

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: 2016 American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Annual Meeting

Travel Dates: 29.11.-08.12.2016

Location: San Francisco, California, US

Group member(s): Jovana Deretic (Julie Welburn Group)

Aims: Presentation of our project, bioinformatics as a tool for identifying
substrates of Aurora kinases. Networking with other researchers

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):

The annual meeting of American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) is world-leading conference in cell biology, hosting more than 6000 attendees and over 250 exhibitors each year. This was my debut at the conference of that size and my main objectives were to get more experience in presenting my research, to get a feedback that will aid my project, to develop potential collaboration as well as to expand my knowledge related to my field but also in field I am interested in carrying research in the future.

On this ASCB meeting there were a large variety of talks covering almost every aspect of cell biology. I was happy that my field was very well represented with several 'minisymposium' and 'microsymposium' talks. I had opportunity to listen most recent discoveries in field of microtubule dynamics, microtubule posttranslational modification, and regulation of cell division as well as chromosome segregation mechanisms. Among very interesting talks professor Richard McIntosh stood out with his talk "Microtubules grow in vivo through pathways that use bent tubulin protofilaments", depicting new 'curvy' model of microtubule polymerization in vivo supported by data from five different cells and organisms. Dr Eva Nogales gave an exquisite talk about the electron microscopy and its significance in resolving microtubule organization and interaction.

Except the talks, there were several interesting scientific and career workshops. Additionally, I had an opportunity to interact with so many exhibitors in an immense Learning Center. The most rewarding experience, however, were the poster presentations, where I really had the opportunity to meet and interact with so many researcher and discuss their work in depth. The poster sessions were again enormous, with around 4200 posters in total, presented in three days with two assigned poster sessions per day. I had presented my poster with the title "A new tool for identifying substrates of Aurora kinases". My poster was well visited and I had stimulating discussion with a few attendees, through which I did learned about

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new research method I can apply in the future, and also I got suggestion to establish future collaboration to help my project. This trip was a great learning opportunity to build on my presentation skills and particularly for networking. Most importantly there were a significant number of researchers expressing the interest to apply our new approach to their research. That made me and my PhD supervisor very confident in publishing our data, which we are currently preparing for. Attending this conference was extremely stimulating and positive experience for me.

I am very grateful for the travel funds provided by the James Rennie Bequest which helped me to attend the 2016 ASCB annual meeting in California.