EUROGENTEST FELLOWSHIP REPORT

I had the privilege to attend training workshop on:"Epithelial Cells from Lung: Production, Cultivation and Characterization" held on University of Lisboa, Portugal, from 14th to 18th of July 2008. The training workshop was sponsored by EuroCareCF (WP7) and organized by Professor Margarida D. Amaral.

The primary objective of the training workshop was learning how to produce primary cultures of lung epithelial cells, from lung transplant, for basic and translation research in cystic fibrosis, since over 40% of all lungs removed were destroyed rather than used for research and teaching.

This course provided expert training in the generation of airway epithelial cells, as well as the characterization of these cells using biochemical, cell biological and functional assays through lectures, tutorials and hands-on practicals.

I was able to learn important and emerging concepts concerning mechanisms controlling the specificities of epithelial cells and tissues. The techniques I learnt included isolation and preparation of trachea and bronchial tubes, isolation and culture of airway epithelial cells including microscopic observation of air-liquid interface culture of respiratory epithelial cells. I also had the opportunity to learn about characterization of the epithelial cell lines and primary cells by immunofluorescence, as well as transepithelial electrical measurements using the ussing chamber technique for studing ion transport across tissue or cell monolayer.

I would like to emphasis that very interesting and useful lectures were provided by Dr Margarida Amaral, Dr Kris De Boeck, Dr Martin Hug, Dr Karl Kunzelman, Dr Scott Randell and Dr Gabriela Rodrigues.

I also had many useful discussions with collegues from the course. I hope the invaluable knowledge I gained at the workshop will be in implemented in laboratory practice in my Institute.

I am grateful to EuroGentest for such opportunity and financial support.

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