*Attitude before the course, now, in the future?*

*My attitude towards collaborations*

Prior to the beginning of the course, my impression was that the course would be discussing the aspects of collaborations and how to conduct them. As I already have few collaborations, I did not know how the course may change my perspective. But it certainly did. The focus of the course covered a lot more grounds than I thought. In this reflection, I will explore few of my thoughts on the various topics of the course.

Collaborations are extremely important and instrumental to all researchers. Without it, it would be extremely difficult to accomplish high quality research. Most research disciplines are advancing very quickly, and the technologies used are also advancing that it is no longer possible for a single research group or entity to cover all grounds needed for a specific analysis. Although I already have few collaborations, I found the exercise to find collaborators among the other attendees to be difficult in the beginning. Identifying potential connections of my project to other fields was not a straightforward line. However, we ended up managing to form a collaboration combining analysis of the brain, lungs and blood. While this was an exercise for the course, I think that some of the ideas discussed with my peers may turn into real collaboration in the near future. I found this exercise to be useful and opened my eyes to strengths I did not know I had.

*The value of my ideas?*

Pulmonary Fibrosis shares several characteristics with other diseases such as kidney and liver fibrosis. Thus, finding a new therapy will be beneficial to a much wider range of patients in the long run. Our approach is still very early and quite far from commercialization. The first step is executing the project properly and identify potential drug targets. Once done, repurposing other drugs and screening of drug libraries should be evaluated or new drugs should be developed. This is a long-term view of how this can directly affect society and patients. A shorter-term value is in the knowledge gained throughout the project. New information about this signaling pathway and disease pathology will aid other fields in life sciences. This gained knowledge may then be developed in other contexts.

**Need:** Pulmonary fibrosis is a lethal disease with unknown causes and no cure. Available treatments can only slow down disease progression; they cannot stop or reverse disease. Lack of effective treatments is partially due to a gap in knowledge of disease patho-mechanisms. Thus, there is a need to find new molecular targets in order to develop effective drugs.

**Approach:** We are studying two molecules that are co-transcriptional activators (Yap/Taz). These molecules interact with other complexes inside the cells to induce fibrotic changes. Our approach is to identify their interaction partners in a cell type dependent manner.

**Benefit:** The ability to identify the interactions that are pathologic will allows to only target disease causing events. Additionally, this pathway may be responsible for several phenotypic changes. Therefore, targeting these molecules will be more effective than targeting symptoms of disease.

**Competition:** Several studies are being pursued to understand the mechanisms of pulmonary fibrosis. But most of clinical trials have failed. All of these drugs are either too specific or too general. Drugs that target a specific protein/phenotype are not good enough to affect all aspects of disease. General drugs (currently used for disease) have a wide range of effect of several processes that may also have adverse effects. Our approach is specific, yet inclusive to several effects.

*My own opportunities now/in the future? Courses? Resources?*

I do feel fortunate to be doing the PhD program I am doing. First, I am part of the Wallenberg Center for Molecular Medicine (WCMM), an environment that is very rich in diversity in research disciplines and expertise. Second, the design of my PhD is inclusive of a wide range of techniques and it is full of potential for several marketable ideas. I am currently in several collaborations within Sweden and currently I am satisfied with the amount of extra help I need.

In addition to the compulsory courses, I have taken several courses at Lund university such as the courses on the MAXIV-ESS facilities and outside of lund such as bioinformatics courses offered by SciLife Labs/NBIS. The environment at Lund University has allowed for me to access the courses I need. In a future perspective, I may try to find the time to explore courses in business development. I will discuss this more in the next part.

*Entrepreneurship now/future?*

I had not given a lot of thought to entrepreneurship prior to this course. I knew that I have some ideas that I may want to pursue in the future, but never put time or energy into it. However, after the course, I might explore entrepreneurship as an additional path during my doctoral studies.

I had a vague idea of what the university could offer in help regarding innovation, but I found the addition of that into the course was extremely instrumental. I think I learned enough about the infrastructure at the university and I have an idea of what I must do next at this point. It is unfortunate that the time I can give to an extra idea now is limited. But I think I can easily incorporate aspects of it into my PhD design.

My attitude towards entrepreneurship had the biggest change since the start of the course. And I am grateful for that opportunity.

The title of course isn’t very explanatory, knowledge in collaboration. I, thus, did not have any expectations towards the course content. The course was thoroughly enjoyable and quite useful for career development. I highly recommend changing the name of the course. I suggest: Research Value and Entrepreneurship OR Research Value and Development.