

23 August 2006

President of
ASCEPT

Dear President of ASCEPT,

I would like to thank the generosity of ASCEPT and the IUPHAR travel grant supporting me attending the 15th World Congress of Pharmacology held in Beijing, China during 2-7 July 2006. The information exchanged during the conference has been overwhelming and reached most topics of pharmacological research. The plenary lectures and symposia have been comprehensive covering cardiovascular diseases, cancer therapy, diabetes, proteomics, receptor pharmacology and pharmacogenetics etc.

As a postdoctoral research fellow of Cancer Society of New Zealand, my research interest is focusing on the pharmacology of anticancer drugs. So I was spending my time mainly on this and relevant area. Many seminars and posters regarding cancer pharmacology were impressive such as those given by Prof. Lorraine Gudas at Cornell University about cell growth, proliferation and cancer, Prof. Takashi Tsuruo at University of Tokyo about the drug resistance in cancer chemotherapy and Dr. Romano Danesi at University of Pisa about the pharmacogenetics in cancer therapy. These talks directly open up my scientific thinking in cancer drug development and use through target finding and individualisation of chemotherapy. Meanwhile, I presented my poster on the activity of a new vascular disrupting agent –DMXAA in mammary cancers and had talk with some colleagues working in the anticancer area like Dr. Li Junying at Nankai University and Dr. Yan Jun at Peking Union Medical College. I was also fortunate to have a chat with Prof. Lin Zhibin, the President of Chinese Society of Pharmacology hosting the conference, about their research on herbal anticancer medicine and also the fond memory we had at Brisbane meeting in 2004.

Being in Beijing was itself an exciting experience in terms of its facets with modernization, historic values and traditional Chinese culture. I have been amazed by the greatness of the Great Wall and enrichment of stylish architectures preserved from Qing and Ming Dynasty.

Overall, without the support from ASCEPT, my trip would not have been possible and I believe it is a fantastic, informative and productive meeting for pharmacologists worldwide.

Sincerely yours,

Johnson Liu