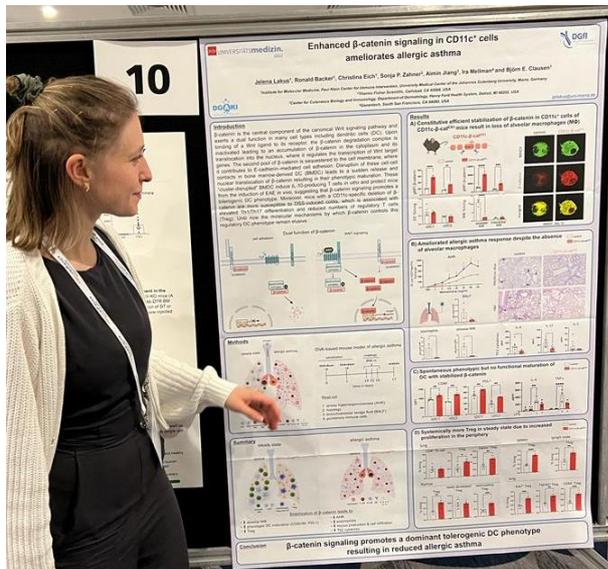




16th International Symposium of Dendritic Cells, Cairns, Australia
Report of Jelena Lakus, Junior Member DGAKI

Thanks to the support of the DGAKI with a grant of 300 euros, I had the great honor to visit



the 16th International Symposium of Dendritic Cells in Cairns, Australia. An occasion to meet scientist from all over the world, working on dendritic cells (DC). The meeting lasted five days and was all about DC and acknowledging their crucial role in homeostasis and inflammation. Each day we heard great talks from the keynote speakers such as Ken Shortman, Diana Dudziak, Florent Ginhoux and Roxanne Tussiwand and also from PhD students and young post-docs in the workshops.

At the end of the meeting, the intriguing panel discussion on DC nomenclature of Florent Ginhoux, Roxanne Tussiwand, Ken

Shortman and Shalin Naik, all of which are international scientist known for their contribution in the DC field, stimulated to think and encouraged the networking. Do we need the nomenclature mregDC? The vote was clear – No! These are DC which possess different functions but they are no new DC subpopulation. And what about the DC3? What are these cells, are they a new DC population? This still needs to be clarified. Although, Florent Ginhoux's presentation absolutely hinted into one direction – yes, the DC subset “DC3” exist.

My PhD project is about the function of the beta-catenin signaling pathway in dendritic cells and its effect on immunity and tolerance in allergic asthma. I had the opportunity to present my data in the poster session “Allergy/Autoimmunity/Transplantation”. It was great to see the interest of other DC scientist in my PhD project, to have informative and interesting conversations, to get important feedback how to study further and learn different techniques for the project. All in all, I have some new ideas how to continue with my project for a successful end of my PhD.

In addition, the symposium gave us a great opportunity to network with other PhD-students and Post-Docs. It was inspiring to meet all the famous scientists and have lively discussions. To sum up, it was an outstanding opportunity discuss my data with the international renowned scientists in the DC field, and to finally meet them in person.