

## Faculty Report Template

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Faculty/Rank: Professor

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Proposal title: Promoting Exchange Between SDSU and Universidad de Zaragoza and Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Country/ies visited: Spain

Institution visited: Universidad de Zaragoza, Universidad de Sevilla, Universidad de Huelva

Dates of travel: 24 May to 8 July 2005

Number of student participants: none – unfortunately, neither intended student could go

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded

(list titles, countries and dates): Promoting Exchange Between SDSU and Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France – Spring 2003

Have all required reports been submitted? yes

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: none

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

OIP funds would enable the P.I. to travel to two Spanish universities with international reputations in the field of organometallic chemistry. The P.I. and two SDSU students (funded by other means) will travel to one of the two universities for most of the three-week project period, to engage in laboratory work at that one university. Afterwards, travel to the other university for 2-3 days would explore a longer return visit in the future.

## **Travel report:**

### **I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity**

The goals of the trip were to explore opportunities for future exchange of students at the undergraduate and graduate levels with the host professors and universities. Two SDSU students, Yi Gong and Criselda Garcia, were going to go on the trip. Unfortunately, shortly before the trip Yi fell seriously ill and Criselda needed to find a job, so neither could travel.

### **II. In preparation for the trip abroad**

I had e-mail contacts with Professor Luis Oro in Zaragoza and Ernesto Carmona in Sevilla. Professor Carmona invited me to be part of a Ph.D. student's thesis defense, so before the trip the student's thesis was sent to me for review.

### **III. Upon arrival/specific activity**

See previous section. Between 18 and 24 June I spent several days in Sevilla at Instituto de Investigaciones Químicas, one day being part of a Ph.D. thesis defense, one day meeting scientists in the Institute (Margarita Paneque, Irene Resa, Noredine Khier, José M. García Fernández), and I gave a seminar on our research at SDSU, and another day in discussions with Ernesto and others about possibilities for getting funding. As a result of this visit, I also went to Universidad de Huelva to give a seminar and meet with Professor Pedro Pérez and his group of researchers. Tomás Beldarrain and I discussed possibilities for future funding. Between 29 June and 2 July I visited Instituto Universitario de Catálisis Homogénea at the University of Zaragoza. There I gave a seminar, met several chemists, and discussed a joint collaborative publication.

### **IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?**

The two labs I visited in Spain are known internationally in the field of organometallic chemistry, and they have excellent facilities for research. The universities both have student housing close to campus which is rather affordable. Spain is a natural choice as a foreign country for exchange, in that Spanish is probably the most common foreign language competency among students at SDSU. In the longer term, I envision involving several professors in Spain. The next step will be to apply for funding from Spain or the U.S. for money for student visits of weeks to months. In addition, the joint manuscript discussed in Zaragoza should soon be ready for submission to the peer-reviewed journal *Organometallics*.

**All information should be sent to The Office of International Programs via e mail:**

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