

The Restriction Digest

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Every year, the GSA funds graduate students traveling to conferences. As part of the deal, the travel awardees are required to write about their experiences. Since so many awardees have submitted articles, the Restriction Digest is publishing them in this Supplementary Volume. Enjoy!

Travel Essay By Jason Organ

With funding from GSA, I was able to attend the 74th annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA). The meeting, occurring from April 6 to April 10, 2005, took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Meeting in conjunction with the American Association of Anthropological Genetics, the American Dermatoglyphics Association, the Dental Anthropology Association, the Human Biology Association, the Paleoanthropology Society, the Paleopathology Association, and the Primate Biology and Behavior Interest Group, the AAPA meetings featured 651 podium/poster presentations with a total of nearly 1,250 authors participating.

In a session entitled Skeletal Biology III, I presented a poster entitled "Chewing biomechanics in *Sus scrofa*: how do mandibular cross-sectional properties and dental microwear compare along the tooth row?" co-authored with my two primary advisors, Drs. Chris Ruff and Mark Teaford, and with Dr. Richard Nisbett of Rice University. In that study, we examined bending strength properties of pig jaws in relation to the sizes of pits and scratches on those pigs' molars and

Travel Essay By Elizabeth Reichl

This past July, I went to a summer ASCB conference on cytokinesis. Cytokinesis is the process by which a mother cell divides to form two daughter cells. This was the first ASCB conference devoted entirely to cytokinesis. Cytokinesis has been an active area of research since the first microscopes were built and microscopic cells could be seen to divide. Remarkably, despite this long history, the fundamental mechanisms by which cells divide are still not well-understood.

The keynote speaker of the conference was Ray Rappaport. Dr. Rappaport has been a pioneer in the cytokinesis field since his first article was published in the *Journal of Experimental Zoology* in 1961. As noted by Thomas Pollard, Rappaport's studies established the fundamental rules for how the mitotic apparatus determines the position of the cleavage furrow (1). Remarkably, these insights were based on experiments that lacked many of the tools that are prerequisites for modern assays such as molecular biology, biochemistry, or even antibodies. Rappaport's main tools were an inverted microscope, a microforge, a centrifuge, micromanipulators, and his handmade observation chambers. This simple approach even extends today as Dr.

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premolars. The presentation was well attended and well received, and we are in the process of preparing it for publication.

As my research interests are heavily geared to bone-muscle interactions and their relations and responses to behavior, I was especially impressed with one particular symposium focusing on the anatomy, behavioral ecology, phylogeny, and conservation of callitrichine primates (Platyrrhini: marmosets and tamarins). In this symposium, featuring 13 posters, presentations ranged from a re-evaluation of callitrichine evolutionary history, to a comparative study of the kinematics of leaping in these animals, to an analysis of allometry and heterochrony in the evolution of skull shape, to an assessment of jaw-muscle fiber architecture in specialized tree-gouging marmosets. Making this symposium even more important was the fact that all of the research presented there was unpublished and up-to-date. During this symposium, I was able to interact with leading authorities in non-human primate bone and muscle histology, which eventually enabled to me to secure much of the material I will need for my future research. In all, this symposium was the highlight of my meeting.

Because this meeting was packed full of research presentations, there was very little time for exploring the city of Milwaukee. However, a group of us did find the time to visit the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, which is a complex of three "biodomes", each representing a different ecosystem with an array of plant life endemic to those ecosystems. One of the domes in particular, the Arid Dome, represents the deserts of Africa, Madagascar, North and South America, and houses one of the largest collections of cacti, succulents, and arid-land shrubs in the United States. All said, the trip to Milwaukee was an incredible experience, and the AAPA meetings this year were more beneficial for my particular research interests than they have in the past.

Rappaport's keynote speech was a "chalk-talk," given without the use of computer, much less powerpoint. One of the most striking aspects of the speech the demonstration of how simple hypotheses addressed by simple experiments can yield tremendous insight into how cells carryout intricate tasks.

The cytokinesis field (albeit from an insiders point-of-view) is one of the most varied, encompassing cell signaling, cell mechanics, and cell development. Indeed, a cell undergoing cytokinesis utilizes essentially all its machinery from membrane trafficking to nuclear transport (2,3). The meeting was especially valuable as it provided a "big-picture" view of the many different disciplines that are integral components of the cytokinesis field. Some of the major areas of study discussed at the meeting are microtubules, actin, and associated proteins. A call was made to standardize the protein nomenclature between species, which is a problem every graduate student faces. Another recurrent theme throughout the meeting was the need for more quantitative approaches in cytokinesis research. One of the reasons why cytokinesis is not better understood is because there is no available reconstitution system in order to analyze the role of each protein in the process.

The summer ASCB meeting at the University of Vermont was not all seminars and poster sessions for me. It also provided a time to meet the important figures in the field socially and to bond with the members of my lab. Lab members are somewhere at the intersection of coworkers, friends, and family. After braving the university's air-conditioning-free dormitories and enjoying the shopping and local brewery, we had formed stronger ties with one another. We came back from the meeting full of new ideas and questions as well as a greater respect for one another.

Travel Essay

By Sathya Ravichandran

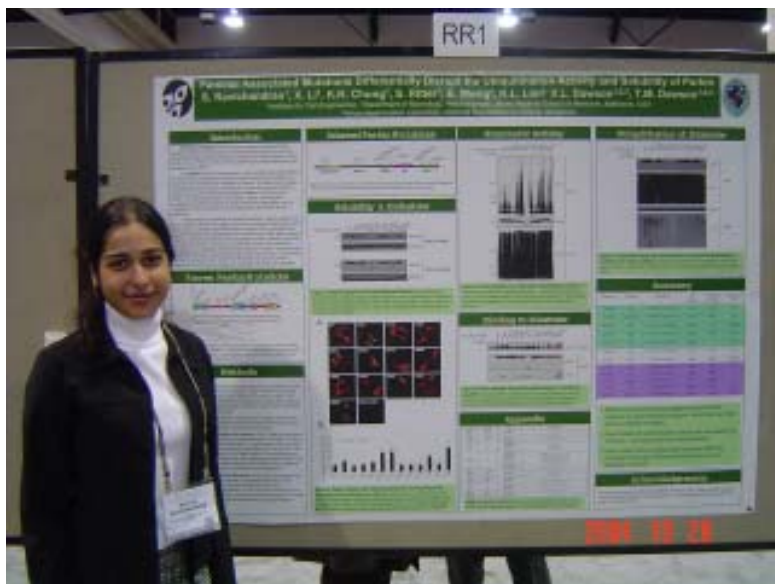
I attended the Society for Neuroscience conference from October 22 to 27 this year in San Diego. A fairly large conference, over 30,000 attendees from all over the world came together to share their work in neuroscience. An established tradition for several years now, a well-attended Neurobiology of Disease workshop was organized on October 21, with talks by eminent scientists – Dennis Selkoe, Virginia Lee, Richard Morimoto and Stuart Lipton – in the morning, followed by an afternoon discussion session on issues in the research of neurodegenerative diseases. While most data presented was already published, the workshop covered a vast range of subjects and was helpful in bringing the research in the field together. After a stimulating yet exhausting day in the workshop, Karen (fellow graduate student in my lab) and I decided to explore parts of the city and found ourselves walking in Old Town San Diego, with its unique festive ambience in the area, and the eclectic array of stores.

The highlights of the conference itself included an entertaining talk on fly genetics by veteran Seymour Benzer on Saturday, and a Presidential Symposium on neurodegeneration on Sunday, featuring talks on Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and

Huntington's disease. Further, dedicated poster sessions and talks in my area of interest (Parkinson's Disease, and Parkin) kept me busy through Monday, including my own poster presentation. Most researchers in the field were excited about the discovery of most recent gene that had been published the day before the conference began. Further, some new and interesting data were shown linking some of the PD-associated genes in similar pathways, and also linking environmental stresses to these genes, thus suggesting a link between the sporadic and genetic forms of the disease. There was keen interest in the genetics of Parkinson's disease, since they give us a starting point to studying the pathways that are disrupted in the disease that lead to neurodegeneration. Several people stopped by my poster on the disrupted functions of selected parkin point mutants and it was exciting to meet with scientists, who I had only known so far by name and publication!

San Diego was a fun city – one evening, some friends and I took the ferry across to Coronado Island and saw the sun set on the beach – it was one of the most beautiful sights I had ever seen. Restaurants in the Old Town area and Gas Lamp Quarter are fantastic, while there is a mall with a food court for lunches at reasonable prices. On one of the evenings, our lab went out for dinner – it was a good bonding experience to hang out with post-docs and graduate students outside of the lab.

While there was a sufficient focus on my area of research, the size of the meeting made it difficult to cover all the sessions that I wanted to attend; further, there was such an overdose of information that after the third day at the conference, it felt like the talks were getting repetitive. Attending a meeting of such a large size is good to get a broad overview of neuroscience, but I think I'd like to attend a smaller meeting in the future to get more out of the conference itself.



Travel Essay By Francois Therrien

The annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was held October 15-18 in St. Paul, Minnesota. This meeting attracts a large crowd of scientists from all over the world (usually around 1,000 people) who congregate to discuss new findings, establish new collaborations, and renew friendships, all of the above occurring as much at talk and poster sessions as well as at the local bars. Such a meeting is the ideal occasion for graduate students to rub elbows with professionals, learn about research and work opportunities, and of course share joyful and painful research-related stories with a sympathetic audience.

During those four days of October, talk and poster sessions succeed one another into a maelstrom of PowerPoint presentations, pictures, graphs, and text. Presentations address various aspects of paleobiological research, from the most recent discoveries of mammal and dinosaur specimens made during digs in far away lands to computer models that aim at reconstructing the appearance and behavior of long extinct organisms. Talks begin at 8 am, which is far too early to be able to focus clearly (especially if you hung out late the night before), and can go on until 5:45 pm.

The first day of the meeting consists in a series of symposia on specific paleontological topics with invited speakers. Unless one of the symposia is of particular interest to you, the first day is generally spent catching up with friends you haven't seen since the previous meeting. To maximize your chances of meeting people of interest, a reception is held on the first night. The reception is usually held at the local museum of natural history, which allows you to visit the exhibits at the same time as you enjoy drinks and good company (which is the best way to appreciate those exhibits in the first place!).

The following three days of the meeting consists in the general talk and poster sessions, where presentations addressing related topics are grouped together. The results presented vary from preliminary reports of ongoing research to results that are currently in press or updates on papers that have been recently published. Generally, the content of at least one or two presentations will make the headlines of newspapers or news reports in the weeks following the meeting.

One (after-hour) event warrants your attendance at this meeting: the auction night. The auction night, held on the second-to-last night, is the most entertaining evening of the meeting. A silent auction is held where anything from long-sought reprints or books to t-shirts and toys, all donated either by society members or sponsors, are sold. The 2 hour-long silent auction culminates in the final 5 minutes where people compete and overbid one another for the object of their desire. Following the silent auction comes the long-awaited event of the evening, the live auction. This is the time when a few members of the society, after having ingested a decent amount of alcohol, climb on stage and proceed to sell great merchandise, such as extremely rare books or casts of specimens, and make fun of various people, including themselves. This is an event that cannot be missed.

Finally, a free banquet is held on the last night of the meeting, before everybody flies back home. Excellent food accompanied by flowing alcohol ensures that quite a few humorous stories will happen and will be the topic of gossip for several meetings to come. Good times, ah yes, good times...

Travel Essay By Anne Marie Boustani

The Association of Medical Illustrators is an organization that provides services for medical illustrators in North America. Every year, the AMI hosts a conference in a designated city. This year's meeting was held in New Orleans, LA. As you can imagine, nobody really wants to pass up a chance to hang out in New Orleans, so the meeting was very well-attended. I'm not too good at estimating, but I'll guess 200 people were in attendance.

The AMI is an organization that serves to educate, enrich, and support its members, students and professionals alike. At the annual conference, there are usually several days of events. One of the most interesting is a techniques festival in which some of the most admired artists demonstrate techniques they use to create some of their trademark illustrations. One of those artists is Fred Harwin. He creates beautifully detailed illustrations of the anatomy of the eye. In fact, he was the subject of a short documentary film called the "Ocularist" that competed in the Sundance festival. In addition to artistic techniques, new technologies that are available on the market are introduced. For example, demonstrations of 3D animation programs and the "CINTIQ" tablet used for computer illustrations are just a few of the new modes of creating and designing medical illustrations.

One of the most helpful seminars for a new illustrator is one in which a panel of four established freelance illustrators share their business savvy. This session is quite helpful in allowing illustrators to get an idea of how other illustrators establish and maintain successful freelance businesses. These illustrators shared how they get clients and keep them, archive their illustrations, find accountants, and write contracts, etc. There are so many aspects to having a freelance business that this session is, in my opinion, one of the most practical and useful.

In general, medical illustrators don't shy away from fun, and there was a lot of it to be had in New Orleans. Whether it was leisurely walks along the Garden District or a romping good time at a Jazz Club off Bourbon St., medical illustrators did it with zest and enthusiasm. I have to say, though, that one of the best things about belonging to an organization like the AMI and attending these annual conferences, is that I can meet and become friends with other illustrators from all over the country. I feel a sense of camaraderie and friendship that energizes me when I get back to work. The people I met for the first time last year were like old friends this year, and I think those kinds of connections serve the field of medical illustration well. I feel like I can contact fellow illustrators and ask questions about anything from computer glitches to intellectual property laws, and that is important in a field that changes so often.

Travel Essay By Amy Chew

The annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology convened this year in St. Paul, MN, from Oct. 15-19. The conference was held in the Radisson Riverfront Hotel, overlooking the Mississippi river. We were lucky, enjoying beautiful weather in the few moments we could snatch from the conference to explore the city. The hotel was beautiful but the food was expensive, forcing many of the graduate students in attendance to try some of the surrounding restaurants. St. Paul is charming, dotted with statues of Peanuts cartoon characters (similar to the Baltimore fish), in celebration of the birthplace of Charles Shultz. Our hotel was right in the city's center, surrounded by beautiful churches, stately government buildings, and of course, the NPR broadcast center. Many of the more modern business buildings are joined by a complex trail of glassed-in walkways, presumably to protect pedestrians from harsh winter weather.

The conference began with talks in three special symposia on Wednesday at 8am, running until late in the afternoon. That evening, there was an opening reception in the Science Museum of Minnesota, a few blocks from the hotel. The intricate, interactive exhibits on basic physical concepts for children provided much entertainment for conference-goers as did the excellent natural history exhibits, featuring a few of the more well-known fossil creatures. Talks began in earnest Thursday and ran through until Saturday afternoon, with enormous poster sessions in the late afternoons of Thursday and Friday. I presented a poster on the evolutionary patterns of the earliest fossil horses, which my advisor and his colleagues and students have been collecting from the central Bighorn Basin in Wyoming for more than thirty years. Last minute printing problems (blame new technology at Kinkos!) forced me to present a poster nearly a squared foot smaller than I had planned. This unexpected size reduction led to very small text and figures, which was unfortunate as my sample included 16,363 specimens and I had a lot to say about them. But it wasn't as bad as I had thought and I had many people stop by my poster both during and after my scheduled session.

Friday evening, we headed back to the Science Museum for our society's annual auction. Both a silent and live auction of donated materials yearly raises thousands of dollars that will be dedicated to education outreach programs. The auction is well-known for the goofy costumes and pranks of the auctioneers, and this year was quite entertaining. The turnout was excellent and a lot of money was raised for the cause. On Saturday evening, the closing banquet was held in the Radisson's ballroom. The food was excellent with free bottles of wine at each table. The society gives out several annual prizes and awards at the banquet. Speeches by the recipients of this year's honors were short but gracious. There is always a lot of lively conversation and cheer at the annual banquet and for the last few years we have had some post-banquet dancing. This year was no exception, and the dancing lasted until 2am. Conference goers straggled back to their respective homes on Sunday tired and hung-over, but with many fond memories of this year's conference and inspired by excellent talks and conversation to renew and refine research efforts during the year to come.

Science, Sun & Fun By Ronald P. Jean

For a graduate student, summer is the ideal time for research: no teaching, no courses, just uninterrupted time for benchwork. Unfortunately, as happens more often than not, experiments go wrong, the long summer days are spent in lab, and the monotony of tasks all put you in the doldrums (actually, this happens all year long, but it's felt most poignantly in the summer). Knowing well beforehand that I had to break up the tedium of my summer research, I signed up to attend a conference in late June. What a good decision.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Summer Bioengineering Conference was held at the Sonesta Key Biscayne Resort, just south of Miami. As one would expect, the topics were of a broad biomechanical nature, including tissue engineering, cardiovascular mechanics, bone mechanics, and bio-MEMS. The number of attendees was around a thousand, so grabbing a meal or getting around was not as difficult as it would be at larger conferences. Sessions consisted mainly of talks, with posters reserved for the undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D.-level competitions (though it was possible for students to get a talk). Most of the research presented at the podium sessions was either published or presented before, so if you're in an established research area and have been to another conference in the past few months, you'll see the same cast of characters. However, most of the big names in each of these biomechanics subfields show up, and given the generous breaks, you can talk to them to get some excellent feedback on your research. These leading scientists are also very approachable here, probably due to the relaxed, tropical atmosphere.

Activities near the conference were abundant. For those who just wanted to stay at the resort, there was a spa, pool, and tennis court, not to mention the expansive beachfront touching the sparkling turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean. With Miami only 10-15 minutes away, those who wanted to visit the many shops, restaurants, and clubs of that chic city could easily do so. Of course, the true gems of southern Florida are its natural attractions, and those nature lovers willing to travel a few hours were grandly rewarded. To the west of Key Biscayne is the expansive Everglades national park where visitors can see alligators, rare birds, unique plants, and – if you're lucky – the endangered Florida panther. Heading southwest from Key Biscayne, one arrives at the Florida Keys, renowned for their underwater reefs, great fishing, and locals' carefree attitude.

The bottom line is that this was a great conference! The meeting site was a great location with many things to do both in and around Key Biscayne. There were ample opportunities to have interesting discussions with leading researchers – about your research! The best thing for me, though, was returning to the lab and not regretting my week of absence. Not at all.

Travel Essay

Jennifer Dunston

This past summer I had the opportunity to travel to Chester, England for the first Nail Patella Syndrome (UK) conference. Nail Patella Syndrome (NPS) has an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance and is typically characterized by nail dysplasia, absent/hypoplastic patellae, elbow dysplasia and exostoses of the ilia (iliac horns). Attending this meeting was an opportunity for me to give an educational talk on genetics and to collect patient data. Yet, I nearly didn't make it to Chester.

It all started the day before I was scheduled to leave. I stupidly left the headlights on in my car after parking in the Fallsway lot. When my car failed to start, I realized that I needed a jump-start. Luckily, I own a set of jumper cables and was able to find someone to help me start my car. Unfortunately, once the car was started, I couldn't get my hood to latch shut. After multiple attempts, I gave up and drove 25 miles home to Abingdon on the safety latch. My husband fixed the latch that evening and I didn't give it a second thought.

Since my plane to England didn't leave until the evening, I spent the morning running errands around town. When I took my luggage out to the car to go to the airport, I noticed that the hood had popped up again. I couldn't get it to close and didn't know what to do. I figured that I had made it home the previous day, so I should be able to make the 35 mile trip to the airport.

As I was driving down the highway, I noticed that the hood was violently shaking. It could have flown up at any moment. Luckily, I made it to the Whitemarsh exit and pulled into the Exxon station. The repairman assured me that I could not drive to the airport but he would be willing to repair my car and keep it for me until I returned from my trip. Thankfully, my husband was able to rescue me and drive me to the airport.

I just made my plane, so it wasn't a surprise when my luggage didn't make it all the way to England. You might think that the first thing on my agenda once I

arrived would be to check out the historical aspects of the town. Maybe I should have visited the Grosvenor Museum or gone on a walking tour of the Roman walls. Instead, I went shopping. In addition to being an old Roman town, Chester is known for its wonderful shops. I was able to spend the \$50 allotted by the airline and found a few good bargains including a pair of GAP jeans for 15 GBP.

My luggage did arrive the next day. By that point, it seemed like I had over packed for the trip, since I had only one more day left. At least I had something nice to wear for the conference, which was the reason that I was in Chester. The day of the conference, I gave my talk. I walked up to the front of the room, and introduced myself to the audience. Then, I proceeded to give information pertaining to the diagrams on my slides, which explained the process of turning genes on and converting DNA sequence to a protein machine. I also covered the topic of autosomal dominant inheritance. For the remainder of the day I took digital photographs of patient's hands. I enjoyed talking with the patients and am thankful for their participation in my research. Without the help of the NPS patients, my thesis research would not have been possible.

For information on Nail Patella Syndrome and the UK conference, check out the following web sites: www.nps.uk.org and http://www.geocities.com/nailpatella_syndrome_worldwide/nonprofit.html.



A good example of an individual with "severe" nail dysplasia (Often, only the thumb and index finger are affected). You can see changes such short, narrow nails and nails divided by a cleft of skin. As usual, the severity of the dysplasia is symmetrical between the right and left hand.

Travel Essay

Tonya Penkrot

This year's meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) was held at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota from Wednesday, October 15 to Saturday, October 18, 2003. I am a fourth-year Ph. D. student, and this was my third SVP meeting (the other two being Bozeman, Montana, in 2001, and Norman, Oklahoma, in 2002).

Except for the venue, of course, this year's SVP proceeded much like those of previous years: Most meeting participants arrived at the meeting on the Tuesday (October 14) before the conference actually began to socialize with colleagues in the bar. As in past years, the first day of the meeting (Wednesday, October 15) consisted of a day of various symposia. This year's topics included: "Evolutionary Transitions among Vertebrates" and the Preparators' Symposium in the morning, and "High-latitude Mesozoic and Cenozoic Vertebrates: Evolution, Paleoclimate, and Paleogeography" and "Biomineralization: Patterns, Processes, and Analysis of Modern and Fossil Vertebrate Skeletal Tissues" in the afternoon. The first social event of the meeting also occurs on the Wednesday evening—the welcome reception. This event was held at the Science Museum of Minnesota, and included service of some light food and multiple cash bars.

The first major difference between this year's SVP and those of previous years was the combining of the Romer Prize Session and the Plenary Session. The Plenary Session of talks, unopposed by any other session or event in the SVP schedule, typically takes place on the second morning of the conference (Thursday), and usually consists of presentations given by "established" names in the world of SVP. This year, however, the unopposed Plenary Session was instead also the Romer Prize Session—the session of talks given by recently-finished master's and doctoral students on their respective projects. Each year, the talk from the Romer session judged to be the best based upon scientific merit and presentation quality is awarded the Society's Romer Prize (named after vertebrate paleontology great Alfred S. Romer). Making the Romer Prize Session unopposed in the conference schedule worked well and

allowed meeting participants to more easily see talks presented by the society's best and brightest young researchers. The remainder of Thursday consisted of three concurrent talk sessions, the first poster session, and the student poster session.

A second difference between this year's SVP and those of previous years was aimed directly toward students. The student reprint exchange, at which undergraduate and graduate members of SVP were allowed to pick out recent reprints by more senior SVP members for free, took place on Thursday evening and was an unexpectedly huge success. The response from SVP student members was clearly greater than expected by those who arranged the event (judging by the size of the room in which it was held). At the same time as the reprint exchange, students could also take advantage of the roundtable forum, at which persons knowledgeable on particular topics (such as applying to graduate school or starting your own field project) could answer students' questions.

The Friday of the conference (October 17) consisted of three concurrent day-long sessions of talks, as well the second poster session. On that morning I gave my first talk at a professional meeting, entitled "Postcrania of early Eocene *Apheliscus* and *Haplomylus* (Mammalia: Condylarthra)," in which my collaborators (Shawn Zack, Ken Rose (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine), and Jon Bloch (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology)) reported on postcranial evidence for the earliest known macroscelideans (elephant shrews) from the early Eocene of Wyoming, ~55 million years ago. I received quite a bit of feedback on my presentation both at the meeting and after my return to Baltimore. As always, the Friday evening of the conference ended with the annual SVP auction, which includes both a silent and a live auction.

Saturday, October 18, was the final day of the conference and consisted of day-long concurrent talk sessions and the Awards Banquet in the evening. This year's awards banquet was somewhat briefer than in past years, and there were a few technical difficulties involving PowerPoint, but otherwise the final evening of the conference was a pleasant occasion with plenty of socializing.

Travel Essay

By Megan Lindsay

Woods Hole, Massachusetts. It has been called a scientists' Mecca. It was also the site of the first Kinetoplastid Cell and Molecular Biology Conference. In previous years, Woods Hole has hosted the Molecular Parasitology meeting in September; however, in recent years this meeting has become increasingly focused on malaria research. For this reason, a smaller group of parasitologists, those that study the kinetoplastid species *Trypanosoma brucei*, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, and *Leishmania* species, decided to form their own meeting. The advantage of this was a much smaller group (about 200 participants) and since there weren't overlapping sessions, one could (theoretically) attend every talk. Eleven people, including my P.I. Paul Englund, attended this meeting, making us the largest group there to come from a single lab. Everyone had posters except for two senior graduate students who each gave 15 minute talks.

It was a great opportunity to meet people in the small, close-knit field of kinetoplastid biology. The talks and posters ranged from very basic science (such as the those from our lab discussing fatty acid synthesis and kinetoplast DNA replication) to translational research. Several groups were examining current drug therapies, as well as investigating new drug targets to help combat the devastating diseases caused by these organisms—African sleeping sickness, Chagas disease, and Leishmaniasis. I found these talks particularly interesting since they were so



different from my own work and reminded me of the impact of these organisms on human health, particularly in developing countries. Many of the more basic topics were fascinating as well, such as telomeric silencing and cell cycle regulation in trypanosomes.

Since it's a small, friendly field, there was a lot of unpublished data presented at this meeting, which was nice. However, there are a few labs that compete directly, which kept things interesting as some heated debate followed some of the more controversial talks.

My poster was on kDNA replication, a process studied by only a handful of labs. During my poster session, I didn't get a huge amount of traffic, but I did have a few in-depth, productive conversations. The people I talked to seemed genuinely interested in my work and offered good suggestions.

Woods Hole is a beautiful place, but I'm sure it's much more pleasant when it's warm. Yes, it's still winter in Massachusetts, but even still there's something very pleasant about being near the ocean. On our last full day, during our sole block of free time, a few of us took a walk to a nearby lighthouse, which was on a point of land surrounded on three sides by water. It was lovely.

I had a great time at this meeting. I especially enjoyed meeting people who I had previously known only as names on papers. In addition, since I'll be returning to Woods Hole in June for the Biology of Parasitism course, it gave me a chance to see the place where I'll be spending the summer. Meetings such as this, as well as the upcoming course at Woods Hole, will play a huge role in determining if I will remain in parasitology for my future career.

EDITORS:

Jaime Cheah
jcheah@jhmi.edu
Megan Lindsay
mlindsay@jhmi.edu
Lai Hock Tay
ltay@bme.jhu.edu

<http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/gsa/news.html>