

Name of the meeting: Structural Aspects of Infectious Disease (8-10th August 2016).
Biochemical Society. Cambridge (UK).

Web of the event:

<https://www.biochemistry.org/Events/tabid/379/Filter/64/MeetingNo/SA182/view/Conference/Default.aspx>

This meeting has covered important aspects of infection disease and how structural biology approaches can be applied to understand these processes and develop strategies to treat disease. The meeting embraces important topics in the area: antigen presentation, function of complement complexes, host receptors and virulence factors (from adhesins to secretion systems or flagella). In addition, all the communications showed the application of the latest advances in structural biology techniques, from nuclear magnetic resonance and X-crystallography to cryo-EM and cryo-tomography, in combination with other biophysical and biochemical approaches. Attending to this meeting has been an excellent opportunity to present the work I am carrying out at Imperial (that I did as a poster and a talk), and discuss about it with other attendees. I received interesting questions and feedback about my work, and I have obtained new ideas and advice to consider for the project. During the meeting I have established contact with Dr. Ulrich Schwartz –Linek (University of St. Andrews), who is working in the characterization of streptococcal surface proteins. These streptococcal proteins could be ligands of the ALS adhesins that I am studying in *Candida albicans*. Inter-kingdom interactions between *C. albicans* and streptococcal species have significant interest, as they may be involved in biofilm formation and providing advantages for microbe survival and colonization. We are therefore interested in establishing a collaboration Schwartz in order to explore this aspect of the project.

I am at the end of my postdoc in the group of Dr. Cota and I am currently applying for fellowships here, at Imperial College, in order to establish myself as independent researcher. During this meeting I had the chance to talk to more senior researchers about my future plans in academia. I have received great advice about how to move into an independent position, including aspects of fellowship and lecturer application. I had also the chance to talk about different aspects of my research program, which has resulted in new interesting ideas I would like to include in my future scientific plan.