

*Ayla Kwant - International Conference on Bio-Joining, Porto, Portugal*

On December 5 – 6, I attended the 1st International Conference on Bio-joining, which was held in Porto, Portugal. My PhD project is on the development of a novel medical adhesive for lung volume reduction treatment, which is a quite niche subject. This conference was the first time for me to be surrounded by so many people working in similar subjects, developing adhesives for many applications. Many talks have inspired me in terms of new experimental setups or chemical approaches, to further improve the adhesive that we are developing. I was particularly inspired by the lecture by Prof. João Mano, who works on bioinspired soft adhesives in biomedical applications. Furthermore, I learned how important the surface structure is for adhesive performance. Lastly, the conference was an excellent opportunity to network, as various activities and breaks allowed me to interact with many people working in the same field. Taken together, it was a very educative opportunity for me, to attend this conference.