

ASMS Exposomics Interest Group

Workshop Report 2022

This year's workshop was attended by over 60 scientists, a good-sized crowd fitting with the growing interest, international multi-institution projects, and funding in the field. The workshop was organized by the co-chairs Dr. Silvia Balbo from the University of Minnesota and Dr. Benedikt Warth from the University of Vienna. The workshop focused on success stories resulting from over 15 years of research and efforts in the field of research on the exposome, since its definition in 2005 by Dr Chris Wild. Dr. Silvia Balbo welcomed the audience and the speakers and summarized briefly the workshop focus and goals and then she introduced Dr Benedikt Warth who gave a 5 minutes introduction highlighting the international initiatives supporting work and interest in the field. Following this brief introduction, the speakers were presented. The agenda included three speakers providing different perspectives on success stories in exposomics, including novel developments in the understanding of the role of specific exposures in liver cancer (Dr John Groopman, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Medicine), the identification of novel contaminants in plastics and materials used in medical devices (Dr David Graham, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Medicine) and efforts in establishing benchmark practices and references in performing exposomics research and in reporting results (Dr Ruth Marfil-Vega, Shimadzu). Each speaker was given ~ 10 minutes to present. they were provided a pre-made powerpoint slide template to make sure their stories would touch on similar aspects, by focusing on framing their research question, their successes and the challenges encountered in their research, and future aspirations for the field.

Afterward, the speakers sat in front of the audience to take questions from the workshop attendees and facilitated group discussions along with the assistance from the co-chairs for the remaining ~40 minutes. The topics were directed by the audience and the discussion was rich at times and likely could have continued past the allotted time. Many scientists were very interested in the speakers takes on the future of exposomics, funding, and especially current guidelines to harmonize best practices, share results and disseminate findings.

Following the workshop, several attendees continued lively discussions. Several attendees expressed interest in joining the interest group and extremely positive feedback on the workshop was received from attendees, even after the event.

Next year we hope to focus on the tools, infrastructure, and support necessary to continue successful exposomics research and move the field forward. We are hoping to bring in Dr Ruth Marfil-Vega as a new co-chair of this workshop.

The possibility to have this workshop on Monday and not overlap with the Environmental applications working group is recommended.

If you have any suggestions for next year's workshop, either topics or speakers please send them to Silvia Balbo (balbo006@umn.edu), and Benedikt Warth (benedikt.warth@univie.ac.at).