

World's Largest immunology Congress Comes to a Close in Melbourne

Six days of world class immunology highlighting new allergy therapies, cancer immunotherapy, the fight against the spread of the Zika virus and hundreds of oral and poster presentations – finished today with the closing ceremony of the 16th International Congress of Immunology (ICI).

President of the ICI, Professor Jose Villadangos, said the Congress has provided the global immunological community a chance to hear not only world class research but to meet and initiate collaborations with new and previous colleagues from around the world.

The new President of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), which acts as the umbrella organisation of the ICI, Professor Alberto Mantovani, congratulated the ICI Organising Committee on what he called a “perfect” meeting, with lots of human interaction, gender equity and a large number of young immunologists attending and presenting thanks to “dedicated support for the fellowship program”.

Subsequent editions of the ICI will be known as the IUIS meeting, with the next taking place in Beijing, China from 25 to 30 April of 2019. Professor Xuetao Cao, the President of IUIS 2019, welcomed immunologists to his country.

Lastly Nobel Laureate and Australian of the Year, Professor Peter Doherty, closed the ceremony, applauding the fact that the Congress was a healthy mix of established heavy hitters in the field of immunology as well as lots of young people. “It was a terrific thing to see how many young people were up and speaking,” he said, predicting that many of those giving five and ten minute speeches would be giving much longer and more prominent talks in Beijing.

Professor Doherty also commented on how far immunology had come in the decades since he started in the laboratory, with the basic research of those days now represented in T cell immunotherapies as described frequently through the Congress.

Professor Villadangos, in closing, thanked the key sponsors and Victorian government organisations that supported ICI and called the Congress over.