

TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

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

Blois, France, 26-30 May 2025

Molecular Microbiology

Author of report

Pia Stauffer

Affiliation of author

University of Zürich

The inaugural EMBO FEBS Lecture Course: “Cell biology of host-pathogen interactions” took place from 26th to 30th of May 2025 at the beautiful château royal de Blois in France. The SSM generously supported my participation at this exciting conference.

In my PhD project I study how *Legionella pneumophila* manipulates the GTP metabolism in the host cell during infection. I presented my results in form of a short talk with the title “Subversion of IMPDH2 oncoprotein activity by *Legionella* effectors”. Presenting my project to an international group of researchers in the field of infection biology led to inspiring discussions and valuable input for my research.

The Lecture course covered the themes “organelle-microbe conflicts”, “host-pathogen communication”, “technologies to illuminate host-pathogen interactions”, “compartmentalization during infection”, and “metabolic control of and manipulation by pathogens” with a diverse selection of engaging keynote lectures and short talks. The program was complemented by poster sessions and networking opportunities allowing us to connect with infection biologists and microbiologists from many different countries and learn about their most recent research.

The château royal de Blois, at the heart of the picturesque old town, provided a beautiful and majestic backdrop to this stimulating congress. The immediate surroundings invited for energizing walks through rose gardens and relaxed conversations at the cozy bars and cafés during the breaks and in the evenings. I would like to express my gratitude to the SSM for this travel grant, allowing me to take part in this inspiring conference.



The conference location at the château royal de Blois



Presenting my research at the conference