

Short report EUROOCS 2026 Philip Jalink

I attended the EUROoCS congress 2026 in Braga, Portugal. Going into it I was very excited to see and talk to experts in the Organ-on-Chip field about our model and the development process, and the work these experts do on their own projects. In my PhD project I work on developing an Alveolus-on-Chip model to study interactions in the diseased (COPD context) stromal niche with the perivascular bed. At the EUROoCS I talked to many experts working on their own models of the perivascular bed, discussing different strategies and problems they had come up with and encountered. An interesting example was a group who presented a poster on vascular beds formed with the HUVEC cell lines in combination with other cells. They found that human lung fibroblasts disrupted vascular network formation, a finding we had concluded as well based on our own research with primary lung endothelial cells. What we did not try however, was including mesenchymal stromal cells, which supported vascular network formation better than the use of lung fibroblasts. Overall, insights like these really made the EUROoCS 2026 congress a worthwhile visit. I would encourage all young investigator to go outside of their main research topic comfort zone and visit congresses like EUROoCS to learn from all that these amazing researchers are studying.

