**Report School of Proteomics**

The Summer School took place in the “Abbazia di Novacella” which is located around 4 km north of Bressanone in Italy. The School started on Sunday 31st July and the last lesson was on Friday 5th August.

We were a total of 72 students from many countries in Europe and were mostly PhD students, although there were few post-doc as well. There were high profile speakers and each lesson lasted two hours with a 15 minutes timeframe for questions and the end of the lesson. All speakers were very friendly and you could approach them after lesson to ask questions or get useful advice on your project.

The accommodation was full board with breakfast, lunch and dinner included, plus coffee break at mid-morning and afternoon. A typical day would start at 9.00 am with the first lesson and finish at 17.00. We had three workshops on different topics which we chose in advance. Each workshops lasted around 2.5-3 hours and you had the opportunity to interact with other students and work on real examples of proteomics project. I chose to attend two workshops on Skyline and one workshop for R software. The workshops on Skyline were based on targeted proteomics analysis which unfortunately was not the field I am working on, therefore even though it was useful to see how Skyline works, the workshop did not address my full requirements. I wanted to attend the workshop on R as I wanted to learn how to use this software. However, the workshop was tailored to intermediate users of R therefore for me was difficult to follow the lecturer as I had never used R before. However, other students which were already familiar with R found the workshop very useful. Besides the lecturer were very helpful in answering questions and spend extra time addressing issues with this software.

The organiser also organised special activities on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. The first activity was a hiking trip on a Mountain close to Bressanone including a dinner in a nice restaurant at the foot of the Mountain. For the second activity you could choose between rafting, climbing or sightseeing around Bressanone. I chose to have a sightseeing of Bressanone, which turned out to be a lovely town.

Each student had to bring a poster on their project and display it during two poster sessions organised after dinner. During this session the students had to provide a description of their poster and answer questions about their work.

Each evening after lesson and dinner we had social gathering in the monastery hall with music and free drinks, which lasted till late. This was very enjoyable as you had the opportunity to socialise with other students and lecturers or organisers.

The lessons covered a wide range of proteomics techniques, including quantitative proteomics, database search, clinical proteomics, statistic applied to proteomics and so on. Since it is not possible to cover extensively such vast fields in two hours, each lesson was quite generic and provided a broad coverage of each field. However, as mentioned before the lecturers could be approached after lesson, or during breaks for further questions.

My current project is based on the comparison of different varieties of plant sample to assess up and down regulated proteins, using a label-free approach. The main aims that encouraged me to apply for this School were to share my experience with other students, clarify some doubts I had about my project and have the opportunity to networking with students and experts in the field of proteomics. I could share my experience with several students who were working on label-free quantitative proteomics and statistical software used for differential analysis. I also had the opportunity to approach lectures and ask questions about my project. I did not get comprehensive answers about all my questions but I did receive advice which will be useful for my project. However, I now have a list of contacts which I can turn to in case I need help.

In general I found that attending the School was quite beneficial for me as it helped me to get a better understanding of the proteomics field and provided a platform to share my work experience with other students and expert in the field of proteomics. I would recommend attending this School.