

Report for ASCEPT-IUPHAR Student Travel Grant

Thanks to the generosity of ASCEPT, I was fortunate enough to be a recipient of the IUPHAR student travel grant which allowed me to have the opportunity to travel to Beijing for the 15th World Congress of Pharmacology (IUPHAR 2006).

The conference was a great experience allowing me to present my work at an international conference and receiving feedback from scientists throughout the world. I was also able to attend some very informative sessions and seminars involving renowned pharmacologists whose work I had read so much about but had not yet had the opportunity to meet. I especially found interesting the sessions on the pharmacology of sarcoplasmic reticulum in smooth muscle, the pharmacology of nitric oxide synthase and the pharmacology and physiology of pacemaker channels as they were most closely associated with my research.

This conference also allowed me to form and build on my scientific networks, especially during the poster sessions which provided a relaxed atmosphere where I could easily approach pharmacologists and discuss their work and new avenues in relation to my research. This was a great opportunity which helped me to build up my knowledge to equip me with the foundations that I require to successfully complete my PhD. The networking also continued during the social events of the conference which were very impressive.

Besides from the scientific benefits that this conference provided, there were many other great aspects of this trip. I was fortunate enough to experience the once in a lifetime sites of Beijing including the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Great Wall of China. My palate also had a great time enjoying the culinary experiences that only China had to offer.

Overall, Beijing was an unforgettable experience both scientifically and socially and I would like to thank ASCEPT for making it all possible.

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