

ESMO congress 2023 – Benthe Muntinghe

After a really nice eco-friendly travel by train (while spotting some flamingos on the way!), I visited the ESMO congress in Madrid from October 20 till October 24, 2023. The ESMO congress is one of the biggest congresses focused on oncology in Europe, with >33.000 visitors. My poster was about the use of a virus as a potential biomarker in patients with non-small cell lung cancer treated with mono-immunotherapy. Besides the poster presentation of one hour, I also had the opportunity to give a pitch of one minute for a Dutch website. The ESMO was interesting for my whole thesis, which includes both clinical and translational research projects. I visited a session on specific mutations I'm researching as well, hosted by experts in the field. Furthermore, I visited multiple presidential sessions on interesting large phase III trials of specific treatments in lung cancer. As well as more general sessions, for example about the efficacy-effectiveness gap (gap between outcomes in cancer research and the real world), and specific sessions for young investigators. Last but not least, I had the opportunity to interact with fellow young researchers in oncology, both from other hospitals and other disciplines.