



Laboratory of *Drosophila* Research
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
5th Anniversary 2002-2007



My LDR life

At the beginning of my last year in college, I fortunately joined LDR to carry out my final year project. LDR was a very young fly lab. The “young” has two meanings. First of all, LDR had a group of young researchers led by a young “Sir”, Dr. Chan. Secondly, all LDRians were young spiritually: everyone was working hard and enthusiastic about science and flies. In such a young, special lab, I received a great scientific training under the guidance of Dr. Chan and the labmates.

During the period, I experienced a lot of joys and frustrations. The most joyful period in LDR was during the meeting where a number of scientists from all over the world gathered in CUHK and presented a lot of interesting research findings. Those famous scientists motivated me to determine that I wanted to be as wise, knowledgeable and diligent as they were. The most down moment for me was right before the Spring Festival when I had a bad experimental failure. I was trying to obtain Co-IP results for the *in vivo* interaction between DBE and DFMR1. One experiment required around 800 fly heads, which took about three hours. However, when I was transferring the proteins from SDS-PAGE to the membrane using dry transfer, I mistakenly used the voltage for wet transfer (the voltage for wet transfer is 6 times higher than that for dry transfer). Consequently, my membrane was completely destroyed. Oh, my 800 heads!

I am now studying at the University of Minnesota. Interestingly, my special association with flies continues here. I luckily joined a fly lab here which focuses on the roles of TGF- β signaling during fruitfly development. Thanks to the training I received in LDR, I could not only apply a lot of techniques to my current study but also carry out independent and rational scientific thinking for my project. At this special moment, the fifth birthday of LDR, I want to express my sincere gratitude to LDR. Thank you for helping me accomplish nicely my first step in my scientific life.

By Ye Ying, Stephanie