International Aerosol Conference (IAC) 2018

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The 10th International Aerosol Conference (IAC 2018) took place on September 2-7, 2018 at the America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. The event, held every four years and only every 12 years in the United States, gathered more than 1500 of the world's leading aerosol scientists from 48 different countries. The Conference Committee presented an excellent programme which included the main topics in aerosol science and engineering, from the development of new techniques and instrumentation to aerosol modelling, in addition to advances in the health-related aerosols field, among many others. The event was opened with a full day of two-hour tutorials covering a wide range of aerosol science topics on Sunday. During these sessions, I found particularly valuable the lecture about techniques and instrumentation for bioaerosol investigation (Prof. Jordan Peccia and Alex Huffman) which provided me with a better understanding of some of the current techniques used in molecular biology, potentially applicable to my own research. The structure of the conference from Monday morning through Friday afternoon was comprised of an array of plenary talks, poster sessions, special symposia, platform presentations and special events. It was extremelly useful to attend the talks from the infectious bioaerosol sessions, the biggest symposium ever held in this area, with inspiring speakers such as Lydia Bourouiba, Lynsey Marr and Gediminas Mainelis, whose studies have been very helpful from the early stages of my PhD.

During the third infectious bioaerosol session on Wednesday 5th September, I presented my talk entitled "Exploring the fundamentals of biological decay and survival in aerosol droplets with a new in-vitro technology". The presentation included the main results collected during the first couple of years of my PhD, discussing the novel approach developed at the University of Bristol to better understand the fundamentals that govern bioaerosol survival and the airborne transmission of disease. I was glad to receive a good feedback after my talk which led into interesting discussions about my work with established researchers in the field, bringing new ideas and potential future collaboration to my studies.

The IAC conference was very interesting, showing the full scope of aerosol science and the interconnections among its topics. Besides, this event gave me the unique opportunity to hear from many researchers in the bioaerosol community, an emerging field that seems to rapidly consolidate. Finally, I would like to thank the Aerosol Society for giving me the opportunity to attend the IAC2018 via the Early-Career Scientist Travel Award.