

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/Conference Title: The Hsp90 Chaperone Machine EMBO Conference

Travel Dates: 25-29 September 2004.....

Location: Gwatt, Switzerland

Group Member(s): Emma Turnbull

Aims: To be aware of the most update research and ideas in the field, present my PhD work as a poster for advice and feedback and to meet and discuss current research in the field with colleagues.

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The EMBO Workshop and 2nd International Conference on the Hsp90 Chaperone Machine was attended by 122 scientists from all corners of the globe. Scientists came from Australia, Europe, Asia, North and South America. The meeting lasted 4 days starting early at 8:30 am with talks all morning until lunch. Afternoons were dedicated to posters and evening talks went into the night finishing at 10:30pm.

Talks were divided into groups and covered; structural studies of chaperones and interacting partners, chaperone clients, co-chaperones of Hsp90, and drugs and disease. I particularly enjoyed hearing about research into drugs such as Geldanamycin which can inhibit chaperone activity of Hsp90 and have implications for cancer treatment. Phase II trials showed that treating patients with Geldanamycin arrested the development of certain cancers including breast cancer.

All presentations were of an excellent standard and provoked great discussions amongst the attendees. New findings and models were presented which helped my understanding of the field and gave me ideas for future experiments. I now have a greater knowledge of my field and the direction in which chaperone research is moving. This has helped my PhD work experimentally, in formulating new ideas and theories of my own and in terms of writing my thesis.

Work presented during the poster sessions was predominantly new data. I found the poster sessions to be most beneficial as I had the opportunity to discuss science with people on a one-to-one basis. It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss current theories. Furthermore, I learnt about new experimental techniques and data which could have implications for my own work. I have definitely gained enthusiasm for my work and future experiments.

I presented my PhD work to date as a poster on the last day. I was discussing my work with colleagues throughout the entire 2.5 hour session and received great advice about my data. The feedback will help me with future investigations and in completing my PhD.

The EMBO Workshop and 2nd International Conference on the Hsp90 Chaperone Machine was a fantastic opportunity from which I have learnt so much. I hope to have developed potential collaborations for the lab and promoted our work successfully to the chaperone research community.