

Intestinal physiology amongst the dreaming spires: the 24th EITG meeting, 4-7th September 2011, Oxford, UK

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The EITG (www.charite.de/klinphysio/eitg) is an international association of scientists with an interest in intestinal physiology, both from the clinical and the research viewpoint, which meets approximately every 18 months in different European countries. The 24th Meeting of the European Intestinal Transport Group (EITG) was held 4-7th September 2011 in Oxford, UK, at St Anne's College, and was organised by David Meredith, Oxford Brookes University. We were delighted to welcome delegates from many different countries in Europe and beyond, including in no particular order Canada, USA, Russia, Spain, Portugal, Germany, France, the Czech Republic, Italy and of course the UK. Despite a few illnesses and travel disasters (including an unfortunate failure of plane boarding due to the UK not being a Schengen treaty signatory...), there were around 70 registrants on the day.

The 24th EITG meeting kept to its traditional format of starting with an evening reception and opening talk, this time entitled "Controversies in Transport" and given by Professor Richard Naftalin (King's College London), a long-term supporter of EITG since its inception over 30 years ago. The subsequent days were split into themed sessions, each with a plenary speaker and a couple of shorter talks (whose abstracts can be found following). There were also three lively poster sessions, and again the poster abstracts can be found later in this supplement. Monday saw four scientific sessions running all day, and so it was perhaps appropriate that after drinks in Brasenose College dining hall, we enjoyed a recital by the *Sine Nomine Singers* entitled "The Long Day Closes" in Brasenose College Chapel (with thanks to the Chaplain) before retreating to local hostelry for sustenance. Tuesday has just two scientific sessions in the morning, before the again traditional outing, in this case either a walking tour of Oxford (followed by a much needed cream tea) or a visit to nearby Blenheim Palace (Woodstock), an early 18th Century stately home most noted for being the birthplace of Britain's 2nd World War Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965). The day was rounded off by the conference dinner, held in St Anne's. The final two scientific sessions were held on Wednesday morning.

The EITG was pleased to be able to offer some prizes in the form of books (kindly donated by Oxford University Press) in the categories of best poster, best short talk, and best student contribution (talk or poster). Congratulations to the winners, who were:

Best poster: Christine Schulze, Techn. Univ. Munich, Germany

"Inhibition of SGLT1 by plant extracts and metabolites derived from apple and grape vine"

Best short talk: Gabriela Aust, Univ. Leipzig, Germany

"CD97 overexpression in enterocytes induces a mega-intestine"

Best contribution from a PhD student: Milena Monterio-Sepulveda, Centre de Recherche des Cordeliers, Paris, France

"Pathological accumulation of GLUT2 in enterocytes of morbidly obese subjects consuming unbalanced high fat diets"

As organizer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the informal scientific committee (Richard Boyd, John McLaughlin, Richard Naftalin, and Paul Sharp) for their helpful input towards the speaker schedule, and the PhD students from my lab, Samyuktha Pillai and Jennina Taylor-Wells, for providing help and assistance to delegates during the conference. I would also like to thank those who chaired sessions and/or judged the prizes so efficiently. Last but not least, thank you to all the registrants for not only for attending the meeting, but also for being so engaged and interactive – I hope you found EITG 2011 both scientifically stimulating and enjoyable. We now look forward to the next EITG, to be held in April 2013 in Bad Herrenalb, Germany.

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