

# TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

<b>9<sup>th</sup> European congress of Virology</b>		
<i>Cavtat/Dubrovnik, Croatia, 27-30 April 2025</i>		
<i>Virology</i>		
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Thanks to the SSM's financial support, I could attend the 9<sup>th</sup> European congress of Virology in Cavtat, Croatia in April 2025. During this meeting, I presented my poster titled: "Genetic modification of primary airway epithelial cells using engineered virus-like particles". The poster session allowed me to discuss and gain feedback on this part of my PhD thesis, especially with other researchers using this model system.

Apart from the poster session, I attended various inspiring lectures from experts in the field on topics ranging from the antiviral immune responses to structural virology. My highlights were a talk by Dr. Stéphane Blanc about multipartite viruses in plants, which highlighted how innovative viruses can be, and a talk by Dr. Sébastien Pfeffer about the function of the Dicer protein in the antiviral innate immune response of bats, which is related to my main PhD thesis topic.

The location in the small and sunny town of Cavtat was also perfect for networking with other scientists in an informal setting, I met up with colleagues I met at past conferences and got to know many new contacts from all over Europe.

Overall, I had a great experience at the ECV, and am looking forward to implement my newly acquired knowledge to my PhD thesis project.

