

iARS

August 19th - 25th, 2012

International Atherosclerosis Research School *Hamburg, Germany*

Hamburg, December 31st, 2012

Short Report for the IAS Website on the International Atherosclerosis Research School 2012

The International Atherosclerosis Research School (iARS) 2012 was held from August 19th to 25th, in Hamburg, Germany. This year, it was for the first time supported and endorsed by the IAS. In addition, it was endorsed by the EAS and supported by a grant from the web based learning platform mymeed.org.

Promoting young researchers is one of the big challenges of current medical education. Each year, the iARS offers outstanding and dedicated upcoming researchers from all European countries the chance to work and discuss with international renowned experts. This August, 19 excellent and highly motivated students from twelve different European countries attended the meeting. There was an unprecedented surplus of applications, illustrating the ever growing reputation of the school.

The programme covered basic research as well as clinical aspects of atherosclerosis and used a mixture of lectures, tutorial groups, journal clubs and working groups, all designed to be as interactive as possible. The topics included: CVD and Atherosclerosis, Risk Factors and Assessment, Risk Reduction Strategies, Epidemiology, Genetics, Lipid Metabolism, Inflammation, T2D, Publication Strategies and Media Relations. The sessions were led by nine internationally recognised experts in the field, including the organisers Michal Vrablík (Prague, Czech Republic) and Alexander Laatsch (Hamburg, Germany).

The aspiring programme of the iARS is especially designed to provide new perspectives and impulses for the participants, to discuss cutting edge questions and to expand the students' theoretical as well as practical knowledge. The long term intention is to support a lasting international network building, which has already worked very well over the past years and was again pushed forward with regards to this year's group.

The feedback of the participants showed that once more the unique structure and organisation of the iARS was much appreciated. A well-balanced programme and highly motivated teachers were pointed out as special amenities. As the main reasons for applying, the participants stated the high reputation of the meeting and personal recommendations from colleagues and supervisors. The intense dialogue between both participants as well as participants and teachers was once more very positively commented.

Organisers: Alexander Laatsch (Hamburg, Germany) and Michal Vrablík (Prague, Czech Republic)



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