

Learning Report

The 46th Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) Musculoskeletal Biology Workshop at Sun Valley was held in Sun Valley, Idaho, USA from Aug.6-9, 2017. I attended the meeting with the generous support from Ho King Chun Leadership Fund.

The Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) is the premier international organization for scientists and health care professionals working in the field of musculoskeletal diseases through the promotion and presentation of research, education and the worldwide dissemination of new knowledge. For over 60 years, ORS has been the leading research society supporting engineers, orthopaedic surgeons, biologists, and clinicians in pursuit of a world without musculoskeletal limitations.

Every year, ORS organized a summit workshop for scientists to share their research. The Musculoskeletal Biology Workshop (aka Sun Valley Workshop) has a long standing history and is widely recognized for having a major impact on scientific thinking in the field of skeletal biology particularly in areas related to histomorphometry, in vivo animal models, and biomechanics. It is also recognized for its emphasis on training the early career investigator. The purpose of the ORS workshop is to provide an opportunity for researchers from all over the world who are working in the field of musculoskeletal diseases to meet and share their research work and knowledge.

In this year's workshop, 15 Alice L. Jee Awards are available for application. My abstract was selected as one of the award papers. I have presented my work in the podium and poster sessions, and received positive feedback from the audience. In addition to these, all the invited international and domestic speakers have given very good talks regarding the most updated knowledge of orthopaedic diseases. As my current research is mainly focused on the pathogenesis of osteoarthritis, a common joint disorder that affects millions of people all over the world, I benefited a lot from this workshop.

There were several topics that interested me, including but not limited to: Application of Finite Element Analysis (FEA) for basic and clinical studies, Imaging for clinical measurement of bone strength, and Using MRI to detect cartilage damage. I still have much to learn regarding the methodology of basic science research. Even in clinical work, not many physicians are familiar with how to use MRI or other techniques to diagnosis OA at an early stage. I was also happy to attended several topics on novel therapeutics for bone and joint diseases in this workshop. These had brought some innovative ideas to me and filled in my knowledge gap.

My lifetime goal, as a clinician, is to help patients who are suffering from bone and joint diseases to battle the diseases and return normally back to society. In the meanwhile, as a researcher, my aim is to explore the nature of diseases hoping to

eradicate the diseases just at the beginning. I have learned a lot by attending this workshop, and I am pretty sure that this workshop will benefit me much either in future clinical work or basic science research.

I would like to thank the Ho King Chun Leadership Fund again for providing me with this opportunity to complete the fellowship.

Chaofan Zhang

Figure 1. I was awarded the Alice L. Jee Award at the workshop.



Figure 2. The Alice L. Jee Awardees, with the president of the workshop (far right).

