The 14th International Symposium on Plant Lipids was held from 23-28 July 2000 in Cardiff, UK. This is a biennial gathering of international research groups working on the structure, metabolism and molecular biology of plant lipids. Nearly 300 delegates from 31 countries participated in the conference. At the conference, the delegates discussed the most recent advances of our knowledge about a wide range of research fields in plant lipids, including fatty acid and lipid biosynthesis and catabolism, lipid analysis, roles of lipids in membrane functions, cell signalling, and applications of modern molecular techniques in genetic engineering of oilseeds.

My travel was conducted in accordance with the details provided in the proposed budget. At the conference, I presented a poster featuring our development of the world's first high-oleic and high-stearic cottonseed oil in CSIRO funded by CRDC project CSP78C. I was also a co-author of an oral presentation by Dr Surinder Singh describing the development of a novel, highly effective gene silencing technique for oil modification. Both presentations were warmly received at the conference and many interesting discussions were generated subsequently. I found the meeting particularly valuable in generating new ideas for my own research on cottonseed oil modification. The presentations were also published in the conference proceedings: Recent Advances in the Biochemistry of Plant Lipids (Eds J.L. Harwood and P.J. Quinn) and Biochemical Society Transations.
