NTV Scholingsbeurs: American Transplant Congress in Chicago, USA

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I would like to start by thanking you for rewarding me with the NTV Bootbeurs 2017 so I could travel to Chicago, USA to attend the American Transplant Congress (ATC) 2017. I would like to share my experience at the ATC.

Saturday 29 April: the conference started with a special tribute to Thomas E. Starzl, MD, PhD to honour his distinguished career and pioneering contributions to the field. Later that evening the first poster sessions where held, in which I contributed in the session called Diagnostics and Biomarkers with my poster named: MicroRNAs differentiate between antibody and T-cell mediated renal rejection. I had many positive questions and feedback regarding my data and I feel I learned a lot by discussing my data with my international colleagues. I won the poster of distinction award (photo below).

Sunday 30 April: the conference opened with a joint annual session which mainly focussed on exploring the possibility of transplanting HCV infected kidneys. In the afternoon during the session predicting tolerance and rejection I presented my research on compartmental infiltration of kidney allograft with monocyte-macrophage subtypes defines the type of rejection. I learnt a lot by presenting and answering questions from the audience.

Monday 1 may: I joined the session on looking under the hood of high impact papers published in AJT. This was a very interesting session, which helped me think about the way to write and how reviewers look at your manuscript. In the evening I presented my 2nd poster on CD16+ monocytes and skewed macrophage polarization towards M2 type hallmark heart transplant acute cellular rejection. I had many positive questions and feedback regarding my data.

Tuesday 2 may: I visited the medical university of Chicago, it was a very nice experience! In the afternoon I supported my fellow Dutch colleagues which presented their data.

Wednesday 3 may: it was the last session of the conference. This session called: What's hot what's new, was subdivided into 3 lectures (Basic, Translational, Clinical) which summarized the hot data presented on the ATC. I had the great honour to be part in the basic science lecture where Prof. Xian Li showed one of my slides.

I really learnt a lot and enjoyed visiting the ATC in Chicago!