of my PhD work in an oral presentation. My talk pertained to the relationship between ER stress and antibacterial defense in filamentous fungi.

Exposing myself and my project to the scrutiny of a significant portion of the Fungal Biology community was challenging but also stimulating and helpful. I received both positive and thought-provoking feedback and returned to the Lab with increased motivation and new ideas.

Taken together, oral and poster presentations covered an exceptionally wide range of topics, from fungal metabolism to virulence to interkingdom interactions. While engaging with the presented material, I also got to meet, discuss, and network with several researchers from all career stages and established connections that I hope to maintain and cultivate in the future. Crete's breathtaking scenery was the most beautiful frame for these scientific and personal exchanges.

Overall, I had a wonderful time and am grateful for experiencing this conference at this specific point of my PhD journey, as I am both finalizing my work and exploring future directions. I am happy to say that IFBC25 helped me with both.