

In March 2017, the Keystone symposium on Adaptations to Hypoxia in Physiology and Disease was held in British Columbia in Canada, and thanks to ARR SIT travel award I was able to attend. My project titled 'Ribonucleotide reductase favours the RRM2B subunit to maintain DNA replication in hypoxia' uncovers a novel role for Ribonucleotide Reductase (RNR) enzyme in response to tumour hypoxia and suggests that inhibition of RRM2B would be an effective means to target the aggressive and radiation resistance hypoxic fraction of tumours.

The meeting was focused on cellular responses to changes in oxygen availability that have important implications for both physiology and pathophysiology, in particular in the setting of solid tumour progression. Specifically, the meeting aimed to disseminate up-to-date information on basic mechanisms of cellular and tissue hypoxia responses, and discuss the impact of these responses on physiology and cancer radioresistance. Additionally, the meeting brought together academic, clinical and industrial researchers to enhance synergy between these groups and develop translational strategies for targeting hypoxic stress responses for therapeutic benefit.

I was very fortunate to be able to present my work in this meeting as a poster presentation. The great feedback that I took from the conference delegates gave me invaluable help and insight for the future direction of my research. The meeting was also an excellent opportunity for me to learn about current research projects within the field. I was very fortunate to meet some of the key scientists in the field and organise interviews for a future Postdoc position, since I had just completed my PhD studies when I attended the meeting. I am very grateful to ARR for awarding me this travel bursary and giving me the opportunity to present my work in an international environment. I would like to thank the ARR committee for their generous support and I am looking forward to the next ARR events.

Best regards,

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