

I had the opportunity to attend the ENDO2022 congress in Atlanta, GA, USA and I want to express my gratitude to the Biomed Graduate School for awarding me a travel grant. The congress by the endocrine society attracts roughly 5000 clinicians and scientists every year. This year represented the first in person meeting after the pandemic. The conference had several symposia, plenary sessions, and oral talks running in parallel over the 4 days. Further, a poster meet-and-greet session was held every day with over 200 posters each.

After the majority of the travel anxiety disappeared after receiving my negative pre-flight COVID-test results, I started my journey to the peach state. Given the long travels, none of my colleagues from Zurich attended the conference with me, but fortunately the flight departing from Amsterdam was already filled with other attendees. I stayed in a hotel in downtown Atlanta, a 15 min foot walk away from the conference centre which, in the southern heat (it was roughly 35°C) was a lot longer than I would have wished.

I am almost at the finish line of my PhD and due to the pandemic, this was the first international conference I was able to attend. I was selected to present my project in a 15-min oral talk titled “Paracrine Growth Factor Signaling Regulates Muscle Regeneration in Aged Mice via miR-501”. As part of a session focusing on the pathogenesis of diabetes, it was a great opportunity to highlight the relevance of skeletal muscle in whole body metabolism. The diverse expertise of the audience led to an interesting question round. The conference was generally divided into a clinical section and a basic science section, with separate social receptions each. During this time, I managed to meet new people from all around the world but also re-connect with a former colleague. Additionally, a myriad of pharmacological companies attended the EndoEXPO. This provided a unique opportunity to observe how novel findings on diseases such as diabetes are implemented in treatment strategies. Regarding the scientific sessions, my personal favourite was a symposium featuring Chris Geyer, Jon Oatley, and Stephanie Page. The session focused on the latest findings in reproductive endocrinology, more specifically the development of male contraception.

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity presented to me by the Biomed Graduate School with the travel grant, allowing me to attend the ENDO2022 conference.

