

“Educate, Inspire, Connect” is the motto of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, which totally reflects what these meetings are about. They call this “the Lindau spirit”.

Meeting clever and inspiring experienced scientists is something to be expected for a meeting whose invited speakers are 30 Nobel Laureates. What surprised me as totally unexpected was to meet so many very clever young scientists from all over the world; we were about 400 attendees from 80 countries. By chance or by choice, it happened that the (about 20) biophysics attendees have been hosted in the same Hotel. During the first breakfast we met and soon realized that we were all “young scientists” at the Meeting, thanks to the badges and the nice meeting bags, but then, after having introduced each other, we realized with surprise that we were all biophysicists! Because of this proximity, during the meeting we had the chance to know better about our research projects. This allowed me to set up two new scientific collaborations, one in Germany and one in the Netherlands.

The 30 Nobel Laureates gave talks on different subjects mainly related to their Nobel Prizes or on their actual research activities. As a result we have been offered talks on several discoveries that have changed and are still changing the world, from the origin and the evolution of the Universe, to the origin of life, and the nature of matter. Also the types of the talks were quite different: some talks were very simple and suitable for a general public, others were quite technical, however the main part were a combination of both. This gave an interdisciplinary character to the meeting, something that I enjoyed a lot!

Apart from these “standard” talks, also discussions with questions and answers between the Nobel Laureates and the young scientists have been organized. These, together with the informal atmosphere, have allowed me to ask questions and chat with the Nobel Laureates on biophysics (my field of research); quantum biology; soft-matter physics; astrophysics; future technologies and their impact on society. During all these discussions the Laureates were able to share their own ideas on these topics, and to inspire me with their stories. Concerning these latter, several of them were working on the same subject of their bachelor and/or master degree without changing it for several years, believing they were able to discover something new on that specific topic. Then they did, indeed!

Fifteen young scientists have been selected by the Nobel Laureates to give a talk on their research activity. I have been one of those selected, and I delivered a presentation on *“Biomolecules, Water and Room-Temperature Ionic Liquids: challenges and opportunities in basic science and applications”* in the section organized by Prof. Kurt Wuthrich, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2002. He received the Nobel Prize for “his development of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy for determining the three-dimensional structure of biological macromolecules in solution”. Being selected by a Nobel Laureate as a speaker in a meeting where the speakers are Nobel Laureates is something unique and amazing at the same time, and I am very proud about it!

This meeting was the 66th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, it was focused on Physics, and it turned out to be an amazing experience. It was a really nice opportunity to meet at once several Nobel Laureates in a friendly atmosphere, ideally suited to learn from their stories and discoveries. This is something unique and amazing at the same time, as being selected as one of the young speakers in a meeting where all the other speakers are Nobel Laureates!

That the Lindau spirit is with you!

See you in the following meetings, hopefully!.... ahahah

Ciao.

Antonio.



Having a Bavarian lunch with Kurt Wuthrich (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2002) and the other young scientists selected as me as speakers the day before our talks.



With Kurt Wuthrich Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2002, after my talk on Ionic Liquids vs Biomolecules.



Chatting on quantum biology with Bill Phillips Nobel Laureate in Physics in 1997.



Chatting on Big Bang, the evolution of the Universe and the chance to meet human-like life in the Universe with Brian Schmidt Nobel Laureate in Physics in 2011.



Collecting my attendance certificate at the end of the Meeting on our way back to Lindau from Mainau Island.



The Irish delegation at the 66th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting.



The harbour in Lindau on our way back from Mainau Island.