



The European BioAlpine Convention 2007 – 2nd Edition – “Inflammation and Autoimmunity: *Bridging Public and Private research*”

More than 200 participants for the Second Edition of the European BioAlpine Convention on “Inflammation and Autoimmunity”.

Last 6th and 7th November, the Bioindustry Park del Canavese (Colleretto Giacosa - near Turin – Piedmont - Italy) hosted the Second Edition of the European BioAlpine Convention (EBAC), an annual event organized by the transalpine biocluster, namely BioAlpine Cluster. For the second consecutive year, the event succeeded in bringing together more than 200 participants, mainly coming from the 3 organizing regions but also from other European and non-European countries.

More than 2 years ago, when the BioAlpine Cluster founders, namely the BioIndustry Park del Canavese (Piedmont – Italy), ADEBAG (Grenoble – France) and BioAlps (Geneva – Western Switzerland), decided to organize an international event focused every year on a specific topic and taking place by turns in France, Italy and Switzerland, they had two principal objectives in mind:

First, to offer to the participants a clear and concise vision of the state of the art related to the specific topic, from an academic but also industrial point of view by alternating speakers of international relevance coming from both these two worlds.

However, it has only represented a support to the second and main objective which was the real will of the organizers to create a unique moment of exchange between Academia and Industry, in order to create new synergies and to facilitate the birth and the development of new collaborations and partnership projects in the field of Life Sciences and Medical Technologies.

The real success and the enthusiasm provoked last year by the first Edition of the EBAC, hosted by Grenoble, on Neurosciences, has encouraged the BioAlpine Cluster to do better. Building from the last year experience, the organizers have decided to enlarge the moment devoted to meetings, exchange and partnership, with this time an event on a 2 days basis, with a first one specifically dedicated to a Brokerage event. This new format of the European BioAlpine Convention has made possible the organization of more than 60 meetings the first day and around 100 meetings in total with those made “on the fly” during the all event.

The second day was full of captivating conferences with a total of 16 presentations made by international experts in the field of Inflammation and Autoimmunity and coming from US, France, Italy, Switzerland and also Israel, and divided in 4 parallel sessions (2 parallel sessions in the morning and 2 others in the afternoon).

This second part of the EBAC was also the opportunity, for young researchers (under 35) and young start-ups (no more than 3 years old), to present their recent findings during a poster session. 48 posters were selected and shown and created a keen interest from the part of industrials. The richness and the quality of all the posters have been greeted by the Scientific Committee. 5 winners have been selected and have shared among them a money prize for a total of 6.000€.



Poster Session Winners

1st place:

***Title:* “2O₁₀”: a synthetic glycoconjugate that mimics the ifn γ -binding domain in heparan sulfate inhibits the cytokine activity.**

Authors: Stéphane Sarrazin¹, David Bonnaffé², and Hugues Lortat-Jacob¹

¹Institut de Biologie Structurale, UMR 5075 CEA-CNRS-UJF, 41 rue Horowitz, 38027 Grenoble, France

²Laboratoire de Chimie Organique Multifonctionnelle, UMR 8614 CNRS-UPS, 91405 Orsay, France

2nd place ex aequo:

***Title:* Multiple Sclerosis Retroviral Envelope Causes Eae-Like Pathology In Mice.**

Authors: C Lomparski¹, HL Dougier¹, A Rolland¹, C Bernard², E Jouvin-Marche¹, H Perron², PN Marche¹

(1) IAPC, Inserm U823, Institut Albert Bonniot, Grenoble, France

(2) Geneuro, Genève, Switzerland

2nd place ex aequo:

***Title:* Analysis Of Single Nucleotide Cytokine Polymorphisms To Predict The Development Of Psoriatic Arthritis In Patients With Psoriasis.**

Authors: Elisa Zavattaro¹, Elisa Ceriani², Rosalba Minisini², Francesca Caldera², Elena Mossio², Giorgio Leigh¹, Mario Pirisi².

Chairs of ¹Dermatology and ²Internal Medicine, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Eastern Piedmont “Amedeo Avogadro”, Novara, Italy.

2nd place ex aequo:

***Title:* Magnetic resonance-based tracking and quantification of intravenously- injected neural stem cell accumulation in the brain of mice with experimental multiple sclerosis.**

Authors: Marco Bacigaluppi,^{1-3*} Letterio S. Politi,^{4,5*} Elena Brambilla,^{1,2} Marcello Cadioli,^{5,6} Andrea Falini,^{4,5} Giancarlo Comi,^{3,4} Giuseppe Scotti,^{4,5} Gianvito Martino¹⁻³ and Stefano Pluchino^{1,2}

¹Neuroimmunology Unit, DiBiT (Department of Biological and Technological Research), ²Institute of Experimental Neurology (InSpe), ³Department of Neurology and Neurophysiology, ⁴Neuroradiology Unit, 5C.E.R.M.A.C. – Centro Eccellenza Risonanza Magnetica ad Alto Campo -San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy; ⁶Philips Medical Systems, Italy.

Special Prize:

***Title:* c-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) and T cell Apoptosis in Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis.**

Authors: C. Ferrandi^a, F. Richard^a, P. Tavano^a, V. Barbié^a, R. Furlan^{b,c}, G. Comi^c, M. Mariani^a, E. Hauben^a, G. Martino^{b,c} and P.F. Zarin^a

^aRBM/Serono Research, I-10010, Turin, Italy; ^bNeuroimmunology Unit - DiBIT, and ^cDept. of Neurology and Neurophysiology, San Raffaele, Scientific Institute, 20132, Milan, Italy

This Second event was also an opportunity for the BioAlpine Cluster to present their common logo. As Silvano Fumero (President of the Bioindustry Park) said:

“This new logo wants to graphically summarize the geographical proximity of the three territories, their involvement in a common project and their will to act in synergy to the development of the biotech sector. These concepts are visually expressed in the spatial aggregation of elements that characterize each territories: the sphere coming from ADEBAG, the stars from Bioindustry park and the orange color, the red line and the characters from BioAlps. Furthermore, the green color has been added to also remember, in the chromatic range, the color that characterize the European BioAlpine Convention, the main event organized by the Cluster”.



Next year will finish the first tour of the BioAlpine Cluster. After France and Italy, it will be the turn of Western Switzerland (Geneva) to host the third Edition of the European BioAlpine Convention that will address the topic “**Bioinformatics and Proteomics**” and that will probably be organized in December 2008 (dates to be confirmed!).

The BioAlpine Cluster is a transnational bio- and medical technologies cluster founded by the Adebag in Grenoble (France's Rhône-Alpes region), the Bioindustry Park del Canavese near Turin (Italy's Piedmont region) and BioAlps in Western Switzerland. It intends to promote and foster the transalpine competitiveness in the biotech and medical sciences sectors. It is the result of the union between three complementary territories sharing the same will to create in the life sciences sector, a unique area endowed with a strong identity and an international visibility. Today, the transalpine space is becoming one of the most dynamic biotech cluster in Europe.



BioAlpine Cluster founder members are:

Adebag (Grenoble-Rhône-Alpes): The Association for the Development of Bioindustry in the Grenoble Area. Non profit organization federating public and private actors: 3 universities, 7 research centres, 27 SMEs and start-up companies, 3 large companies and public local authorities in order to encourage biotech and medical technologies professional communities, to support the growth and development of SMEs, to generate cooperations and to give companies visibility and notoriety at the international level.

www.adebag.org

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Bioindustry Park (Turin-Piemonte) : Located at Canavese, close to Turin, the Bioindustry Park is a Science and Technology Park aimed at promoting and developing R&D activities and hosting companies working in the life sciences sector. The park is equipped with high-tech platforms (Advanced Methodologies Laboratory) as well as a Bio-Incubator (Discovery) and a seed capital company – Eporgen Venture.

www.bioindustrypark.eu

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BioAlps - Lake Geneva Biotech & Medtech Cluster (Western Switzerland): A not-for-profit association bringing together participants from the economic and academic sectors of French-speaking Switzerland, BioAlps aims at promoting western Switzerland as a European centre for life sciences, strengthening synergies among the scientific, industrial and financial sectors as well as stimulating the development of new businesses. .

www.bioalps.org

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