EDITORIAL

European Society for Coxiellosis, Chlamydioses, Anaplasmoses and Rickettsioses – American Society for Rickettsiology joint meeting 2017

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From 19 to 21 June 2017 the joint meeting of the European Society of *Chlamydia, Coxiella, Anaplasma* and *Rickettsia* (ESCCAR) and the American Society of Rickettsiology (ASR) was held in the Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire Méditerranée-Infection, Marseille, France. This congress marked the 50th anniversary of international rickettsiology meetings. The adventure began with a first meeting in Slovakia in 1967, and the rhythm of meetings progressively increased to its current pace of one congress every 3 years. The 2017 meeting gathered together more than 250 participants from 33 countries and five continents. There were a total of 107 oral presentations, including 13 invited talks on *Chlamydia* or *Chlamydia*-related bacteria, 11 invited talks on *Rickettsia,* 22 invited talks on other intracellular bacteria and 61 oral and 102 poster presentations selected from proposed abstracts.

In the Virtual Special Issue currently online (https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/new-microbes-and-new-infections/special-issue/10NVKX1CL02), some of the participants describe their latest findings, which they presented during the meeting. These include Chien-Chung Chao et al. (Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, MD, USA), who decrypted the metabolic modifications caused by scrub typhus in mice; Dalyte Mardosaite-Busaitiene et al. (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania), who detected for the first time *Rickettsia helvetica* in rodents in Lithuania; Arantzazu Portillo (Center of Rickettsioses and Arthropod-Borne diseases, Logrono, Spain), who reviewed the latest knowledge on *Candidatus* Neoehrlichia mikurensis in Europe; Donato Antonio Reale (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Puglia e della Basilicata, Foggia, Italy), who detected *Coxiella burnetii* and *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato* in the poultry red mite; Sonia Santibanez (Center of Rickettsioses and Arthropod-Borne diseases, Logrono, Spain), who successfully adapted HUVEC cells to the isolation of *Rickettsia amblyommatis;* Karim Sidi-Boumedine et al. (ANSES, Sophia-Antipolis, France), who adapted the *Galleria mellonella* model to the study of the virulence of *Coxiella burnetii* strains from ruminants; Stanislav Shpynov et al. (N.F. Gamaleya NRCEM, Moscow, Russia), who developed an innovative bioinformatic approach to analyze and compare the genomes from *Coxiella burnetii* or *Rickettsia* species; Manon Vouga et al. (Lausanne University, Lausanne, Switzerland), who analysed the pathogenic potential of emerging *Chlamydiales* members; and Fayçal Zeroual et al. (Chadli Bendjedid University, El Tarf, Algeria), who described the role of wild boars as a reservoir of *Rickettsia slovaca* infections in Algeria.

These studies reflect the scientific and geographic diversity as well as the dynamism of ESCCAR members. We welcome all scientists interested in the topics covered by the ESCCAR and ASR to join us in the next meeting, which will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2020.

Conflict of Interest

The author has no conflict of interest to declare.

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