

BTS Travel Award report (BTS Annual Congress 2023 – Park Regis Birmingham) – Dr Tarek Mamdouh Abdelghany, The School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition, the University of Aberdeen.

It is honour for me to be awarded the BTS Post-Doctoral Bursary to attend the BTS annual congress 2023 that was held in Birmingham in April 2023. I believe that the BTS annual congress is one of the most prestigious scientific platforms in the field of Toxicology worldwide. It is ideal for networking with scientists, toxicologists, academic and industrial representatives and experts in the field of Toxicology. I used to attend the BTS annual congress since starting my PhD at Newcastle University in October 2017 (I got my PhD in August 2021) and I have established various research collaborations through networking in the BTS meetings such as collaboration with Cambridge University, Imperial College, Dresden University, etc.,

I have been recently appointed as a lecturer of Pharmacology at the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition, University of Aberdeen. My main research focus is concerned with the toxicity of ionic liquids, and food additives on a variety of organs (liver, kidney and heart), endocrine disruption effects, metabolism and environmental stability. Attending the congress this year allowed me to network with more scientists working in the same research areas and gain knowledge from the different speakers and panel members. I had also the opportunity to present a scientific poster with the title ‘A new class of forever chemicals with endocrine disrupting potential’. I gained useful comments about my posters during the poster sessions and these comments were considered in the manuscript “related to this work” that has been recently submitted.

The program of the congress had well-selected symposia, lectures and sessions that cover hot topics in Toxicology. I had the chance to participate in the following symposia Dose-Response relationships in chemical risk assessment, Application of in vitro methods for mechanistic understanding and decision making, and Innovative approaches supporting the toxicological evaluation of agrochemicals. Moreover, it was also great to attend other sessions such as the plenary session of the “Toxicological aspects of nano- and micro-plastic particles”, the Malcolm Blackwell Award & NEST Lecture “A cheap unlimited supply of donor-free functional hepatocytes for Toxicology” and the Barnes Prize Lecture: Carcinogenesis: DNA Reactivity, Cell Proliferation, and Human Relevance. Being interested in taking part in Regulatory Toxicology Scientific Committees, it was also helpful this year to participate in the panel discussion of “Working on Scientific Advisory Committees: Why and How?”

It was obvious also this year the inclusion of the NEST in most of the activities and symposia of the congress. I actively participated in the NEST networking session and NEST quiz (Our team won the 2nd position!). I attended also the NEST social networking dinner that allowed me to know different early career researchers and PhD students working in different toxicology research areas.

I was fasting during the congress “Ramadan time” and I found great support from the congress organisers and the staff members working at Park Regis Hotel in Birmingham in providing me with some ‘Halal’ meals and drinks at specific unusual times (1 am and 8 pm!). This was expected from the BTS Team because I feel that the BTS always respect equality, diversity and inclusion since joining it in 2018.

Overall, I heartedly feel grateful to the BTS for supporting me in participating in the BTS Congress 2023.