

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: Susana Abreu Ribeiro

Aims: To give a talk: "Condensin regulates the stiffness of the vertebrate centromere"

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. This meeting was a major forum for integrating new developments in cytoskeletal components and their roles in cell motility, intracellular transport, cell division, cellular polarity and organization, and development. Experts were brought together using a wide variety of experimental approaches including structural, quantitative fluorescence microscopy, modeling, biochemical, molecular and genetic techniques and those studying a wide variety of cell types. Overall I had the opportunity to attend high quality meeting where work in the form of talks or posters was presented.

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, followed by two-hour poster sessions. Poster sessions were always highly attended and each poster presenter was given a good amount of time to present the poster. 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Most of talk speakers presented unpublished or less polished data.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 (10-20 min), where relevant issues were discussed. It was very interesting to learn how cell biology and mathematical modelling are converging in order to explain complex cytoskeleton mechanisms. 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.

My talk had a total duration of 30 min, where the last 10 min were discussing my results. The feedback that I had was very interesting and helpful in terms of future work. It was also very important to show and to expose my work to leading researchers in the community. I was very pleased with the opportunity of giving a talk about this part of my research. Moreover, it was a very important experience in terms of CV and in terms of meeting people in the field.

On the whole, attending to this conference was very gratifying. 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 allowed me to participate actively in the Gordon Research Conference 'Motile and Contractile Systems'.