

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST REPORT

Conference Title:	BSP Trypanosomiasis and Leishmaniasis Seminar, 2016
Travel Dates:	4 th – 7 th September, 2016
Location:	The Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Science Branišovská, 370 05 České Budějovice Czech Republic
Group member:	Gloria Amegatcher
Aims:	To present my work in the form of a poster and to network with researchers as well as young scientist of my kind.

OUTCOME:

The British Society for Parasitology conference is held annually in spring and autumn and held at different parts in Europe which focuses on specialist aspects of parasitology and bring together researchers around the world to share their research findings and to welcome suggestions to improve their research work or approaches especially in ways to combat neglected diseases and to discuss recent progress towards understanding host-parasite relationships. I am privileged for the opportunity to be part of the Trypanosomiasis and Leishmaniasis Conference to present my research findings on my project during the poster session on the topic "Mitochondrial retrograde signalling in the transition of *Trypanosoma brucei* from bloodstream to insect form".

The conference was well represented by researchers from all over the world and the multidisciplinary nature of it made it more interesting which welcomed questions and suggestions that were beneficial to all. It was an intensive program from morning till evening but there were sessions to socialize and interact with each other and to network after evening sessions. Poster presenters had to display posters throughout the session and had to be by the poster to talk about it with other researchers in an interactive manner and that was when most criticism and suggestions were made which has been very helpful to me and implemented most of it on my return to Edinburgh. We had the opportunity to visit a castle with an evening entertainment with food and drinks the night before the end of conference.

My purpose for attending the conference was to present my work and findings gotten so far for positive feedback and to network with other researchers working in the field. I attended all the sessions and was glad for the opportunity to listen to and interact with the likes of Keith Gull FRS, David Horn, Torstein Ochsenreiter, Christine Clayton who have made tremendous contributions and findings in understanding developmental biology of African trypanosomes with molecular mechanisms of their differentiation, regulating gene expression and their environmental perception in signalling pathways.

I was also pleased with the outcome of my poster presentation. It was very informative and interactive and was open minded to welcome suggestions. The transcriptomics part of my research attracted a number of participants to share their findings from their work and shared ideas with some scientists on how to design realistic assays to address my research question which I could incorporate into my thesis

It was such a great time to listen to what others were doing, new findings which are directly related to my gene expression work and to further do protein studies to support my findings at the RNA level and this will provide a comprehensive view of the potential effects of mitochondrial dysfunction on nuclear gene expression in these trypanosomes.

I am very grateful to the James Rennie Bequest for the travel award for such a valuable experience that enabled me to share my work and the exposure on research which involves collaboration across disciplines with the use of diverse methodological approaches like molecular biology, genetics, taxonomy, mathematical modelling, etc., and a combination of analytical and holistic approaches to problem solving. Also, the opportunity to make new friends in research and come back with useful ideas for my work and also to share with other members of our group.