

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/
Conference Title:** 2016 Keystone Symposia Conference X3: Ubiquitin Signalling

Travel Dates: 13th-17th March 2016

Location: Whistler, British Columbia, Canada

Group member(s): Eleanor Adams, PhD student

Aims: -Presenting my work in the form of a poster

-Networking with other ubiquitin researchers

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The 2016 Keystone Symposia Conference X3: Ubiquitin Signalling was a four day conference consisting of talks, workshops, and poster sessions and was attended by around 500 researchers from around the world. This was the first large, international conference I had ever attended and although the 7am-10pm schedule was fairly gruelling and there was a lot of information to take in at once, I enjoyed the experience a lot.

My favourite session was the set of talks on 'Large Machines', which featured great talks from Ray Deshaies and Andreas Martin. I really learned a lot from these talks and they were also incredibly engaging speakers, so hopefully I'll be able to pick up some communication hints from there and improve my own presentations! Additionally, there was a talk by Brenda Schulman presenting some totally novel research that will be pivotal to the field of ubiquitin research. The data presented showed a method of ubiquitination involving multiple ligases and this will directly impact my own research so I'm very glad to have seen it at an early stage!

I presented a poster of my own research at the conference and this gave me the opportunity to improve my presentation and communication skills. I was able to gain some interesting insights into my work from people who understood it, but, with many of them coming from a mammalian research background, had a different way of looking at it. The poster sessions on the following days allowed me to see the research being done by other groups and comprehend their methods and results in a way that can only be achieved by actually talking with the researcher. I gained a lot of new ideas for experiments, some of which will hopefully yield important results.

I was able to meet a lot of researchers in the field of ubiquitin signalling research, including other students, PIs, and industry representatives. It was great to talk with a wide range of people and make some friends and contacts who I'll be able to see again at other conferences. In particular I was pleased to meet Prof. Ning Zheng who works on protein crystallisation and is currently crystallising one of the proteins I work on. We had a good talk about both our areas of research and hopefully I'll be kept updated on his lab's progress with the crystallisation.

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I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for generously providing me with funding, which made it possible for me to attend this inspirational and stimulating conference.