

Dan Li – NRS travel grant report

My name is Dan Li, and I am a fourth year PhD student at the Department of Molecular Pharmacology in the University of Groningen. By receiving the NRS travel grant I got the opportunity to present my research in the 2nd Niche-epithelial Stem Cell Interactions in Lung Health and Disease Conference.

During my oral presentation at the conference, I shared my research results, which unveiled unexpected data regarding the impact of Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) on mouse lung organoid development. This discovery may provide valuable insights into the effects of bacteria on 3D lung organoid models, contributing to the development of improved models for investigating the mechanisms behind bacterial influences on lung diseases and exacerbations. Ultimately, this research could aid in identifying potential therapeutic targets of bacterial infections.

I gained invaluable experience and engaged in insightful discussions. My study received several practical questions, prompting me to consider potential improvements to enhance the rationality of my research. Furthermore, I had an enriching conversation with a specific researcher who has been studying the effect of Toll-like 4 receptors (the functional receptor of LPS) on AT2 cell repair and regeneration, which provided me with numerous new ideas. Through networking with various speakers and researchers at the conference, I expanded my professional connections and even identified potential post-doctoral opportunities.

In summary, attending this conference has greatly benefited my PhD project and will undoubtedly contribute to my future academic career. I am truly grateful to NRS for supporting me with this exceptional opportunity.