

Booster Grant Blogpost

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Last autumn, I was one of the lucky few to receive the booster grant at the APH meeting. The price enabled me to attend the *Society For Research On Nicotine and Tobacco* conference held in the United States. For me, it was the first conference outside Europe. Exciting! The event kicked-off with pre-conference workshops. I attended a very interesting session discussing tobacco regulatory science. Ten short presentations were followed by an interactive group assignment to translate scientific research into policy. With colleagues from Canada, the UK, New Zealand and Congo, I tried to tackle policy issues regarding regulating tobacco outlets, exactly my field of study. Inspiring and challenging to think beyond research implications and to actually formulate policy advice. The session was a great start and immediately very promising for the rest of the conference.

My other conference days were mainly filled with symposia about tobacco outlets/retailers. I heard many interesting insights from other countries' efforts to restrict tobacco retailer locations. Great ideas for and possible implications of tobacco control policies that may be relevant for the Netherlands as well. For instance on regulating vapes or tobacco outlets near schools. Throughout the conference, there were also plenty of very relevant discussions on research methods and the (un)conscious biases we have as – predominantly white, male, wealthy, and educated – researchers. This latter topic coincided well with discussions with and about Indigenous populations from all over the world and their traditional and current relation with tobacco. Gained a lot of knowledge on this sensitive but important topic!



A personal highlight was my poster presentation. I was pleasantly surprised that so many conferees attended the session and were interested in the work by me and my team. Being complimented on your scientific work by an international audience is definitely boosting your confidence! On top of that, I got nominated as *upcoming scientist* by SRNT's organisation. In sum, I can only conclude that attending the conference has been inspiring, and a successful and valuable experience on both a personal and professional level. Thank you APH for this opportunity!

