

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Conference Title: Gordon Research Conference ‘Motile and Contractile Systems’

Travel Dates: 12th -17th of July 2009

Location: New London, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

Group Member: Cláudia Bicho

Aims: To present my poster intituled ‘A catalytic role for fission yeast Mod5 in Teal cortical anchoring’ and attend a wide range of talks concerning the field of cell cytoskeleton

OUTCOME

The Gordon Research Conference “Motile and Contractile Systems’ was held at the Colby-Sawyer College in New London, USA from the 12th to the 17th of July 2009. In this meeting, experts in the cell cytoskeleton from all around the world were present and the most recent findings in this field were discussed. All the subjects within the cytoskeleton field were extensively represented in the meeting, and high quality research was presented either in the form of talks or posters.

As expected this conference was very interactive. It was held on a small college and all social events had the presence of all participants. The meeting was organized in morning and evening talk sessions. After lunch there was free time that could be taken to explore the surrounding areas or to play some sports. In the afternoons there was two-hours poster sessions. The conference schedule gave the opportunity to all conference attendees to interact and discuss their work and ideas.

Most of talk speakers presented unpublished or less polished data. All talks were followed by a long discussion (20-30 min), where relevant issues were discussed. The subject of cytoskeleton had a comprehensive converge. Several model organisms were represented, including *S. pombe*, the organism I use in my research. It was very interesting to learn how cell biology and mathematical modelling are converging in order to explain complex cytoskeleton mechanisms.

Poster sessions were always highly attended and each porter presenter was given a good amount of time to present the poster. My poster presentation was very useful and I had a great variety of interested people to talk with. I had good discussions and I was given useful ideas to follow up my current results. I was very pleased with the opportunity of presenting this part of my research, as it is the final result of collaboration of my group and with the group of Dr Andrew Goryachev, from the University of Edinburgh. I have also seen posters directly related with my research interests. It was very important to talk with all poster presenters and discuss not only their results but also exchange ideas about similar experimental approaches.

Overall, attending to this conference was very gratifying. I had the opportunity to meet the leading researchers of the cytoskeleton field, and to know what they current research interests are. Moreover, I could appreciate what are the most relevant subjects of research in cytoskeleton and integrate them on my own research. I was very pleased with the chance to present my data together with high quality research and to discuss with an informed audience.

I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest committee for the travel award that gave me the opportunity to attend the Gordon Research Conference 'Motile and Contractile Systems'.