Progress Report for Moran Foundation Funded Work

Principal Investigator: **Graeme Mardon, Ph.D.**

Project Title: **Identification of New Members of the Retinal Cell Fate Specification Protein Complex**

Project Year: **2000-2001**

Project Number: **00-0108**

Summary of Progress

Due to the flood in June of 2001, substantial delays and loss of reagents prevented significant progress in this project.

The overall goal of this project is to identify new conserved genes that participate in retinal cell fate specification. Our approach is based upon the observation that several of the proteins known to control retinal development, both in *Drosophila* and mammals, form one or more complexes in the nucleus that serve to regulate gene transcription. We planned to use a combination of immunoprecipitation and mass spectrometric protein sequencing to identify new members of the retinal specification complex. At the time the proposal was submitted, we had a Myc-tagged Dachshund protein expressed in flies that we knew was sufficient to rescue all known *dac* mutant phenotypes. We have now shown that we can immunoprecipitate the Myc-tagged Dachshund protein and we have also generated HA-tagged Dachshund protein as well. We hope to soon attempt to isolate retinal detemrination protein complexes and move forward with our goals.

There have been mo publications directly resulting from this project.

This project is still in progress.

This work benefited greatly from Moran Foundation funding and we appreciate your support.