

NRS Travel Grant report

By Merian Kuipers

The NRS travel Grant gave me the opportunity to visit the ESTRO 2023 in Vienna, Austria, a radiation oncology conference. This was the first time I visited a conference outside of the lung field and it has been truly enlightening. In my PhD I study the (side-)effects of radiotherapy to the lungs, both in the laboratory on patient-derived lung epithelial cells and in the clinic in a small patient study. During the conference I got the opportunity to discuss my work with colleagues around Europe and the world but also learn about new techniques in the lab. Radiation biology is a difficult subject and it was great to hear about it from numerous experts in the field and also see that I am on the right track with my readouts and experiments, especially after the sessions on radiation-induced-senescence and normal tissue damage. Furthermore, I could also contribute in 'lung' sessions, because my knowledge of lung biology is more in depth compared to radiation biologists, who have a different focus of their research. I would again like to thank the NRS for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference.