

# Meeting Report

International Student Research Forum August 7-9, 2012

**Mei Po Chan,** Division of Infectious Genetics

The ISRF this year was held in Nebraska of United States. It comprised of students from 4 different countries (United States, China, Australia and Japan), presenting their research projects in a variety of fields, such as immunology, cancer and bioinformatics. In addition to academic discussions, the hosting students from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) had also arranged many interesting and special programs for us.

The presentation sessions lasted for 2 days within the whole trip. Although short in duration, I had the chance to study from other students' research works and to know what research projects are going on in my own field (immunology), as well as in fields that are not familiar to me. Besides, through the presentation, I could discuss and receive comments from fellow students. It was overall a valuable experience for me. Below is a picture we took at UNMC for the participating IMSUT members.



Apart from the presentations, we also had chances to experience the lives in Nebraska. We were taken to a jazz concert in a park, a baseball game by local baseball team, and some places for dining. During this few days, we

have many opportunities to interact with other students. For me, I had talked with students from UNMC, Australia and China as well, roughly around 20 students in total. Through the conversation, we got to know each other's daily lives, mode of study, etc. We were also invited by other student groups to drink or dine at night. It was fun to meet them.

For me, I think the best experience in this forum was to know more people, and also to experience the life of staying in United States. The baseball game impressed me most among all the activities we had. It was my first time to watch a baseball game on-site. The food served there was also delicious. I enjoyed it very much. In addition, the friendship that we established between the IMSUT participating members this time was also invaluable. It is an unforgettable experience in my life.

Here shows another picture that we had taken at the closing ceremony, the UNMC staff standing among us was one a member of the organizing committee for the ISRF2012.



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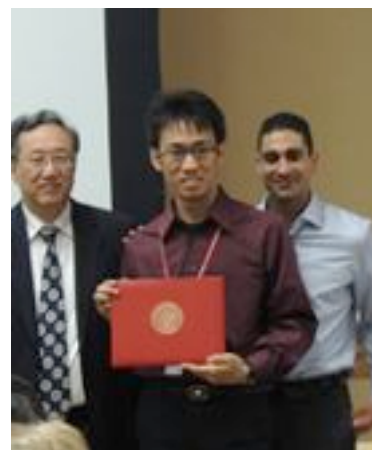
International Student Research Forum  
August 7-9, 2012

**Takeshi Ito,** Division of Molecular Pathology

The 8th International Student Research Forum (ISRF) was held August 5-10, 2012 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha, NE, USA. Hosting of this yearly forum rotates among four universities, namely, IMSUT, UNMC, the Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing, China), and Griffith University (Brisbane, Australia). This year ISRF was represented by 75 students from seven universities including Tongji University (Shanghai, China), Shanghai Jiaotong University (Shanghai, China), and Shandong University (Jinan, China) in addition to the four universities. Each of the eight graduate students from the University of Tokyo made a 15-minute oral presentation in this forum.

This forum is intended for giving us an opportunity to come into contact with overseas students through the mutual presentation and discussion of our research, with the sessions being chaired by the students ourselves. All students in our delegation, with guidance from their own labs as well as coaching by Dr. Robert Whittier, delivered

their presentations successfully. However, more aggressive and less hesitant participation in the discussions was to be wished for. In addition, fortunately I had a chance to drink and talk with the students from UNMC, Griffith University, and Tongji University about our research, life, and so on. We became friends right away and promised we would meet again. It is a precious experience to have become acquainted with elite foreign researchers, so I will make an effort to keep in touch with



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them in the future.

We also had a chance to go shopping, to watch a movie or baseball game, and to listen to a jazz concert, all of which we greatly enjoyed. We truly appreciate the gracious hospitality of the many staff, the ISRF committee and other students of UNMC.



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## Mini Interview

Q1. How many foreign people did you talk with during the Forum?

A1. About 40 people including strangers I met at a bar as well as foreign students and the staff.

Q2. What was the best experience you had in Nebraska?

A2. To have become acquainted with overseas students through a special drinking way called Das Boot Challenge, which is by passing around a boot-shaped glass of beer among us.