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Thanks to the financial support of our BioMed graduate program, I was able to attend the 11th EMBL Epigenetics and Chromatin conference this year.

The conference took place at the ATC building on the EMBL campus close to Heidelberg thereby setting the perfect stage for this international meeting of world leading epigeneticists. As it is customary for EMBL conferences all events including talks, lunches, dinners and social events took place on the campus and we participants were transported to the venue with EMBL shuttle busses. I had never visited EMBL before and was impressed with the campus and research infrastructure available. I am seriously considering doing my PostDoc at EMBL now.

The three and a half days of the conference were filled with over 50 talks from on the one hand established leading scientists such as Steven Henikoff, Asifa Akhtar, Sarah Teichmann, Imbrahim Cissé or keynote speaker and founder of this conference Genevieve Almouzni and on the other hand junior group leaders from various European, American and Asian research institutions. The field of epigenetics is as diverse as it is interdisciplinary with topics ranging from super resolution imaging of enhancer-promoter interactions, via the role of a histone demethylase in schizophrenia, to uncovering the impact of alternative splicing of chromatin modifiers on gene repression. Specifically, this diversity of topics enlightened me and opened my eyes for other domains of epigenetic research that I had not been aware of beforehand.

During the poster sessions I presented my work and engaged in active discussion with other participants on the directions my project could take and its implications for society and health care.

Overall, I can highly recommend attending an EMBL conference because they are extremely well organized, the organization team is very kind and helpful, the location is beautiful, and the research community connected to EMBL is inspiring.

