

33<sup>rd</sup> European Peptide Symposium 2014

Sofia, Bulgaria

31<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014



In the first week of September, two RADIOMI ESR fellows from the VU Medical Center Amsterdam attended the 33rd European Peptide Symposium in Sofia, Bulgaria.

As we would like to apply our carbon-11 chemistry on peptides and open up a new research field in radiopharmaceutical sciences, this symposium was an excellent opportunity to present our current work in posters and gain new knowledge and experience from other experts in the field of peptide chemistry.

The six-day program was very diverse, covering synthetic chemistry of amino acids and peptides, neuropeptides, peptide hormones and immunological peptides, new peptide materials and catalysts for enantioselective synthesis. Distinguished speakers from US/Canada as well as local Bulgarian peptide experts presented their work in more than 70 oral presentations and more than 370 posters.

At this large European symposium, we had the chance to present in two posters our current work on the synthesis of carbon-11 labeled amino acids and short peptides. During the “Dr. Bert L. Schram Young Investigators’ Mini-Symposium” with poster session, we heard encouraging and positive comments about our work and made connections around Europe. Aleksandra’s poster was selected as one of the two best poster presentations in the “Young Investigators’ Mini-Symposium”.

The social program started off with drinks and snacks at the famous National History Museum. The rest of the week, in our free time, we explored Sofia city center by foot. We really much appreciated and enjoyed the Bulgarian cuisine during the gala dinner with Opera singers and a dance party afterwards.

Overall, we had a great week and have gained a good insight into the field of peptide chemistry, biotechnology and application of peptides as drugs and we can apply these new ideas now in our research.

Aleksandra Pekořak and Ulrike Filp, VUmc, Amsterdam

