

Student Report for ASCEPT Travel Grant IUPHAR 2006, Beijing, China.

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Thanks to the generous support from ASCEPT in awarding a travel grant, I was able to attend IUPHAR 2006 in Beijing, China. China provided an interesting location for the conference with many culinary and cultural experiences to be had.

The organizing committee succeeded in combining a diverse scientific program at a single venue, Beijing International Convention Center (BICC). With such a large and diverse program it was possible to find poster presentations and talks which were of general and specific interest. Most notable for my area of research was to do with cannabinoids and prostaglandins, which were interesting and thought provoking.

I found the poster session at which I presented most valuable out of my experience. It provided the opportunity to talk to a lot of people about my research. Considering this was my first international conference trip, I unexpectedly found that there was a significant amount of interest in my work. I was able to get valuable feedback, which gave me a jump start coming back to my project with fresh ideas for future experiments and optimising protocols already used.

Apart from dodgy taxi drivers at the airport, initial disorganisation with charging of rooms and gastro accompanying dinner, the conference was an enjoyable and valuable experience. I met a large number of people in both my area of interest and in the wider pharmacological field. I learnt how to bargain in the street markets and was able to see the local sites, such as the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs and the Summer Palace. I came out of Beijing successfully and thank ASCEPT for their generous travel grant.