

Conference report

With the travel grant provided by Analytical Division of North West Region (NWR-AD), I had the chance to present a poster in Mass spectrum Europe 2010 in Florence. The conference is held at the same time with other three conferences related to protein, biomarker and metabolism in the same conference centre. Which make the conference more useful in terms of meeting people from different background and getting inspired with new idea. The most important thing I learned from the conference is to deliver the useful information of my work precisely, concisely to attract the attention of the people interested. Meanwhile, I used A4 handouts as complement of my poster to strengthen the information and provide the contact details. I would also pay attention to other people's work and find out if there is possibility to collaborate or the new idea to improve my work. As a result, Dr. Emanuela Camera in Istituto Dermatologico San Gallicano (IRCCS) and I had a nice talk during the poster session about the applying our technique to her research model, and we have made few contacts after the conference regarding the preliminary collaboration. The other thing I've learnt is being confident to talk with the main speakers and professors regarding the academic questions and find out potential job opportunities. I think it is effective way to win more time to talking to the speakers by leaving the questions after the talk and ask during the break and networking time. The strategy helped me to get useful information about the proteins from a professor and some people doing related work and knew the new technique to analyse and identify it. Although, I have not found the job opportunities, but I am sure the experience and confidence I had now will finally get me some good opportunity. Meanwhile, I really appreciate the chance to explore the Renaissance centre of Europe. After the intensive schedule of the conference, I got a few hours to explore the famous museums and the city centre. I was totally obsessed by the architecture and the intense culture environment of Florence.

I would like to thank NWR-AD for the funding. I had a very productive time in Florence, not only been filled with latest development of the related area, being confident to talking with people effectively and arrived at potential collaboration, but also been immersed into the beauty and art of the Florence.