

James Ussher
RCPA Research Award 2008

1) I received the grant during my PhD looking at the optimising recombinant adeno-associated virus (rAAV) as a vaccine vector. The grant enabled me to pursue a speculative project to try and improve the immunogenicity of rAAV through the inclusion of various genetic adjuvants. While this approach was ultimately unfruitful due to various unsurmountable technical hurdles, it enabled me to further my skills as a research scientist. Upon completion of my PhD I undertook a three year post-doctoral post at the University of Oxford. I have recently returned to a joint clinical and academic position at Southern Community Laboratories and the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. The award of an RCPA grant has assisted in my development as a research scientist.

2) No publications directly arose from the work pursued. Indirectly the grant assisted in the following:

Ussher JE, Taylor JA. Optimized Transduction of human monocyte-derived dendritic cells by recombinant adeno-associated virus serotype 6. *Human Gene Therapy* 2010; 21(12): 1675-1686.

Sheppard H*, Ussher JE*, Verdon D, Taylor JA, Dunbar PR. Efficient transduction of primary human melanocytes by recombinant adeno-associated virus serotype 6. *PLoS ONE*, 2013; 8(4):e62753 *Contributed equally

Locke M*, Ussher JE*, Mistry R, Taylor JA, Dunbar PR. Transduction of human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells by recombinant adeno-associated virus vectors. *Tissue Engineering: Part C* 2011; 17(9): 949-959.

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