

I had the great pleasure of attending the Gordon Research Seminar and Conference on Elastin, Elastic Fibers and Microfibrils held in Biddeford, Maine this May. This conference is recognised as a major convention for researchers involved in the biochemistry, biology and pathology of elastin. Studies presented in this conference range from structural studies to *in vitro* assembly assays, to experiments on transgenic and knockout animals, and to biomaterials and therapies.

These topics are specifically relevant to my studies on the role of tropoelastin mutations on elastin fiber assembly. This conference was a unique opportunity for me as a PhD student to present results pertinent to the understanding of the mechanism of elastin fiber assembly to experts in the field. It provided me with a rare occasion to discuss advances in elastin research with peers and mentors, and have my work critiqued by leaders in the field. The Research Seminar, in particular, was an excellent forum to foster collaborative ties with peers.

Attending the seminar and conference was a vastly stimulating and rewarding experience. I extend my sincere gratitude to the conference organizers and to ISMB for giving me the travel award, which helped a lot in covering travel expenses from Australia to the USA. The recognition in itself was a great honor, and I look forward to being part of the next Gordon conference on elastin!

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