

Annual Meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) 2024, Hamburg (Germany)

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I am deeply grateful to the GSCN for awarding me a travel grant to support my participation at the ISSCR 2024 Annual Meeting in Hamburg, Germany, from July 10th to July 13th. This prestigious conference is one of the most important global gatherings for the stem cell research community, with approximately 350 talks, 1400 posters, and several plenary sessions attended by almost 4000 scientists.

Since I am investigating mitochondrial function in an isogenic neurovascular *in vitro* model derived from diseased patient-specific hiPSCs, I was particularly interested in topics related to metabolic analysis, disease modeling of the neurovascular unit, drug discovery and treatment. As a PhD student, I am not used to get in contact with patients. Therefore, I would like to express my utmost respect to Mikael Rydberg for sharing his story, experience, and therapy of Parkinson's disease in a patient advocate discussion. During one of several poster sessions, I was able to present my own project and received valuable feedback on further metabolic analyses that will be performed in the upcoming months.

The exhibit hall provided an excellent opportunity to connect with industry professionals. I was able to explore latest innovations and engage in insightful discussions with representatives from leading biotech companies, paving the way for potential collaborations and future applications. At the GSCN Meet-Up Hub, I was informed about the GSCN Mentoring Program, which I will apply for next year. As a young scientist, my career would benefit greatly from this one-year mentoring program with an expert working outside of academia. Furthermore, attending the Wunderbar Event organized by the GSCN was a great chance to network with many researchers at different stages of their careers, share experiences and discuss ongoing projects.

Attending the ISSCR 2024 Annual Meeting significantly broadened my understanding of stem cell research and inspired new directions of my work. I am grateful to the GSCN for their support in making this valuable opportunity possible.

Sincerely,

Markus Glaser