

COST CLINIMARK TRAINING SCHOOL

Approaches for Biomarker Discovery and Validation Spetses 23-27 September 2019

EVALUATION RESULTS

In general the evaluations received by the trainees are very positive. Most of them state that this was the best course they have attended. They are happy about the quality of the lectures, the meaningful feedback received on their work and putative collaborations discussed. The trainees stress the fact that they had many opportunities to discuss with the trainers and get meaningful feedback on their research projects. Collaborations were established among the participants and one Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) was scheduled for Dr Blanka Tariba Lovaković to visit the laboratory of Professor Fernando Remião. The participants were particularly impressed with the efficient course organization and the enthusiasm of Makis Zoidakis, the main course organizer.

To the question: Give your overall evaluation of the Event

31/34 replied Excellent and 3/34 replied Good.

Below the specific statistics and comments retrieved from the evaluation forms filled by the 34 trainees.

1. Organisation of the program

excellent 29 good 5 adequate poor unsatisfactory

2. Quality of scientific training and interaction with speakers

excellent 28 good 6 adequate poor unsatisfactory

3. Quality of lectures: was the scientific subject adequately covered and state-of-the-art?

excellent 26 good 8 adequate poor unsatisfactory

4. Was there adequate discussion after presentations?

excellent 26 good 6 adequate 2 poor unsatisfactory

5. Balance between training (meet the expert & poster sessions) and scientific lectures:

excellent 21 good 10 adequate 3 poor unsatisfactory

6. Did the course fulfil your expectations?

excellent 25 good 7 adequate 2 poor unsatisfactory

7. Quality of facilities (lecture hall, slide projection, other visual aids, audio, acoustics):

excellent 25 good 7 adequate 1 poor 1 unsatisfactory

8. Location and accommodation of the course:

excellent 31 good 2 adequate 1 poor unsatisfactory

9. Give your overall evaluation of the Event:

Excellent 31 good 3 adequate poor unsatisfactory

Evaluation comments for improving the summer school

Content of course

1. Include lectures on Metabolomics, more Genomics, Transcriptomics, Epigenomics, Statistics, Bioinformatics, Organic/Analytical Chemistry. The course was focused excessively in proteomics and mass spectrometry. Include an introductory lecture on MS proteomics
2. Too many lectures: include interactive workshop sessions for discussing points of interest or for skill acquisition (biomarker assay analytical validation, etc)

Structure of course

1. The lectures should have a logical sequence and those with a common subject should be grouped (all immunoassays together, all MS together, etc.)
2. Reduce the length of the program in each day (end at 4pm then free time) and expand the duration in days
3. The length of the lecture (45 min) was excessive, have shorter lectures with more time for discussion.
4. Introduce 5 min brakes between lectures
5. Organize the student presentations in smaller groups (13 in a row is too much)
6. Allow for questions after student presentations
7. Have the poster sessions earlier in the day and extend their duration
8. Odd and even numbered poster should be presented in different sessions (more room around the poster presenter)

Venue

1. The chairs were uncomfortable and the air-condition was problematic (too hot or too cold)
2. The poster room was not well ventilated and was full of flying insects
3. The location of the poster room was not convenient (away from central hotel building)
4. Getting to Spetses takes a long time. Find a hotel closer to the Athens airport
5. Some speakers should have used a microphone
6. Put trainees with different nationalities in the double rooms

Below you can find a specific example of comments received by Tanja Semren

Dear Makis,

I just want to write a few words about the most fantastic Summer school on biomarkers.

It was a great pleasure to be part of this brilliant project. I really enjoyed the lectures. Even I am in the field of metabolomics, the lectures were great for me because I learned how to think about biomarker research, how to choose the right sample for biomarker research and how to conduct the biomarker research. I am happy that I had opportunity to meet Tonia Vlahou who helped me with number of samples in my research; Rainer Bischoff who is a real expert in analytical chemistry and helped me with validation; Chris Sutton who opened my eyes of the

various samples that can be used; Chris Turck who had good example how to use biomarkers in clinic.

The lecturers were really friendly and it was easy to speak with them what is important for students.

Also, I have met Joana Pinto from Portugal who works in same field as I do. So we arranged collaboration in the future, which is great success for me.

I must not forget to mention your enthusiasm and spirit which made this summer school so special.

Makis thank you very much for opportunity to attend the summer school.

Best regards,

Tanja Semren