

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: 12th BioMalPar Conference on the "Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite"

Travel Dates: 18 – 20 May 2016

Location: Heidelberg, Germany

Group member(s): Seth Amanfo (Francisca Mutapi & David R. Cavanagh Groups)

Aims: Present poster on data of my PhD work on malaria

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The 12th edition of the BioMalPar conference on malaria was held in Heidelberg, Germany, under the theme 'Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite'. About 285 researchers and postgraduate students (working in the field of malaria biology and immunology) from around the world attended the three day programme. There were presentations on ground-breaking findings on fundamental malaria research.

The programmes comprised of scientific sessions, keynote talks (given by distinguished malaria researchers), poster previews and poster presentations. The scientific sessions included topics on vaccines and immune avoidance, cellular mechanisms, immunology, var gene diversity and regulations, drug resistance and pathogenesis. Various speakers delivered a 15 minute presentation followed by questions and comments from the audience. Poster sessions were grouped into four clusters of immunology and pathophysiology, parasite molecular and cell biology, vector-parasite interactions, and modelling and systems biology.

I presented a poster on 'Comparing clinical and treatment outcomes of single versus mixed-Plasmodium species infections in Daraweesh', on the first day of the conference, for which I received very positive feedbacks which I will incorporate into future publication of this work. The conference gave me the opportunity to present preliminary findings of my PhD work, as well as learned from others, and the new developments and future directions of malaria research.

I had the opportunity to meet a group leader from the University of Copenhagen, who has invited me to visit their lab this year. This group have similar research interest as that of my supervisor Dr. Cavanagh and have previously had some collaborative research with Edinburgh. Coming to the end stages of my PhD the opportunity to establish network with other scientists and laboratories was very important to me.

I am grateful for the funding provided by the James Rennie Bequest as it gave me the opportunity to attend the conference with the added benefit of developing my skills in public speaking, and networking with other scientists.