

Thanks to the support of the NRS Young Investigator Travel Grant, I attended the International Conference on Clinical Epigenetics (CLEPIC 2025) in Naples. My abstract, titled "*COPD is associated with DNA methylation in bronchial brushings: findings from the SHERLOCK study*," was accepted for poster presentation. I presented results from an epigenome-wide association study identifying 410 CpG sites significantly associated with COPD. These CpGs, distributed across chromosomes, highlighted apoptosis as a key pathway, offering novel insights into the epigenetic landscape of COPD. The discussion during the conference provided an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas with international researchers and receive valuable feedback.

CLEPIC 2025 enhanced my understanding of current trends in epigenetics. I was especially inspired by sessions exploring the role of DNA methylation in non-coding RNA regions, which demonstrated how different layers of epigenetic regulation interact. The conference not only deepened my scientific knowledge but also offered meaningful networking opportunities that will support the future development of my research.

