

**Report on the travel award supported by the Office of Science (BER), U.S.
Department of Energy, Grant No. DE-FG02-03ER63563**

Title: Partial Support for U.S. Participants in the Marine Biotechnology Conference 2003, in Chiba, Japan - September 21-25, 2003

Project ID: 0008930

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Award Register#: ER63563 0008930

The Marine Biotechnology Conference held in Chiba, Japan (September 17-21, 2003) was a very successful meeting. Approximately 700 participants from 32 different countries attended this meeting. The proceedings of MBC2003 will be published in a special edition of the journal Marine Biotechnology.

Three PIs, Drs. Feng Chen, Russell Hill, and Yonathan Zohar from the Center of Marine Biotechnology led effort to raise a total of \$38,000 from NSF, DOE, Maryland Sea Grant, and Martek BioScience Corp to assist 28 U.S. scientists from various research institutions to participate this conference. Among the 28 awardees, 14 are graduate students and postdocs, and five are female scientists. All the awardees gave either oral or poster presentations at the conference. Each graduate student and junior scientist received \$1,375 (the maximum amount) in support towards travel to this conference, and each senior scientist (including tenure-track assistant professor) received \$655 (the maximum amount). Specifically, eight scientists (3 seniors and 5 juniors) were supported by the DOE travel award (see attached table). A Grants Specialist at the Center of Marine Biotechnology, Mrs. Nanci Henningsen at COMB took care of all the reimbursements, which were completed on January 16, 2004.

The availability of travel fund was advertised on the website of MBC2003 (www.tuat.ac.jp/~marine/announce.htm) (see attached) and also through email contacts. During the meeting, these travel funds were acknowledged through slide presentation in each plenary session and in the two poster sessions in the exhibition hall (see attached).

Because several people decided in the last minute that they did not need the funds, there is still about \$4,142 remaining in the DOE fund. Per my conversation with Dr. Anna Palmisano, the Program Manager at DOE, we will use the remaining \$4,142 of DOE fund to support graduate student attendance at major conferences related to Marine Biotechnology in 2004. We have identified several relevant meetings as followed:

- 1) The Fifth International Symposium on the Biology of Actinomyces, December, 2003, Australia
- 2) Ocean Research Conference Hawaii, February 16-20, 2004
- 3) World Aquaculture Conference Hawaii, March 1-5, 2004
- 4) The 10th International Symposium of Microbial Ecology, Cancun, Mexico, August, 2004

The remaining funds will be used to assist partial traveling cost for the graduate students who participate and present in the meetings mentioned above. The amount of support and

number of awardees will be decided by PIs Drs. Feng Chen, Russell Hill, and Yonathan Zohar.

The original grant (DE-FG02-03ER63563) ended by December 31, 2003, Dr. Palmisano suggested to us to contact DOE operations at Chicago for a no cost extension. Please let us know if more information is needed.

Sincerely

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*Announcement for U.S Scientists attending MBC2003

Some funding assistance may be available for U.S. participants from universities and non-profit research institutes who are attending the MBC2003. The Center of Marine Biotechnology, University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute has obtained funds from three U.S. funding agencies for travel support for U.S participants. This support from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and Maryland Sea Grant is gratefully acknowledged. Students and postdoctoral associates are especially encouraged to apply. Support (at a lower amount) may also be available for other scientists. Women and minority groups that are underrepresented in science in the U.S. are particularly encouraged to apply. To request support from this source, please send an e-mail to Russell Hill at hillr@umbi.umd.edu. Note that this support is ONLY available for scientists working in the U.S. at universities and non-profit research institutes. The target

Scientists who were supported by the travel fund from DOE Grant No. DE-FG02-03ER63563

Name	position	\$ received	Affiliation
Marilou Sison-Mangus	graduate	853.02	Univ. of California Irvine
Pinwen Chiou	Postdoc	1163.44	Univ. of Connecticut
J Andy Tincu	Scientist	526.78	Univ. of California San Diego
Bih-Ying Yang	Postdoc	1172.94	University of Connecticut
Tom Chen	Prof.	655	University of Connecticut
Sonomi Hikima	Postdoc	1375	NOAA Charleston, SC
Jun-ichi Hikima	Postdoc	1375	Medical University of South Carolina
Gregory Warr	Prof.	655	Medical University of South Carolina

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U.S. National Science Foundation