***BPSR Conference Report – 9th European Summer School for Advanced Proteomics***

***August 2 – 8, 2015, Kloster Neustift (Brixen/Bressanone, South Tirol, Italy)***

*Attended by Arran Dokal*

I would like to thank the BSPR for making it possible for me to attend the 9th European summer school in Kloster Neustift this summer. The experience was one that I would strongly recommend to any scientist contemplating attending, even the speakers comment on how beneficial they found the lectures and workshops. This year the event was attended by around 100 individuals (including the speakers, photographs below), so it is small enough to enable the attendees to get to know each other and their work, as well as engage in insightful conversations with many of the leaders in the field of proteomics.

As a first year PhD student I feel this event enabled me to meet many other likeminded students from top laboratories across the globe, individuals I hope I will see at conferences for years to come. Additionally it gives the participant a good perspective of where their work sits in the fields of mass spectrometry and proteomics, and what others are doing with the same technology. As the posters sessions were spread across the week it meant that you were able to take in all 72 posters on show, giving ample time to discuss each other’s work as well as receive constructive feedback.

The stellar feature of this conference has to be the calibre of the speakers, with an opening lecture from Albert Heck, basic lectures on mass spectrometers (Alexander Makarov), sample preparation (Thierry Rabilloud), peptide separations (Mike Washburn) and bioinformatics (Lennart Martens) to name but a few. The week ended with fantastic research lectures from Mikhail Savitski and Jesper Olsen with the closing lecture given by Brian Chait. Over the week there was also the opportunity for participants to attend three workshops of their choosing, in which you were able to troubleshoot aspects of your experiments (such as sample prep, peptide identification, bioinformatics) with the speakers. As well as this there were also presentations from industry (Thermo, Bruker, Luminex, AB Sciex, Waters, and Nonlinear) on their latest products.

Although the volume of lectures, workshops and presentations meant the course was very intensive, it was all nicely broken up through the inclusion of some great activities such as hiking, rafting and sightseeing in the very picturesque town of Brixen. This event managed to create a friendly and informal atmosphere, which led to me leaving with a network of friends that I hope to see at future conferences. Finally I would like to thank the BSPR again for this opportunity and highly recommend attending this course that Bernhard Kuster, Simone Lemeer, Henning Urlaub and Katrin Marcus impeccably organise.

