

IUPHAR 2006 Report

I am very pleased to report to ASCEPT that attending IUPHAR 2006 International conference was a wonderful experience. The conference was held on July 2-7 at the Beijing International Conference Centre with over 3000 registrants including about 80 of us from Australia. The conference comprised excellent plenary lectures, symposia, workshops and posters.

I found this year's conference particularly valuable. It contains so many interesting topics such as **The AstraZeneca Symposium: Scientific Innovation in Future Drug Discovery and Development**. The presentations in the two sections: *Radio-telemetry and Pharmacology*, *Imaging and Pharmacology* provided us with advanced knowledge.

The following summary briefly outlines some lectures that were of particular interest to me:

Standardization and Quality-Control of Natural Products and Traditional Medicines. This workshop consisted a series of interest topics including: Chemical Quality-Control of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Natural Products; Quality Assurance and Authentication of Herbal and Traditional Medicines - the Australian Experience; and Using Chemistry and Pharmacology Information on Herbal Medicines for Standardization and Quality Control. These presentations provided information about how to evaluate the herb medicine and nature products. Our laboratory also performs toxicology and pharmacology safety assessment on herb extracts. The information obtained from the workshop will help us to better understand the issue when dealing with herbal and natural products.

Target and Drug Discovery and Validation. This session focused on advanced technologies that are currently being used in the field of Drug Discovery, e.g. Proteomic techniques, protein chip and RNA library, for potential drug target discovery or comparative study of the effects between different drugs. Although to comply with GLP regulation, our laboratory always need to use standardised assay for pre-clinic drug evaluation, this presentation updated our knowledge in the current scientific progress of drug discovery, which is very important if we wish to stay forefront in our research field.

Overall, these lectures have broadened my understanding particularly in the area of drug discovery. As a Quality Assurance Scientist of RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies (RDDT) at RMIT University, this conference updated my scientific knowledge. The knowledge will contribute to the future monitoring of commercial research projects.

In addition, I presented a poster at the conference: "COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DETOXICATION ENZYMES IN CATALYSING DEFLUORINATION". This gave me the opportunities to discuss my work with other international delegates about detoxication enzymes. I thank the ASCEPT committee for this valuable experience and for your support of the IUPHAR 2006 Travel Grant.

IUPHAR 2006 Travel Grant Recipient

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