

Exchange visit funding seeds early career researcher collaborations

Luis Martin, a post-doctoral researcher at the BioComposites Centre, Bangor University, has been awarded scientific exchange funding from BioProNET that has enabled him not only to acquire new skills but also to build collaborations.

Luis works on greener ways to obtain purer fractions of glycolipids from fermentation broths. The purification of glycolipids is the main factor that limits the industrial application of new glycolipids. The driving force of his visit was to investigate the possibility of moving from a batch purification process to a continuous one using specialist equipment that was available at the supercritical fluids research group, directed by Professor Ernesto Reverchon at Università degli Studi di Salerno in Italy.

“As a result of the scientific exchange, I was able to understand and master the technique of supercritical counter current fractionation,” say Luis. “Maybe in the future this technique can be imported to our group at Bangor University to complete the versatility of our laboratories.”

Moreover, the exchange strengthened the networking between the two institutions. Luis explains that two Erasmus stays next year have been set up, with two Masters students

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coming to Bangor University, accounting for a total time of one year. “This work will allow the set up of a fruitful collaboration between research groups, sharing valuable experiences within the supercritical fluid world,” he highlights.

But this not all. Once Luis knew that he had secured funding, he attended the inaugural BioProNET early career researcher meeting, where he continued his collaboration drive.

Pravin Badhe, a research assistant at Brunel University met Luis at this event. “The meeting was very helpful for networking; I managed to source access to LC-NMR equipment at Bangor University, which I had been trying to find for nearly 6 months,” he says. Also as a result of the meeting, Kamaljit Moirangthem, a PhD student at the University of Nottingham, was able to set up a collaboration with Luis. “The project is very innovative and has potential to attract future funding,” highlights Moirangthem.

So as a direct result of BioProNET funding and events, the seeds of collaboration for early career researchers are beginning to grow.



Luis Martin from Bangor University and the counter-current column at Università degli Studi di Salerno, Italy