**Applicant Information**

Name: Youngmin Park Date of Application:

School: U of Pittsburgh, Dietrich Arts and Sciences Program: Mathematics

Degree: Master, PhD (in progress) Pitt Email: yop6@pitt.edu

**Conference Information**

Title of Conference: SIAM Life Sciences 2016

City/State/Country of Conference: Boston, MA, USA

Dates of Conference:

* Start Date:
* End Date:

How Many Days Will You Be Attending? 4

Presentation (Poster, Paper, Speech, Performance, Other):

* If Other, Please Specify: Click here to enter text.

\*\*\*PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF YOUR PRESENTATION IN THE FORM OF AN EMAIL NOTIFICATION FROM YOUR CONFERENCE ACCEPTING YOUR SUBMISSION OR A SCHEDULE WITH YOUR PRESENTATION LISTED\*\*\*

**Funding Information**

Have You Ever Received a GPSG Travel Grant Before: ☐Yes/xNo

* If Yes, When?

Did You Receive Funding from Any Other Source? xYes/☐No

* If Yes, Please Specify:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Amount** |
| Source 1: A&S-PBC | $600 |
| Source 2: Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. |
| Source 3: Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. |
| Source 4: Click here to enter text. | Click here to enter text. |

**Personal Statement**

In 250 words or less, please give the Finance Committee a brief description of your presentation and explain the importance of this conference to your academic career:

I presented on my most recent paper with my advisor, Bard Ermentrout. The paper and talk are titled “Weakly Coupled Oscillators in a Slowly Varying World”. Our contributions include a more succinct proof of existing results, and an extension of the existing results to a novel case. The talk itself was part of a minisymposium consisting of others in the field of mathematical neuroscience and was therefore an excellent networking opportunity as well as a chance to expose our results to a receptive audience. The minisymposium itself was especially informative because the talks were on specialized topics in my field of study within mathematical neuroscience. For example, the talks extensively utilized phase response curves. Phase response curves were rarely mentioned throughout the rest of the conference.

The rest of the conference was just as educational. Despite a title focused on the life sciences, many talks and posters focused on topics in mathematical biology. As a result, the conference made me aware of broader advances in other, similar fields in mathematical biology. For example, I learned that there is a general shift in neuroscience experiments from isolating and studying localized regions in the brain, to studying long-range connections between possibly distant brain regions and using mathematics and statistics to understand the structure of these connections.

Between learning advances in my specialized field and in more general disciplines, this conference provided a valuable learning experience for my career.