

**Hala Raghieb**  
**PhD student, School of Medical Sciences, RMIT University**

First of all I would like to thank ASCEPT for giving me the opportunity to attend IUPHAR 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Beijing.

The congress covered a variety of topics on both pharmacology and toxicology. A presentation by Professor Pedersen on “Muscle-derived cytokine: pharmacological implications” was particularly interesting on the first day of the conference. I also attended a joint IUPHAR/IUTOX symposium on arrhythmias and drug-induced QT prolongation which was related to my research project. However it was disappointing as the work covered was mainly discussing the use of animals in predicting cardiotoxicity of noncardiovascular drugs. So basically, the presentations were covering already known issues discussed in the literature and no new information was provided to suggest improvement in the development of testing systems.

A symposium on vascular complications of diabetes was very informative with presentation by Professor Michael Hill which discussed the possible therapeutic strategies aimed directly at the microvasculature. The session was also chaired by Professor Chris Triggle, whom also gave an informative presentation.

The poster sessions were very disappointing as not many attended and not many posters were posted on particular days.

Overall a great experience, as I had the opportunity to meet other Australian scientists at the ASCEPT- SEAWP both.