

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Biochemistry

Dedicated Research Exchange and Mentorship (DREAM) Programme 2010

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Project title: Protein study on post-translational modification

After Trip Report

Through DREAM program, I am able to leave for the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio and do research under the supervision of Dr Michael Chan. After almost 3 months of work, I have not only gained invaluable research experience, but also had a taste on foreign living style.

The place I went to is the capital of Ohio State. Although it is the capital, it is totally different from any big and famous cities. It is spacious without lots of shopping malls or great mansions instead of lots of fields. Apart from the difference in environment, the living style is less stressful there. Unlike HK people who work very hard even work on Saturday, people there would spare some time for having party especially on every Friday night to play and talk with their friends.

To the research I worked on, protein expression, crystallization and the buildup of expression library are included. Although they sound simple, the practical is much more complicated. Of course, in the process, I have met lots of obstacle which had made me upset. Luckily, my helpful and friendly supervisor and co-workers helped me a lot to get rid of many difficulties and taught me lots of advanced technique to overcome the problems. I can, therefore, achieve my goal on the research projects eventually. Besides, they also helped me a lot to get familiar with the place and with daily life. This allows me to recognize their living more deeply.

Above all, I have gained so much in this program. I am pretty sure this experience can help me in my future study even in seeking for a position in the graduate school.

我通過是次交流計劃，能有幸去到美國俄亥俄洲立大學跟隨陳教授進行蛋白研究。在研究過程中，我不但學到保貴的研究經驗，而且能透過是次機會體會當地的生活習慣及文化。

所到的哥倫布市，雖然名為俄亥俄洲的首府，卻與其他有名的大城市有著天壤之別。當地並不像一般大地市般有著高樓大廈，反而被很多田野圍繞。除了環境差異，當地人亦較港人更懂享受生活。他們不如港人那麼拼搏，很少會工作至夜深，亦很少會在星期六工作。他們反而會預留更多的時間舉行派對，這情況特別能在星期五晚看見。

至於研究工作方面，我主要負責淨化蛋白，設置蛋白結晶和建立蛋白表達庫。過程中少不免遇到挫折和感到沮喪，但興幸地，當地的研究生都能給予我無限的幫助，並教導我從不同角度解決問題，讓我最終都能得到所需的實驗結果。此外，他們又向我分享當地的文化及協助我適應當地的環境，進一步讓我認識美國的文化。

總括而言，在這次交流，我的得著真的遠多於負出，而我確信這些得著可以成為我日後研究及報讀研究院的基石吧！