

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/ Conference Title:	The Multifaceted Roles of Type 2 Immunity
Travel Dates:	9/12/2014 – 12/12/2014
Location:	Bruges, Belgium
Group member(s):	Sharon Campbell
Aims:	To present a poster illustrating the results from my PhD to date, to Discuss my results with fellow students and leaders in the field. To Make connections with leaders in the field.

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

Being awarded the James Rennie Request Bequest Travel Award enabled me to attend the Cell symposia conference on The Multifaceted Roles of Type 2 Immunity held in Bruges 2014. The field of type 2 immunity has broadened greatly in recent years, thus the focus of this meeting was to bring together leaders in the field to discuss the recent advances.

The symposia was relatively small with 250 attendees, thus the program consisted of one session divided into 5 themes. As there was only one session, each was filled with experts in the field, which resulted in an extremely stimulating and interactive meeting. I thoroughly enjoyed the talks on the role of innate immune cells in type 2 immunity, specifically that given by David Artis (Weill Cornell Medical college, USA) and Manfred Kopf (Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Switzerland).

On the second day of the conference I presented a poster entitled “Co-infection reveals functional differences between monocyte derived and tissue resident macrophages in response to *Salmonella typhimurium* “. During this poster session I had many conversations with experienced researchers in the field who were able to give me extremely useful and insightful comments on my research.

Additionally, there was a meet the speakers’ dinner on the second evening of the symposia, the aim of which was to enable junior researchers, such as myself, the opportunity to interact with the speakers in an informal setting. I chose to sit at the table with Prof. Edward Pearce from the Washington School of Medicine, USA. Prof. Pearce works on macrophage metabolism, a topic that I am fascinated by and would strongly consider pursuing in my postdoctoral studies.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed attending the symposium. It was an extremely motivating experience, which allowed me to further my current research through receiving input

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from fellow researchers. Additionally, I feel that I made many useful contacts with senior leaders in the field, which will undoubtedly aid me in my future career. I am extremely grateful to have been awarded the James Rennie Bequest as it allowed me to travel to this invaluable conference in Bruges.