

The end of the year 2015 is approaching. We hope you enjoyed the ECSA activities organized through the year. We wish you all beautiful holidays and happy New Year! See you in 2016!

As always, we are always happy to hear from you or see you at our meetings and social events. If you have any feedback, questions or ideas, feel free to contact us on: ecsa@iarc.fr

Welcome to IARC

Irati Romero-Garmendia



MCA/EGE

ECSA Day 2016 – Save the date

It's fun! It's good! It's unique! ☺

Make new friends!

Learn new things!

Network!

3rd May

Get new ideas!

Present your results!

Have fun!

More information on how to participate, register or volunteer will follow.

Roundtable with Dr. Brinton

The roundtable with Dr. Brinton from the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) took part on 13th November. After briefly describing her career pathway, Dr. Brinton talked about the challenges her team faced during setting up a case control study of breast cancer in Ghana. In addition, we also had a lively discussion about working opportunities at NCI. NCI disposes of great data sources, offers outstanding supervision and opportunities for experiences in field work, ECSA members may find their way to NCI as their careers' progress.



ECSA International dinner – Le Shimla



On 19th November, more than 20 ECSA members enjoyed delicious Indian dinner at the restaurant *Le Shimla*. The happy faces around the table and the empty plates say more than thousand words ☺ We thank Fazlur and Deep for their huge effort organising such a wonderful evening!

Roundtable with Prof. Chen

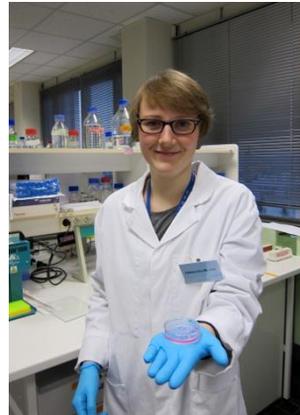
On 8th December some ECSA members took part in a roundtable discussion with Professor Zhengming Chen from the University of Oxford. Prof. Chen told us how a chance meeting with Sir Richard Peto and colleagues at a conference in China changed his life and led him to continue his career in epidemiology. He described the patience and persistence required to overcome the many challenges faced in setting up a large cohort study.

He emphasized that this is a “golden age for epidemiology” and we should be excited at all the amazing opportunities available to us. We are very grateful to Prof. Chen for sharing his time and enthusiasm for research with us.



5 minutes with ... *Johanna Ira Blase*

Have you ever wondered how people end up at IARC? We spend 5 minutes with an early career scientist roaming our halls and ask them about their story. This time we interviewed Johanna Ira Blase who came to IARC for a 3-month internship. She has now left IARC for another 3-month internship in South Africa. We wish her all the best.



About science ...

What is your institution of origin?

University of Lübeck

What section/group are you working with?

I did my internship in the group of Infections and Cancer Biology (ICB) of the Section of Infections (INF).

What project are you working at IARC on?

During my internship I was working on two projects:

- 1) Potential interaction HPV16E6E7 with the antibiotic paromomycin
- 2) Handling and creation of a new in-vitro model for β 3 HPV research

Why did you decide to come to IARC?

Two internships are required during the master program "Infection biology" at the University of Lübeck. I wanted to go abroad for both internships. My university helped me to apply for an Erasmus grant to cover the costs. I always wished to go to France because lots of my friends talked about the country. Many people speak French, and I wanted to be one of them. I searched for an institute where I could combine research on cancer with research on infections. INF at IARC was the perfect match to my wishes. I contacted Dr. Tommasino via email and he replied almost immediately. Based on our correspondence, I felt I would be very welcome at IARC and I decided to come here for my first internship.

How would you evaluate your stay at IARC?

It was a great experience. The internship at IARC was an excellent combination of learning and fun. Since my arrival I felt welcome in my group. I was very happy in the INF and I learnt a lot. It was the first time, except for a student lab, I worked in a real lab. I have learned different techniques in lab, especially in the cell culture, how to analyse and interpret data, and how to effectively present my results. My colleagues were very kind. They helped me not only to develop scientifically but also were my companions for various social activities. I can't complain at all, maybe only that my stay was too short.

Can you describe your career history so far?

2011–2014: Molecular life science (BSc), University of Lübeck, Lübeck, Germany

2014–present: Infection biology (MSc), University of Lübeck, Lübeck, Germany

Oct–Dec 2015: Internship at the International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France

About life ...

What are your hobbies?

Definitely running! I run every other day. I joined a running club in Lyon. They meet every day and run together, every day a different route but mostly in the Parc de la Tête d'Or. In addition to running, swimming, cycling and skiing are my favourite sports. Doing sport have to go hand in hand with a good food. I love cooking.

If you had to choose a quote, phrase or expression that described you or how you see yourself, or how you see the world around you, what would it be?

"Ganz oder gar nicht!" It is German expression that could be translated like "either completely or not at all".

And at the end what would be your suggestion, recommendation, wise words to the starting postdocs here at IARC?

Be opened to everything and don't be afraid to try things out! Enjoy your stay! Experience as much as you can!

ECSA Tea Party

The second ECSA Tea Party, which has been launched by ECSA to encourage networking between the early career scientists, took part on 3rd December. It was a successful get-together thanks to our host Silvia Bel-Serrat who baked for us a delicious cake. Thank you Silvia and all participants for such a pleasant afternoon.

