



Grant recipient

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Grant details

GRANT TYPE	Travel Grant	FUNDING ROUND	2017 Travel Grant
GRANT REFERENCE	T Melzer TRAV2017	GRANT AMOUNT	\$2,000

Final report

1. Scientific Assessing Committee report

I would like to thank the CMRF for the financial support which enabled me to attend the International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Hong Kong, from October 5-9. As always, this congress served as the focal point for Parkinson's disease researchers worldwide. I presented two posters at the 2018 congress: Poster 1—"Amyloid PET and cognition in Parkinson's disease" and Poster 2—"MRI to predict cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease". The CMRF has generously contributed to funds which allowed me to complete both of these projects. Discussions around Poster 1 were particularly pertinent. An Italian researcher approached me to discuss my poster. She presented a similar project with conflicting findings. I believe that our results are correct. To demonstrate this, I followed the Italian research group's methods and was able to re-create their findings. This also allowed me to identify their processing and modelling errors which led to their reported findings. As a consequence, I feel more confident in the results that I presented.

I also attended the 'Parkinson's disease Mild Cognitive Impairment validation consortium' satellite meeting during the larger congress. In this meeting, the NZ Brain Research Institute proposed the development of a new, shared database system for all members. Lastly, discussions with Dr Barbara Segura, University of Barcelona, Spain, advanced previously planned collaborations. I visited Barcelona in late 2016, and we proposed a multi-site collaboration. We worked together on ethics applications and Memoranda of Understanding with multiple groups. However, despite initial willingness to collaborate, only the Barcelona group and NZBRI were willing to contribute MRI data. Therefore, Dr Segura and I have now decided to proceed on a bilateral basis. This has been facilitated by our face-to-face meetings over the past few years.

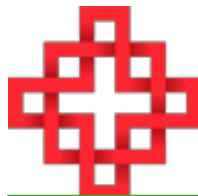
These satellite meetings and face-to-face discussions have a greater impact on my research than the larger conference per se, but the International Congress was excellent. I particularly enjoyed a debate aimed at determining which is a better treatment—deep brain stimulation or therapeutic lesioning of the brain. It seems to me that there is always a 'hot topic' which seems to dominate each Congress. This year, in my opinion, this was research into prodromal PD. That is, are there certain conditions or markers which are indicative of future Parkinson's disease, and the study of these cohorts.

Attending the conference was a very positive experience. I was exposed to exciting, new research and established new connections with fellow researchers while solidifying current relationships. The abstract was published in the meeting proceedings. Once again I would like to thank the CMRF for supporting me in this excellent experience.

I have included a photo I took of Hong Kong from one of the bush-covered hills overlooking the city.

2. Photographs

View an attachment by double clicking the icon to the left of the file name. Icons are not displayed and attachments are not accessible when this PDF is viewed in a web browser; you must open it in [PDF reader software](#).



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3.1 MiB



3. Feedback

I have nothing to feedback.