**REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT / CONFERENCE**

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| **Expedition/Project/ Conference Title:** | The 8th Kinetoplastid Molecular Cell Biology Meeting (KMCBM) |
| **Travel Dates:** | 27th April - 1st May 2019 |
| **Location:** | Woods Hole, USA |
| **Group member(s):** | Mabel Deladem Tettey |
| **Aims:** | To present my PhD research in a poster format at the conference |
|  | To meet and network with other researchers and students |
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| **OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-** | |

The 8th Kinetoplastid Molecular Cell Biology Meeting (KMCBM) was a 4-day conference which took place in Woods Hole, USA. This conference brought together about 400 kinetoplastid researchers from around the world.

The conference begun with the welcoming address and the first session where researchers talked mostly about Variant surface proteins (VSGs) and the genes associated these VSGs. During the course of the four days, seven sessions took place with each session focusing on a particular research topic. Students and postdoctoral fellows from various labs presented interesting works. During each session, a key researcher first gives a 30 minutes talk. One of the presentations which I found interesting and relevant to my work was presented by a postdoctoral fellow from Alvaro Acosta Serrano’s Lab where they found the over-expression of TbMYND drove the trypanosome parasites to epimastigotes, one of the vector (tsetse fly) forms of the parasite.

There were about 152 posters presented over 3 days period where I had the opportunity to interact with other students and senior researchers in my field. One of the posters that interested me most was a work from Christian Tschudi’s lab where they found two very similar proteins (RBP7A and RBP7B) behaving differently when over-expressed or knocked down. I also had the opportunity to present my poster on the second day. During which I discussed my PhD work with key researchers in my field of study and I received great feedbacks from them on moving my research forward.

On the second day of the conference where we had a free time, myself and members of my lab present at the conference took a ferry ride across the Atlantic Ocean to an island called Martha’s Vineyard. We walked round this little town and along the beach just enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Overall, it was a great learning experience for me and I am grateful to James Rennie Bequest for providing me with funds to enable me to attend this conference.