JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Conference Title: 48th American Society of Cell Biology Annual Meeting .....

Travel Dates: 13th -17th of December 2008.....

Location: San Francisco, California, USA.....

Group Member: Cláudia Bicho.....

Aims: To present my poster intituled 'Fission Yeast Tea1 and Mod5 are co-dependent for localization at cell tips but have very different turnover rates' and attend a wide range of talks concerning the field of cell biology

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OUTCOME

The 48th American Society of Cell Biology Annual Meeting was held in the Moscone Center in San Francisco, USA from the 11th to the 17th of December 2008. In this meeting, experts in cell biology from all around the world were present and the most recent findings in the cell biology field were discussed. All the subjects within the cell biology field were extensively represented in the meeting, and high quality research was presented either in the form of talks or posters.

The talks in this meeting were organized in symposia and mini-symposia, and due to broad range of subjects covered, several talks were occurring simultaneously. I have chosen to attend the talks relevant to my research. I appreciated most of the talks I attended, especially the talk given by Michael Steinmetz, where the author described the identification of a common protein motif responsible for the interaction of several proteins with the microtubules.
During the meeting I had the chance to attend to talks given by the two 2008 Nobel prizes awardees in Chemistry, Roger Tsien and Martin Chalfie. Both gave very informative talks, although very different. Martin Chalfie gave an historic overview of the GFP discovery and its applications to solve questions in cell biology. On the other hand, Roger Tsien talked about the development of new fluorescence proteins, to be imaged in the infrared part of the light spectrum. Roger Tsien's talk was a great example of how basic research can have direct applications in medicine.

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. Moreover, some mathematicians present in the meeting got interested in modelling the dynamics of the proteins that I am currently studying. This kind of multidisciplinary interest was extremely rewarding to me, because experts in the field confirmed that the system I am studying has a general interest. Having so many people interested in the data I presented was extremely motivating, pushing me to keep working in my current project.

I have also seen posters directly related with my research interests. Due to the broad range of this meeting it was possible to meet researchers from much of the laboratories working in subjects related with my. There was really interesting research presented in the posters sessions. It was very important to talk with all the poster presenters and discuss not only their results but also exchange ideas about similar experimental approaches. From the posters presented, I became aware that there

are a couple of laboratories using exactly the same experimental approaches in order to answer the same biological questions as me. The awareness of the existence of direct competitors with my current project was of extreme relevance to me.

Overall, attending to the 48th ASCB Annual Meeting was very gratifying. I had the opportunity to meet most of the researchers of my field and to know what they current research interests are. Moreover, I could appreciate what are the most relevant subjects of research in cell biology. 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 thanks the James Rennie Bequest committee for the travel award that given me the opportunity to attend to the 48th ASCB Annual Meeting.