

## American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting

November 1-5, 2023

In November 2023, I attended the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) annual meeting with three colleagues, which took place in Washington, DC. The ASHG Annual Meeting is the biggest conference in human genetics, joined by more than 8,000 researchers from around the globe. The central theme during the meeting was “One Humanity, Many Genomes”, as a campaign to celebrate human diversity.

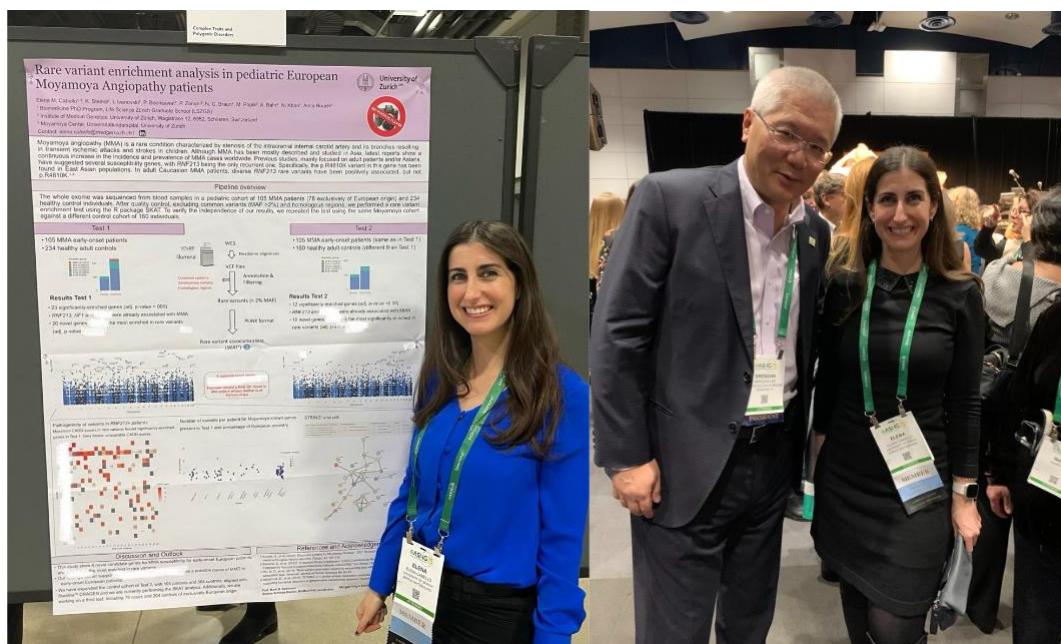
Following the theme, during the platform and plenary sessions, there was a special focus on raising awareness about the lack of representation of many human populations in genetic studies and databases and the current efforts to overcome these biases.

Other topics I have learned about in these sessions include TWAS, long-read transcriptome analysis, human brain viewers, and several AI platforms for variant evaluation. I believe they could be interesting for current and future research at my Institute; therefore, I plan to include them in the next research meetings and Journal club sessions.

One of my priorities for this conference was to meet researchers working on one of the rare diseases I am studying for my Ph.D., Moyamoya Angiopathy. I found posters of the other groups researching the topic, but the authors were absent. Nevertheless, during my poster session, researchers from French Institutions working on the disease approached my poster and gave useful feedback for this project.

During the Gala event, I had the opportunity to meet Brendan Lee, President of the ASHG, Eric Green, and the director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). Moreover, the former NIH director, Francis Collins, performed for us at the Gala with his “Ethidium Spill” music band.

We were greatly surprised by the cultural offer of Washington, DC. The capital is a quiet city with numerous parks, memorials, and museums to visit at walkable distances. On our free day, we visited the Capitol, Library of Congress, Botanical Garden, and Smithsonian Institution, including the National Museum of Natural History and the National Air and Space Museum.



ASHG Annual meeting. On the left, the poster presentation on Moyamoya Angiopathy; on the right, the Gala dinner with Brendan Lee, President of the ASHG.