

TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

EMBO | FEBS Lecture Course “Cell biology of host-pathogen interactions”

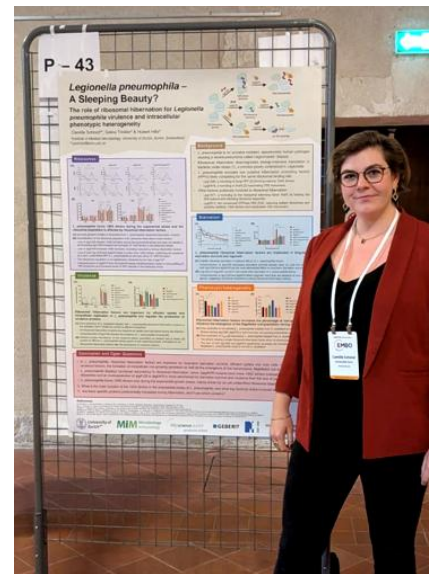
Blois, France; 26th - 30th May 2025

Microbiology (Host-Pathogen Interactions)

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Thanks to the generous support of the SGM-SSM, I had the opportunity to attend the EMBO | FEBS Lecture Course *Cell Biology of Host-Pathogen Interactions*, held from May 26–30, 2025, in the royal castle of Blois, France.

The event not only brought together leading experts in the field but also early-career researchers studying how microbial pathogens rewire various host cell pathways during infection. The course covered diverse topics, including host-pathogen communication, metabolic manipulation and organelle-microbe conflicts, and introduced some new cutting-edge research technologies. These themes directly aligned with my PhD project on the role of ribosomal hibernation in *Legionella pneumophila* virulence and intracellular phenotypic heterogeneity. I had the opportunity to present my work during a poster session and summarize it in a 60-second flash talk, receiving helpful feedback and new perspectives on my experimental design.



Beyond the scientific program, the conference provided an exceptional environment for networking. I connected with peers from around the world and engaged in inspiring discussions about research challenges and future career directions. Particularly memorable were the shared meals featuring French cuisine and a gala dinner in the historic castle halls, which fostered informal exchange and strengthened professional relationships.

I am deeply grateful to the SGM-SSM for enabling my participation. The insights gained and connections made will significantly benefit the final phase of my PhD and my future path in infection biology.