

## **My Experience on 4th Workshop On Viral Dynamics**

Lubna Pinky

Department of Pediatrics, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, USA

It has been a great experience attending the 4th Workshop on Viral Dynamics this Fall. This year it was held on 21-23 October and hosted by the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research at the University Paris Diderot at Paris, France. The focus of this bi-annual conference on viral dynamics is to bring virologists and immunologists together with mathematical modelers and system biologists to discuss current approaches and challenges in modeling and analyzing different aspects of virus dynamics. Around 80 participants from different parts of the world had attended the event. Some of the key issues discussed this year were viral replication and innate immune response, quantitative approaches in vaccine developments, HIV cure and prevention, host-pathogen interaction and adaptive immunity. The questions and discussions followed by many of the talks provided a valuable opportunity for exchanging international experiences on some fundamental aspects of model development such as how to interpret model accuracy, and hence importance of validation. Among others, I particularly enjoyed the talk given by Marc Lavielle where he showed how one can effectively use the software he created (Monolix) on non-linear mixed effect models for model-based drug development. To make progress in my current work on parainfluenza virus modeling, his talk was extremely useful for me. On the closing day, one significant suggestion made by majority of the participants was to invite more clinical researchers in future. Besides attending talks, we were invited to attend the gala dinner at a restaurant called Vatel, hosted following the second day of conference proceedings. In addition to 'Thank you' speeches from the organizers, high French academic distinction was awarded to Dr. Alan Perelson as a recognition for his contribution to science, and his contribution to France-US collaboration. It was a great moment for us to be a part of this ceremony. The 3-day conference was filled with intriguing talks, together with the majestic and iconic views of Paris and wonderful French desserts. I would like to thank SMB and my mentor Dr. Amber M. Smith for the financial support that allowed me to make this meaningful and adventurous trip to Paris!