

Suzanne Willems – ‘Models for Studying Fibrosis Workshop: similarities and differences across organs’ and the 23rd International Colloquium on Lung and Airway Fibrosis 2026, Australia

The ‘Models for Studying Fibrosis Workshop: similarities and differences across organs’ at Monash University in Melbourne, and the 23rd International Colloquium on Lung and Airway Fibrosis (ICLAF) 2026 in Sydney, Australia were my first international and fibrosis focused meetings. I had the opportunity to give a short presentation during the workshop and to present a poster during ICLAF. Both meetings allowed me to practice and gain (a positive) experience in presenting my work to a diverse audience. The in-depth discussions around the science I presented on my poster have possibly led to new international collaborations.

I saw and discussed the latest developments in 3D models to study fibrosis and treatments for pulmonary fibrosis. The sessions where patients were speakers or part of the discussion panel made an impact on me and helped me develop a broader understanding of what is important for patients. Other sessions that were relevant to my work included ‘Understanding and targeting cellular cross-talk in the fibrotic niche’ and ‘Immune mediated mechanisms of lung fibrosis’, where I was able to relate the research of other scientists to my own work and I was inspired by their models and research approach.