

## **Gordon Research Conference: Glycolipid & Sphingolipid Biology**

**February 17-22, 2008 in Il Ciocco (Lucca), Italy**

The Gordon Research Conference on Glycolipid and Sphingolipid Biology 2008 was held at the Il Ciocco Hotel and Resort close to Lucca in Tuscany, Italy. The aim of the conference, which has been arranged ten times since 1992, is to gather scientists from the fields of cell biology, biochemistry, biophysics and medicine to discuss their latest data on sphingolipid related research. This year about 130 scientists participated. The invited speakers were leading researchers of the different fields and both speakers and poster presenters were encouraged to present only unpublished data. A significant amount of time was dedicated to promote discussion to allow the participants to benefit from each others expertise.

Topics discussed in the sessions included e.g. sphingolipid microdomains in transport and signaling, biophysics of glycosphingolipids and cholesterol, and the involvement of sphingolipids in immunology, diabetes and cancer. I contributed with a poster with the title "Lateral distribution of very long chain sphingolipids in mixed membranes", and had some very inspiring discussions at my poster.

The hotel resort was beautifully located on a hill with great views over the valley and nearby mountains and the Italian cuisine was not surprisingly excellent. I gratefully acknowledge the financial support from ISB that made this trip possible.

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