

SABRE REPORT ON SHORT TERM FELLOWSHIP 2009

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I was glad to visit Faculty of Livestock Genomics I of Parco Tecnologico Padano (PTP), Italy from 17th of July to 6th of September, 2009. The objective of my placement was to test the variations of the candidate genes identified by HZAU in PTP samples from pigs with PRRSV infection and in controls.

For establishing a long-term collaboration between PTP and HZAU, the proposed placement was to launch a simple project that can be undertaken within the timescale of the placement. Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU) has focused on the selection of candidate genes which have functions related to immune response and anti-viral activity. These genes have been sequenced from a range of pig breeds and polymorphisms have been identified within these genes. In my placement, six candidate genes were selected for the objective above. These genes include CAV1, GBP2, CD163, MHC2TA, RNASE6 and MiR29C. These genes were genotyped using PCR-RFLP and sequencing in Landrace parent samples of Misagen population. The primary results showed that CAV1, CD163 and MHC2TA are polymorphic at the tested locus in the Misagen population. Additional animals will be genotyped for these genes to evaluate putative associations between the candidate gene and PRRSV disease susceptibility.

Here, **I would like to express my gratitude to the SABRE Integrated Project for financial support of my research fellowship. I am also very grateful to Dr John Williams and Dr Elisabetta Giuffra for offering me the placement to work with Faculty of Livestock Genomics in PTP. I would also like to thank Carol Telford for her cooperation.** This placement gave me a chance to increase my knowledge of the new molecular biology techniques and research strategy. The placement also established an ongoing collaboration between the Huazhong Agricultural University and Parco Tecnologico Padano now. We also discussed the future cooperation through International projects.

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October 15, 2009