

This is a special issue to reflect on our annual Early Career Scientists Association event – ECSA Day.

As always, we are 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: [ecsca@iarc.fr](mailto:ecsca@iarc.fr)

## ECSA Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016



Since 2014, the Early Career Scientists' Association has organized an annual Scientific and Career Day (ECSA Day). ECSA Day is an opportunity for early career scientists to present their work to peers and colleagues through oral and poster presentations and take part in seminars and a panel session, focused on important issues for early career scientists.

This year's ECSA Day was only made possible with the help of many ECS, ASO, our friends in ETR and many other contributors. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and assistance

### Team building

To warm up and get to know each other, ECSA Day started with couple of team building activities. One of the activities included a form of "speed dating" to get know our peers better.



### Workshop

As part of the ECSA Day, Olaf Kelm presented an interactive workshop on management skills. In an entertaining way, we completed a short questionnaire concerning our management skills to determine what kind of boss we would be. Additionally, we discussed the tasks of a good boss. Apart from managing a team, we saw that it was important to understand the dynamic of the team and to provide a strong leadership. We thank Olaf for this educative and amusing workshop.

### Poster and oral presentations

During the ECSA Day, 14 early career scientists presented their posters and 10 early career scientists were selected for oral presentations. All IARC staff was invited to attend the poster and oral presentation sessions. We thank all presenters for their contributions which added greatly to the success of the ECSA Day.

Name	Section	Presentation title
Nora Fernandez-Jimenez	MCA/EGE	The celiac methylome and its crosstalk with genetic variation
Aoibheann Dunne	NME/DEX	A Pilot investigation of the impact of weight loss on insulin and insulin-like growth factor-1: biomarkers linked to obesity and colorectal cancer
Eleonora Feletto	ENV	A comparison of parallel dust and fibre measurements of chrysotile asbestos in the Ural/Asbest mine and processing mills in the Russian Federation
Patrice Avogbe	GEN/GCS	NGS-based screening for TP53 mutations in circulating cell-free DNA: A first step towards early detection of lung cancers
Tomoko Inamasu	ENV	Case-series analysis of hematological malignancies at Chris Hanu Baragwanath Academic Hospital in South Africa – a feasibility study of environmental risk factors related to uranium exposure
Davide Degli Esposti	MCA/EGE	Pooled analysis of methylome data identifies a DNA methylation signature highly predictive for HPV status in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma
Hwayoung Noh	NME/DEX	Systematic evaluation of Korean food composition databases against international standards – A prerequisite towards development of a standardized Korean nutrient database for use in international settings
Robert Carreras-Torres	GEN/GEP	Mendelian randomization: The emerging genetic analysis in epidemiology
Miranda Fidler	CSU	Cancer incidence and national levels of the Human Development Index
Sonia El-Zaemey	ENV	Animal production and risk of lympho-hematopoietic cancers in three cohort studies of farmers within the AGRICOH consortium-preliminary results

## Career panel



Five well-established scientists working in the field of cancer epidemiology participated in the career panel on ECSA Day. They shared their career journeys and gave us good advice how to become successful researchers. We hope you found their experience inspiring and encouraging for your career development.



**Dr. Ellen Kampman**  
Nutritional epidemiologist  
Professor in Diet and Cancer at Wageningen University, Netherlands



**Dr. Marc Gunter**  
Molecular epidemiologist  
Head of the Section of Nutrition and Metabolism at IARC, France



**Dr. Paul Dickman**  
Mathematician and statistician  
Professor of Biostatistics at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden



**Dr. Giota Mitrou**  
Genetic epidemiologist  
Director of Research Funding and Science External Relations at World Cancer Research Fund International, United Kingdom



**Dr. Francis Zotor**  
Nutritional epidemiologist  
Senior researcher at the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ghana

### Tips for success:

- Be passionate!
- Don't underestimate yourself!
- Don't wait for being perfect before making a decision!
- Be resilient!
- Develop communication skills!
- Stay focused!
- Search for strong mentorship!
- Be creative!
- Be open to new ideas!
- Look at bigger picture!
- Network!
- Find work-life balance!
- Be ambitious!
- Don't get discouraged!



Luck plays an important role as well.

## Our winners



Awards for the best poster and the best oral presentation were given on ECSA Day.

We congratulate to our winners of the ECSA award – **Flavie** and **Miranda** – for the best poster and oral presentation respectively.

The best poster:

**Flavie Perrier** – Folate, alcohol and DNA methylation patterns within the breast cancer EPIC study

The best oral presentation:

**Miranda Fidler** – Cancer incidence and national levels of the Human Development Index

## Cocktail reception



We had fun!

We ate healthy food!



We networked with our peers and thought about our future!