

現地レポート／BABARINDE ISAAC ADEYEMI

(School of Genetics, Department of Life Sciences and Genetics)

Destination country: USA

Receiving univ./institute: University of Michigan

Period of study: 21/07/2014 ~ 21/09/2014

DATE OF REPORT : 20/08/2014

Status of course/research progress

In the first week, I was introduced to various research subjects going on in the laboratory. I had the opportunity of interacting with almost every lab members to learn about their topics of interest. Since the best way to learn is to practice, after consulting with Dr Jianzhi G. Zhang, I decided to study long noncoding RNA (lncRNA) evolution during my stay in the lab. Although lncRNA is somehow related to my study, I did not intend to include it in my PhD thesis. However, in just a month, the study has widened and deepened my understanding about my PhD main theme, and I am considering the possibility of including it in my final thesis. I had the opportunity to lead the journal club during which I introduced a paper about lncRNA. During the past weeks, I have attended several journal clubs, taken parts in several scientific discussions and attended a PhD thesis oral presentation. All these have been of great benefit.

Life situation

Life in Ann Arbor has been comfortable, thanks to the helps received from Dr George Watase (a former member of National Institute of Genetics, Mishima, Japan and a current Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan) as well as Chuan Li (a PhD student of Zhang lab). George helped by picking me up at the airport, giving rides for shoppings and helping with other stuff. Chuan helped with securing accommodations, orientations to life in Ann arbor and other supports. Of course, the support from Dr Zhang and other lab members cannot be overestimated. They have provided a wonderful reception during my stay.

Extracurricular activities include the opportunity to watch Manchester United and Real Madrid match in the largest football stadium in USA (University of Michigan Stadium). Incidentally, the audience happened to be the largest soccer audience in the USA. Since my first week, I was given the lab key so that I can enter or leave the lab anytime I so wish. I was also giving MCard (a multipurpose identity card) with which I can ride a bus to any part of Ann Arbor free of charge. This has made life so easy.

As I had to relocate after a month because of the beginning of a new school calendar year, I am now in the second apartment. Although the new apartment has fewer occupants than the previous one, I am trying to adjust to the new environment. Visiting Ann Arbor at this period of the year is really comfortable, as I was told that the winter here is extremely cold.