

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT / CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: 4th Applied Synthetic Biology in Europe Conference
& EuSynBios Symposium

Travel Dates: 22nd – 26th October 2018

Location: Toulouse, France

Group member(s): Miguel E. Cueva

Aims: Present my research and those from the Horsfall Lab in the form of a poster and talk.
Represent the University of Edinburgh.
Communicate my research's results.
Discuss and debate my research interest with students and young researchers from across Europe.
Network with experts and colleagues in synthetic biology

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The 4th Applied Synthetic Biology Meeting in Europe Conference and the EuSynBios Symposium took place in Toulouse, France.

The EuSynBios Symposium was a joint symposium with the BioSynsys conference, both held at INSA (Institut National Des Sciences Appliquées, Toulouse). Both conferences were organised and led by synthetic biology PhD students and postdocs. These conferences were specifically catered for early career researchers in synthetic biology. This year, the conferences brought over 100 attendees from all over Europe. Both conferences covered the research interest of bioinformatics, reengineering biology, synthetic biology and the environment, and synthetic biology and health. During the 'Young Researchers Session', I had the privileged to give a 15-minute talk entitled 'Designing and Engineering Synthetic Biological Tools for *Desulfovibrio Alaskensis*'. My talk presentation was very rewarding. The audience was very receptive and engaging. With many students and researchers, asking questions about my research. More importantly, eminent figures in synthetic biology showed interest on my research. Attendees also enquired about my future research plans and publications.

The 4th Applied Synthetic Biology Meeting in Europe, was held at the Hotel Mercure Toulouse Centre Compans. This year, the meeting brought over 200 attendees from across Europe. The meeting consisted of five multidisciplinary sessions with also a flash poster session. Sessions ranged from, genome engineering, bionanoscience and bionanoengineering, applied protein design and evolution, to synthetic pathways and biochemical manufacturing. During the first poster flash presentation session, I gave a 3-minute flash presentation promoting my PhD project results entitled 'Designing and Engineering Synthetic Biological Tools for *Desulfovibrio Alaskensis*'. The poster session and flash presentation were very rewarding. They allowed me to promote my research and those of the Horsfall Lab, with eminent figures in synthetic biology and other PhD students. The poster session was particularly satisfying as it allowed me to discuss my results with the attendees. I received constructive criticism, suggestions, and very helpful advice. More importantly, several of the attendees, including various members of the scientific and organising committee asked about my future research plans and publications.

Attending the 4th Applied Synthetic Biology Meeting in Europe Conference and the EuSynBios Symposium was made possible in part thanks to the funding provided by the James Rennie Bequest, for which I am very grateful. Attending both conferences proved to be extremely rewarding for my future career and scientific research. It certainly helped expand my network in the field of Synthetic Biology. Finally, the broad diversity of topics, expertise and applications covered by both conferences were particularly valuable. Overall, this experience will certainly aid me become a well-rounded scientific researcher.