



EMBO/FEBS Lecture Course on Actin-Based Cell Motility was held in Stresa, Italy from 29th October to 2nd November. The main goal I had, when applying to this course, was to gain more information about molecular mechanisms of cell motility, especially filopodia- and lamellipodia formation and focal adhesion contacts between cell and surrounding matrix. These areas are important for my studies of echovirus 1 related cell adhesions and integrin signaling.

The main topics of the conference were: I) Molecular and physical dissection of Actin dynamics: Regulation and function of Actin nucleating machines; Biophysical approaches, II) Regulation of Actin Cytoskeleton networks and interfaces: Signalling to and from the Actin Cytoskeleton; Membrane Actin interface; Cell-cell and cell-matrix adhesion and EMT, III) Model organisms and modes of cell migration in vivo. Altogether 22 invited speakers and 21 speakers selected based on submitted abstracts, gave their presentations at the meeting. There were also two poster sessions at the meeting presenting 162 posters, including mine. 12 posters were chosen to the formal poster session held on Sunday and Monday evenings. Poster sessions were filled with enthusiastic conversations, and I got many good comments concerning my work. I also was suggested to have a new collaboration. Poster prizes, four iPads, made sure that every student gave their very best to convince the jury of the quality of their work.

The most interesting talk was given by keynote lecturer Margaret Frame. Here group studies focal adhesion kinase 1, a protein I am interested in, and I picked up many nice tools to study this protein further. Another interesting talk, about Rho family GTPases, was given by Chris Marshall. Also the talks given by Jan Faix, Jennifer Gallop, Tom Millard and Johanna Ivaska gave me new ideas concerning my research. Overall, the benefits of this course were that I learned new methods to use in my studies. The course also had very good atmosphere, and I had many new contacts in Europe.

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Maria Salmela
PhD Student
Department of Biochemistry and Food Chemistry
University of Turku

