

**European Student Conference on Microbial Communication 2010
(MiCom 2010)
“Talking Microbes”
Jena, Germany September 28th October 1st 2010**

The first European Student Conference on Microbial Communication 2010 was organized in Jena in Germany. This town has long history in science; Goethe, Schiller, Hegel and Fichte left their mark on intellectual life, Abbe, Zeiss and Schott laid the foundations for economic prosperity. This town is nowadays famous of its innovative international research, industry environment and its youthful student life. The conference was mainly organized by fellow PhD students from the Jena School of Microbial communication and the aims of the conference were talking and exchanging ideas. We had opportunity to listen to scientific talks, held by fellow students or the experts, but there was also chance to take part in workshops guided by the invited experts in the field of microbial communication. Plenty of different kind of social activities (Welcome Barbecue, Dinner, Visit to Museums) was organized to ensure the exchange of ideas and enhance the communication between students.

The conference four major topics were communication between microbes and microbes, the interaction of microorganisms with higher organisms, human hosts and the environment. Sessions began with longer talk given by the keynote lecturer and continued with short fellow student talks. I gave my own 20 minutes talk in the microbes and humans session. The title of my presentation was “*Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* biofilms and its ATP synthase subunit beta bind interleukin-1beta”. The students who were not invited to give a talk had possibility to give 3 minutes talk during their poster sessions. I also took part in two different workshops; Professor Westra and Dr Reinhard Guthke led the workshop that title was "The impact of physical and bioinformatics tools and models to microbiological research: prospects, methods and limitations"; The title of Professor Brown's workshop was “Microbial genomics – a random number generator, or a useful device in career advancement?”.

It was great to participate in this conference. I got experience from giving an oral presentation in international meeting and got new ideas for my research. I thank ISB for supporting my attendance in MiCom2010.

Annamari Paino

Department of Biochemistry and Food Chemistry, University of Turku

