

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/
Conference Title:**

Annual SEB Salzburg conference 2012

Travel Dates:

29th June – 3rd July 2012

Location:

Salzburg, Austria

Group member(s):

Rabia Amir (s0975457)

Aims:

- To meet the principal scientists in the field of plant cell and molecular biology and search out potential postdoctoral opportunities
 - Present current research in poster format
 - Attend high profile plenary talks, oral presentations and poster presentations
 - Networking and discussing new ideas with plant scientists.
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OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The Annual SEB conference is one of the world's largest meetings, taking place at different venues around the globe every year. This year, the meeting took place at Salzburg Congress Centre, in Salzburg, Austria. This meeting is organized by the Society for Experimental Biology which strongly believes that the broad nature and lack of "ology" boundaries implicit in Experimental Biology give it a pivotal role in the development of Life Sciences which are of considerable benefit to its members and to society. In particular, Experimental Biology contributes to knowledge that can be applied to the development of agriculture and medicine and to understanding the impacts of human activity on living organisms and ecosystems. In short, the meeting covers all the disciplines of plant and animal biology under one roof.

The conference began with an opening reception and a specific side event for young scientists, where I met other young scientists from a variety of research backgrounds. The conference included several sessions on plants, animals and cell biology every day. I attended the sessions on 'Regulation of Transcription by Metabolism' and 'Plant Hormone and Signal Transduction'. I found these sessions really interesting. Presentations were given by several research groups and scientists, which I have read many papers and reports by. It was great to put faces to many of the names which I have become familiar with through my research. I also had a chance to catch up with people I already knew whose research I was interested in knowing more about. It was a great opportunity to network and to hear about what kind of research is currently going on in my field.

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Poster sessions ran at the end of each day, and I was glad to have the opportunity to present my own poster in poster session 1. The poster titled 'Identification and Characterisation of key Regulators of Paclitaxel biosynthesis in *Taxus cuspidata*'. There was a substantial amount of interest in my poster and I had a number of exciting discussions about my work, with the result that I came away with several new ideas for avenues of research. This was a unique opportunity for discussion with the leaders in the field of transcriptional regulation and I was extremely grateful for this experience.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the James Rennie foundation for provision of a travel grant, without which I would not have been able to attend this conference, which was of principal importance in my development as a scientist.