

## Joint NIHR/BAD Taster/Visit Bursary Report – Kevin Lee

I would like to thank the British Association of Dermatologists and the National Institute of Health Research for the award of the Research Taster Bursary. This has been an excellent opportunity to gain insight into the world of laboratory based research and translational medicine.

I spent two weeks with Professor Simon Carding in the BBSRC Institute of Food Research. Professor Carding and his group have special interest with mucosal homeostasis, barrier function and mutualism between the host and the microbiota is established and maintained. One of the major unresolved issue in biology is how the host tolerates a resident micorbiota that contantly produces potentially inflammatory molecules, while retaining the ability to mount an effective response to pathogenic challenge. The understanding of communication between the host and the gut microbiome and barrier function will have translational significance with food allergy and skin microbiome interaction.

During the two week attachment, I learned various laboratory techniques from extracting DNA from the gut of mouse microbiome, western blotting to polymerase chain reaction. I also gained insight about laboratory work flow and working in a research team. I enjoyed particularly the brain storming session during lunch time for new research ideas.

I am very grateful for this opportunity to broaden my view and knowledge about laboratory research. This will definitely help me to appreciate more about basic science research which we have little exposure during our specialist training.