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## 18th European Molecular Imaging Meeting in Salzburg, Austria, 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023



Outside the European Molecular Imaging Meeting conference venue in Salzburg, Austria.

Set in the beautiful mountainous backdrop of Salzburg, Austria, the 18<sup>th</sup> European Molecular Imaging Meeting hosted over 800 scientists. Covering a wide range of imaging modalities including MRI, PET/CT, and ultrasound, the conference provided many opportunities to broaden my understanding of imaging techniques. It was a pleasure to attend the European Molecular Imaging Meeting with the support of The Royal Society of Biology Travel Grant.

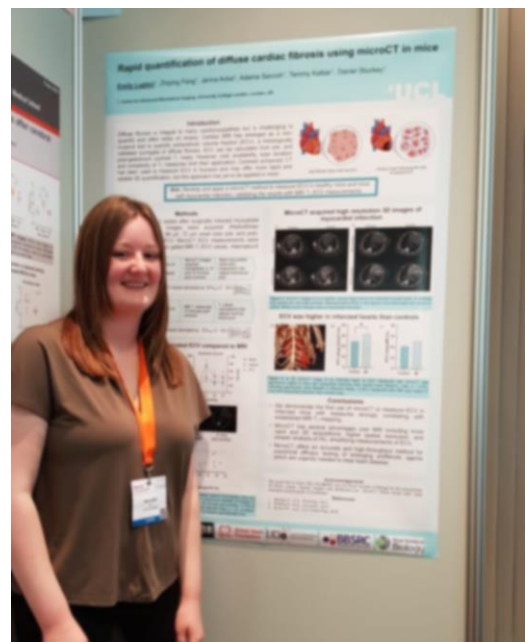
The four-day conference had an expansive programme, including 30 presentation sessions, two poster sessions, a range of educational workshops, and social activities. With more than 800 international attendees, the conference provided opportunity for networking with a range of interdisciplinary

research scientists. Industry professionals also attended to offer advice on equipment use and run workshops, allowing attendees to ask device specific questions.

The plenary lectures were given by experts in the field. A highlight was the opening lecture by Annemie Van der Linden, who talked about doing MRI scans on the brains of songbirds while they sing. The talk was even accompanied by a live band! The plenary lecture by Elizabeth M.C. Hillman was very interesting and covered a wide range of microscopes her group had developed for high-speed imaging.

The educational sessions were particularly useful as I am now analysing imaging data collected in my PhD. Julia Mannheim presented methods for optimising PET imaging of tumours. The detailed description of ways to analyse PET imaging data, including kinetic analysis was very relevant to the work I am currently undertaking as I come to the end of my PhD.

Aside from lectures and educational sessions, study groups gave opportunity to meet researchers with shared scientific interests. The cardiovascular study group covered recent advancements in the field and ended with a social bar hopping event. Spread across four different bars in Salzburg, the event provided great opportunity for networking with other cardiac researchers and those in other research interest groups. Whilst in Salzburg, conference attendees were invited to attend a Mozart concert at the historic Salzburg Residenz. The string quartet was fantastic, and the event provided more opportunity to network.



Presenting my work at the conference.



Views over Salzburg.

On the final day of the conference, I presented a poster about my recent PhD work, discussing a method to quantify diffuse cardiac fibrosis using microCT. Presenting my work allowed me to gather feedback and advice from other researchers.

Between talks and networking events, I had lots of opportunities to go sightseeing in Salzburg. Salzburg is the home of The Sound of Music and I saw many locations shown in the film, including the famous Pegasus Fountain in Mirabell Gardens. The funicular up to Fortress Hohensalzburg offered panoramic views of the city. I also visited Mozart's birthplace and house and ate lots of Mozartkugel!