



Shane Murray
Conference Report Back

During the period 25 to 30 July 1999, I was able to attend the Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions 9th International Conference, which was held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. My registration fee was sponsored by the Genetical Society, my travel expenses were covered by the James Rennie Bequest, and my accommodation expenses were part sponsored by the University of Edinburgh Travel Fund. I would like to record my thanks to all three organisations here.

The conference was divided into 22 sessions, with lectures by key note speakers and poster presentations in each session. The sessions are outlined as follows:

Session 1: Signal transduction in plant development and plant defence

Session 2: Virulence and avirulence of bacteria and fungi

Session 3: Plant-Rhizobium interactions

Session 4: Secretion and transport of virulence and avirulence factors

Session 5: Plant-nematode interactions

Session 6: Perception of microbial signals

Session 7: Signal perception and transduction in plant-microbe interactions

Session 8: Plant-Agrobacterium interactions

Session 9: Plant-pathogenic fungus interactions

Session 10: Plant-virus interactions

Session 11: Mycorrhizae

Session 12: Plant disease resistance genes; structure and function I

Session 13: Plant disease resistance genes; structure and function II

Session 14: Cell biology of plant-microbe interactions

Session 15: Local and systemic resistance

Session 16: Plant-bacterium interactions

Session 17: Biological control

Session 18: Plant-microbe interactions and plant biotechnology

Session 19: Upcoming model systems

Session 20: Developmental biology of plant-microbe interactions

Session 21: Programmed cell death

Session 22: Functional genomics

I presented a poster, entitled 'Characterisation of *Arabidopsis* Systemic Acquired Resistance mutants isolated by luciferase imaging' in Session 1. The poster raised a fair amount of interest, and I was able to discuss my work with a number of different people. Furthermore, the poster sessions gave me an opportunity to meet and interact with PhD students, post-docs and industry people from around the world. I was also able to meet a few group leaders, and I hope these will be contacts I can build on in the future.

Overall I feel that my attendance at the conference has given me a greater breadth of understanding of the molecular plant-microbe interactions field. Hearing about the latest developments in the field has helped me generate a number of new ideas which will be of direct benefit to my PhD project.

Shane Murray

7 August 1999