

Joint Symposium for "Chemistry at the Frontiers of Biology and Physics"

At Strasbourg University, 30 May 2010~ 4 July 2010

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From 30 May 2010 to 4 July 2010, I visited Strasbourg in north-eastern France to join the symposium. Strasbourg is a beautiful city with Roman Catholic cathedral, and the city is also famous for Alsace wine.

The symposium was held at Strasbourg University. In this symposium, recent research topics, from basic physical chemistry to biochemistry, were discussed. I gave a short oral presentation titled "Ion channel assembly of antibiotics as viewed by solid state NMR". In my talk, I discussed about amphotericin B (AmB) ion-channel complex, especially intermolecular interaction between AmB and ergosterol in lipid membrane environment. After introducing solid-state NMR techniques, I showed that AmB directly interact with ergosterol, and consequently change the channel complex structure. This was the first time for me to give a talk in an international conference. Although I was nervous in front of the audiences, many attendances seemed to have interesting in listening to my presentation, and some of them asked me some questions. One of the questions was that our experimental system can reproduce the native membrane environment and ion-channel structure. This question is very important. Although it is difficult to find a direct answer, these results agree with other experiments which done in more native system, thus suggesting that fundamental intermolecular interactions in model membrane are similar to those in native membrane.

It was a good chance for me to talk with other young researchers, which motivated me. I believe that these experiences will become an advantage to my research life.

La chimie aux frontières de la
biologie et de la physique
Chemistry at the Frontiers of
Biology and Physics



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Picture 1 The conference building, and Prof. Pierre Braunstein giving opening remarks.

On the final day at Strasbourg, I joined a boat tour, which rounded many famous sites in Strasbourg, including old and historical buildings and modern building of European Union. I was impressed with the beautiful view from the boat. After that I had a time to walk around the city and enjoyed shopping. I totally enjoyed the excellent French food, Alsace wine and European culture.

Finally I would like to appreciate Prof. Pierre Braunstein and all staffs from Strasbourg University for their kind hospitality. And I also thank GCOE program for giving me a good opportunity to make a short presentation and wonderful experiences.



Picture 2 Panoramas of Strasbourg