

“International Student Research Forum 2014”

The International Student Research Forum 2014 was held on Sunday, June 1st - Thursday, June 5th 2014. It was hosted by The University of Southern Denmark, in Odense, which is known as the birthplace of the fairy tale author, Hans Christian Andersen. This forum is hosted in turn by the 6 core university members from Japan, China, the USA, England, Russia and Denmark. The operation and procedures are all carried out by graduate students. This forum seeks to stimulate graduate student research and training by giving students a chance to present and discuss their research in a group of elite international peers, with the scientific sessions chaired by the students themselves.

5 graduate students participated from IMSUT this year. They not only made oral presentations about their research results, but were provided with time to discuss their poster presentations. Conducted tours to Egeskov Castle and the HCA Museum were also included in the schedule, and the students had a great opportunity to see the cultural aspects of Denmark. All students returned home safely. A participating student said, "The presentations from each country were very unique, and we did not just learn about the theory or ways for research and presentation, but learnt how to ask questions in English. We managed to exchange information with students from other countries about many issues we had in common and I feel this experience was very worthwhile." The participants from the 6 nations did not just make exchange about their research, but also made cultural exchange, and all the participants greatly enjoyed their stay in Denmark.

The University of Aberdeen, from Scotland, has newly joined as a core member from this year, and is planned to host the forum in 2015, for the 11th International Student Research Forum.



“International Student Research Forum 2013”

The International Student Research Forum 2013 was held on Monday, October 14th - Wednesday, October 16th 2013. It was hosted by Griffith University, in Gold Coast, Australia. The operation and procedures are all carried out by graduate students. This forum seeks to stimulate graduate student research and training by giving students a chance to present and discuss their research in a group of elite international peers, with the scientific sessions chaired by the students themselves. In this year, 9 graduate students participated from IMSUT.



“International Student Research Forum 2012”

The International Student Research Forum 2012 was held on Tuesday, August 7th - Thursday, August 9th 2012. It was hosted by University of Nebraska Medical Center, in Omaha. The operation and procedures are all carried out by graduate students. This forum seeks to stimulate graduate student research and training by giving students a chance to present and discuss their research in a group of elite international peers, with the scientific sessions chaired by the students themselves. In this year, 8 graduate students participated from IMSUT.



“International Student Research Forum 2011”

International Student Research Forum 2011 (ISRF 2011), the seventh in a series of annual forums that began in 2005, was held in Tokyo from Oct 11 through Oct. 14. Altogether 38 Ph.D. course students from China, Nebraska (USA), Australia and Japan presented their research, and 9 faculty/administration members from the three overseas institutions also attended. This year's ISRF was hosted by IMSUT, which last hosted the forum in 2007. Student participants and accompanying faculty/administration members were housed at the National Olympic Memorial Youth Center (NYC), where the scientific sessions were also held. While not luxurious, the room accommodations, meeting halls and cafeteria at NYC were clean, comfortable and fully adequate for housing the forum under cost-conscious circumstances. The only substantial disadvantage of the venue was its location near Sangūbashi Station along the Odakyū Odawara Line, which precluded IMSUT nonparticipants from casually dropping in on any of the superb scientific sessions.

The meeting commenced with an orientation session the evening of Oct. 11, followed by an opening ceremony the next morning at which Prof. Kiyono, IMSUT Dean, welcomed all the participants from overseas. Following opening comments, the students split into two concurrent scientific sessions, while the faculty and administrative representatives of IMSUT, the Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS), the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and Griffith University (GU) huddled nearby to discuss the future of the ISRF. UNMC's Keith Swarts announced that they will host the forum in August 2012, and GU's Thomas Toh confirmed that they will host the following year. Prof. Xiangbin Zhu, who is Assistant President of GUCAS, emphasized how difficult it is to pick only 10 students from altogether 32 separate Chinese Academy of Sciences institutes. Keith Swarts agreed to accept more GUCAS participants next year in Omaha.

The scientific sessions covered a diverse range of topics in biomedical science and beyond. The broad range of biomedical fields added to the challenge of presentation; in addition to the challenge of presenting in English, students had to provide additional explanation and describe their research using terms that could be understood by a broad audience. But in the future, these same students will have to describe the importance of their work to the general public, and this forum provided good training. Judging by the high quality of the ensuing Q&A sessions, the students succeeded in communicating their results, and the significance of their works. Yu Mu, student leader of the GUCAS delegation, who himself gave a highly memorable talk, commented afterwards that following a talk on liver stem cell proliferation by Keiichi Ito of IMSUT, he could scarcely sleep that night as the possibilities swirled through his mind.

IMSUT Students and the overseas student delegation leaders played a major role in planning and running the forum. This role included determining the order of speakers and assembling the abstracts booklet, chairing the scientific sessions, choosing the destinations for the social excursion held on the afternoon of Oct. 13, and emceeing the closing reception, which included an exchange of mementos selected by the students. Involvement in these aspects of the forum is an integral aspect of training future scientific leaders.



“International Student Research Forum 2010”

The 6th annual ISRF was held September 26~28, hosted this year by the Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS) at their Yuquanlu campus in Beijing. This forum seeks to stimulate graduate



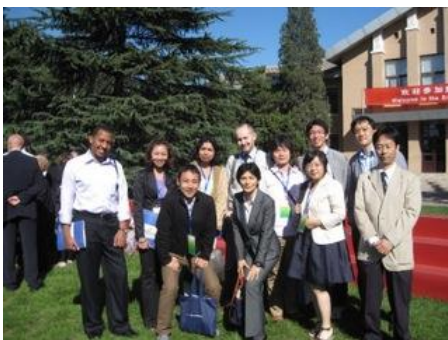
student research and training by giving students a chance to present and discuss their research in a group of elite international peers, with the scientific sessions chaired by the students themselves.



This year 8 graduate students pursuing biomedical research at the University of Tokyo's Institute of Medical Science (IMSUT) and Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST) attended the meeting.

ISRF hosting duties rotate among the four core member institutions of this forum: GUCAS, The University of Tokyo (spearheaded by IMSUT), the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), and Griffith University in Australia. The forums intersperse social events with serious science; this year's participants enjoyed a visit together to China's Great Wall.

Feedback from our students was highly enthusiastic, and all felt they had been treated warmly, despite a backdrop of political tensions that happened to coincide with the forum. Many students said they had made new friends and plan to maintain contact. Such exchange and training opportunities are precious; IMSUT will be able to demonstrate its firm commitment next year when it is our turn to host again.



“International Student Research Forum 2009”

This year's International Student Research Forum (ISRF 2009) was held at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus from Sunday Nov. 22 through Nov. 26. This forum gives graduate students from Japan, China, the USA and Australia an opportunity to meet each other, present their research and learn from the research presentations of other students, and also provides student leaders with experience in organizing and chairing of the sessions.

Although expanded and renamed, this forum is a direct descendent of the GUCAS-UT Student Forum in IMSUT, which was hosted at the University of Tokyo's Shirokanedai campus in October 2005. The core member institutions now include Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS), the University of Tokyo, spearheaded by the Institute of Medical Science (IMSUT), the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and Griffith University (GU), the fastest growing university in Australia. The scientific sessions took place on Nov. 23 and 24, following an opening session, in which faculty heads of the visiting delegations provided brief words of greeting. Prof. Hiroshi Kiyono, vice dean of IMSUT, spoke these words on behalf of the University of Tokyo. From among many student applicants, the 5 students chosen on the basis of their scientific achievements and motivation to represent the University of Tokyo were Mr. Ryo Hatano (D2), Ms. Hanako Morikawa (D2), Mr. Yoshiaki Tanaka (D2), Mr. Kohsuke Yamazaki (D3) and Dr. YingBing Deng (D4).

Although the main focus of the meeting was biomedical, a few presentations fell in the realm of ecology, and one fascinating talk even covered a gene that inhibits male-male courtship behavior in fruit flies. In addition, since it was the first time for Griffith University to host, several of their faculty gave short overview talks about their research. Their achievements included development of influenza virus inhibitors (Prof. Mark von Itzstein), isolation of pluripotent stem cells from adult rat nose tissue (Prof. Alan Mackay-Sim) and analysis of why drugs that work in the laboratory to reduce heart tissue damage when blood flow is resumed following a myocardial infarction are unsuccessful in the clinic (Prof. John Headrick).

Aside from the scientific sessions, there were visits to two research institutes of Griffith University, and activities to cultivate personal ties and cultural appreciation. Two of the most noteworthy among these were an welcoming barbecue with Australian aborigine dancers and a visit to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, where it was possible to hand-feed kangaroos, and have one's photograph taken cuddling a koala. Student

travel expenses were covered by the IMSUT/RCAST Global COE Program.



“International Student Research Forum 2008”

The 5th annual ISRF was held from May 31st through June 6th, 2008, hosted by University of Nebraska Medical Center at their campus in Omaha. This forum seeks to stimulate graduate student research and training by giving students a chance to present and discuss their research in a group of elite international peers, with the scientific sessions chaired by the students themselves.



This year 4 graduate students and one faculty member attended the meeting from IMSUT. ISRF hosting duties rotate among the core member institutions of this forum.

List of Participants for the 5th

University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)

Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS)

Moscow State University (MSU) &

Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS)

Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India (PGIMER)

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, University of Melbourne (WEHI) &

Australian Academy of Science (AAS)

Institute of Medical Science, the University of Tokyo (IMSUT)

