

2010 IUPHAR WorldPharma travel report

Craig Harrison

Monash University, Department of pharmacology

I am very grateful to ASCEPT for the opportunity to attend the 2010 IUPHAR WorldPharma conference. The meeting consisted of science from a broad range of pharmacological disciplines. Of particular interest to me were the 'Endothelium in health and disease' focused symposia. These sessions contained a large number of presentations focusing on the NADPH oxidases in vascular health and disease which directly relate to my research. One highlight of the conference was the opportunity to attend two seminars on free radicals and antioxidants by Professor Barry Halliwell. Prof Halliwell has made a vast contribution to this field over the past 30 years and his research has directly assisted in my understanding of the physiological balance between cellular free radical and antioxidant mechanisms.

At IUPHAR, I also had the opportunity to present my work on the tissue specific regulation and expression of Nox2 NADPH oxidases. The feedback I received was supportive, yet constructive, with interesting points coming from researchers in the 'immune cell and inflammation' field, which has steered some of my project into new and exciting directions.

In addition to attending the IUPHAR conference this travel grant supported my attendance to the 'Nox Family NADPH Oxidases' conference held in Switzerland and a visit to Professor Ajay Shah's laboratory at King's College London. The Nox conference was a much smaller and more specific meeting compared with WorldPharma and provided an opportunity to directly interact with many senior scientists whose research directly helped shape my current PhD project. My research drew a lot of interest from those in attendance and I am thankful I was able to attend this meeting.

As a final year PhD student, attendance at these meetings have helped me intellectualise my thesis and also significantly contributed to my enthusiasm for research as a whole. Finally, a sincere thank you to the ASCEPT council for the very generous financial support and I look forward to future meetings as a member of this society.