

### **Travel and Conference Participation**

Participant: Erica Crone.      Project: Characterisation of a potential insecticidal transgene.

Organisation: CSIRO Entomology.

Travel Destination: Gene and genome duplications and the evolution of novel gene functions conference. Aussios, France.

The primary purpose of the travel was to attend the "Gene and genome duplications and the evolution of novel gene functions" conference which was held in Aussios, France from the 25/4/2001 to the 30/4/2001. The conference was attended mainly by scientists based in America and Europe, consisting of no more than 150 attendants. The conference allowed me to present my work, in the form of a poster presentation, and to discuss both the work that I have completed and that which I am still planning to undertake as part of my PhD project. I found the chance of discussing my work and ideas with members of the wider scientific community a very worthwhile opportunity.

I was also given the opportunity to spend several days at the laboratory of Professor B. Hammock at the University of California at Davis. Prof. Hammock heads a laboratory which is heavily involved in researching juvenile hormone (JH) and juvenile hormone esterase (JHE). As my project is investigating the potential use of a juvenile hormone esterase as an insecticidal transgene Dr Hammock's research is directly applicable to my project. While there I gave a presentation to Prof. Hammock's research group. After this presentation I was able to discuss the ideas behind my project and current laboratory techniques with different members of the laboratory.

Whilst in England I was able to visit the laboratories of Drs Lin Field and Graham Moores at The Institute of Arable Crops Research (IACR Rothamsted). Drs Field and Moores' work focuses on insecticide resistance and insect responses to pheromones and host plants. It was interesting to discuss my project with research scientists who come from different focus points, a genetics and a biochemical focus, as my project tries to span both these disciplines. I also visited the laboratory of Dr Charles Claudianos at Imperial College, London. Dr Claudianos has a pre-existing interest in the work on JHE in *D. melanogaster* as well as a good working knowledge of bioinformatic techniques. The information gained from each of these visits will be extremely helpful for the completion of my project.