

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/
Conference Title:** 10th Microsymposium on Small RNAs

Travel Dates: May 4th to 6th, 2015

Location: Vienna, AUSTRIA

Group member(s): Paioa Praihirunkit (Amy Buck group)

Aims: Present poster on PhD work on microRNA

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The 10th Microsymposium on Small RNAs is a specific conference in the field of small RNAs, bringing hundreds of scientists and students who are working in this area to share their work, discuss problems and exchange views on future direction. The conference program consisted of talks, PhD workshops and poster presentations that included topics of biogenesis, structure, mechanism and studies of small RNAs and host defense.

Over three days of the conference, on each day the program started with a 40-minute talk from the keynote speakers who provided groundbreaking knowledge contributing to the area of small RNAs. The following sessions included talks from young scientists and PhD workshop, which gave the opportunities to PhD students to present and discuss their work. On day 1 and day 2, the poster session was between the lunch and coffee break; however, there was a particular poster viewing time on day 3 for ~3 hours when I had a chance to present and discuss my work to others. I received lot of helpful feedback during the poster presentation, especially from the speaker who presented the work relevant to my project. His work focuses on the mechanism of microRNA degradation (miR-27), which is related to my work on functional studies of miR-27.

In addition to basic scientific talks, there were talks from companies (Qiagen and Exiqon) presenting the application of using microRNAs as biomarkers for diagnosis. A set of microRNAs was proposed to be promising biomarkers, which will be possibly evaluated in clinical setting in the future. This emphasizes the significance of small RNAs in the use of healthcare improvement and encourages scientists who are doing research in terms of transferred knowledge from laboratories to the global community.

By attending the conference, I had an opportunity to improve communication skill in sciences through the poster presentation, discuss my future work with other scientists, broaden the perspective on the advancement of the field as well as got motivated from successful scientists. I am grateful for the support from the James Rennie Bequest that allows me to have such a wonderful experience.