

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: Eucarpia 20th General Congress 'Plant Breeding'

Travel Dates: 04/08/16 – 01/09/16

Location: Zurich, Switzerland

Group member(s): Anna Florence

Aims: To present my work in the form of a poster at an international conference.

To network with other crop improvement researchers

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words): -

The 2016 EUCARPIA 20th General Congress on Plant Breeding was a four-day conference held in ETH Zurich. It consisted of talks split into plenary sessions and then broken down into crop specific topics, poster sessions and flash presentations. This was the largest conference I have attended as part of my PhD and the first international conference which covered a broad range of crop breeding topics.

I presented a poster and an accompanying flash presentation (3 minutes) and this gave me the opportunity to present some of the work from my PhD to the scientific community and also practise my presentation and communication skills. The flash presentation was challenging due to the short time frame but it was a fun way to 'sell' my research and encourage people to come and look at my poster when there were so many posters on display. The poster session which followed allowed me to speak to people in more detail about my work and I especially enjoyed talking to Bill Thomas from the James Hutton Institute about my results and his work on the genetics behind the processability of grain for malting.

Listening to the talks and looking at the posters gave a fascinating insight into the work being carried out by the rest of the scientific community in plant breeding. I especially enjoyed the session on Abiotic Stress on the second day of the conference which covered work from drought resistance to nitrogen-use-efficiency in a range of crops from cereals to tomatoes. It was also interesting to hear about the different resources that people were developing from genome browsers to phenotyping platforms.

Meeting others researchers and students allowed me to talk about my work and hear about their research interests. The conference allowed me to practise networking; making useful contacts and hearing about other peoples work that it would be interesting to follow up with. It was also interesting to talk to industry representatives about their work including a representative from Bayer who is working on developing new wheat varieties.

I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for proving me with funding which made it possible for me to attend this conference.