Meeting Report

Eukaryotic DNA Replication Meeting

La Jolla September 6-10

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The eukaryotic DNA replication meeting, at the Salk Institute was a very interesting and exciting meeting. The meeting attracted 200 participants, of very diverse origins. Participant's countries included Korea, Japan, Spain, Italy and the US amongst others. This also reflected in the wide variety of quality talks given.

Talks were very well organised, sections were arranged so as to follow the order of events in DNA replication, starting with origins and ending with a section covering telomeres and termination. No topic was left uncovered and some talks even mentioned prokaryotic DNA replication. Of special interest to me was the section on polymerases. In this section a number of very interesting talks were given relating to the role of polymerases, not only in direct polymerisation of DNA, but also in repair and in sister chromatid cohesion. The talks on telomeres I found interesting, especially the talk by Teresa Wang on how the length of telomeres is affected by different replication mutants. I am studying Cdc1 and mutants in this gene, and in other components of DNA polymerase δ and α, elongate telomeres. However, mutants in DNA polymerase ε shorten the telomeres suggesting that DNA polymerase δ and ε affect telomeres in different ways.

Presentation of my poster provided me with the opportunity to discuss my work with a wide variety of participants. It allowed me to meet people that I have known only from their published work, a lot of which have been working in my field for a long time and I had many discussions about my work. Part of the poster described a particular mutagenesis method, the pentapeptide insertion mutagenesis method, and this method attracted a lot of interest and I had many interesting discussions about this aspect of my poster. Posters from other participants provided an excellent opportunity

to discuss other people's work. I particularly enjoyed Kesti's poster in which he described that, in *S. cerevisiae*, the deletion of the catalytic domain of DNA polymerase epsilon is viable. A poster which I also found very interesting was Feng's poster in which a similar experiment to Kesti's was done in *S. pombe* and it was discovered that the *S. pombe* mutant is hypersensitive to DNA damaging agents.

The meeting also provided excellent opportunities to meet people and for networking in which I managed to meet many participants and made many useful contacts.