

Verawan Uchaipichat

PhD student, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Flinders University

First of all, I would like to thank ASCEPT for financial support to attend the conference and present my work at the 15th World Congress of Pharmacology (IUPHAR, July 2-7, 2006) in Beijing.

My PhD project aims to develop in vitro approaches for the identification of the UDP-glucuronosyltransferase isoform(s) involved in the glucuronidation of any given drug in humans and to predict drug interactions between glucuronidated drugs. At the conference, I presented a poster, which is part of my PhD project, entitled "Characterisation of interactions between UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B7 (UGT2B7) substrates using multisite kinetic modeling". It is a great opportunity for me to have some discussions with several scientists who are interested in my research work. In particular, this provided useful discussion with Prof Brian Houston (UK) who is well known and expert in atypical enzyme kinetic modeling area. In addition, there are several lectures and symposia at the congress of direct relevance to my thesis research, including plenary lecture; Understanding drug glucuronidation by my supervisor, Prof John Miners, and symposia; Computational and in vitro approaches for predicting drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics in humans by Brian Houston (UK), Yuichi Sugiyama (JPN), Nico Vermeulen (NED), Jing Lin (USA) and John Miners (AUS).

Although, I am currently a PhD student at Flinders University, I will resume my lecturer position at Khon Kaen University when I return to Thailand in September 2006. Given a broad range of symposia and plenary lectures at the Congress, this gives me a chance to update and extend the knowledge in pharmacology and toxicology area which is invaluable for my future teaching and research career. Of particular lectures were Pharmacogenomics, Basic and Clinical Research by Weinshilboum Richard (USA), Ethnicity, Genetics and Tailored Pharmacotherapy by Zhou Honghao, Metabonomic approaches for the analysis and prediction of drug metabolism by Frank Gonzalez (USA), Endothelial Dysfunction and Vascular Disease by Vanhoutte Paul (Hong Kong) and etc.

Apart from academic programme, I did sightseeing tour around Beijing, including 'Great Wall', 'Tiananmen/Forbidden City' and 'Summer Palace'. I also had a chance to try various kinds of genuine Chinese food, in particular "Dumpling" and "Peking duck". So, I'd like to thank again to ASCEPT for the financial support of my first international conference.