

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/  
Conference Title:**

52<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America

**Travel Dates:**

2-18<sup>th</sup> August

**Location:**

Corvallis, Oregon, USA

**Group member(s):**

Susan Howat

**Aims:**

Present an oral presentation and network with students and  
researchers in my field of interest

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**OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-**

I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for generously providing me with funding, which allowed me to attend the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America. The conference was held at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon with approximately 200 researchers. Most attendants were from the USA, Canada and Mexico; however there were a few international researchers such as myself. The conference was not large, however it is very close to my field of study and the intimate environment allowed me to forge meaningful connections with numerous researchers.

The conference occurred across four days and was organised into six sessions on; Biosynthesis and Metabolism, Interaction of Phytochemicals and Insects, Plant Metabolomics, Bioproducts and Biofuels, Botanicals and Medicinal and Phytochemicals in the interaction between plants and their environment. The sessions were opened by two keynote speakers followed by the shorter talks from students and researchers.

I performed my oral presentation on "Improving paclitaxel production in cultured cambial meristemic cells by exploring transcriptional regulation during methyl-jasmonate elicitation" in the first session and was approached by a number of researchers after my talk and had productive conversations with them.

The conference had a poster session on the afternoon of the first day which allowed me to interact with a large number of other PhD students within my field and gain valuable practical information about my current and future experimental plans. I was able to have discussions with a group from Washington State University who also work in the Taxol field, which was insightful to see the different research interests within our field.

I also attended a publishing workshop run by Elsevier which discussed the publishing process and how to improve the chances of publishing your work. There were three lectures by young researchers who had won the Arthur Neish Young Investigator Award and one by Aimee Egger who had won the PSNA/Elsevier Award Lecture. It was interesting to hear talks from the early career researchers and learn how they are transitioning from post-docs to founding their own labs.

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During the Banquet on the Tuesday I was awarded one of the travel grants by the PSNA for the quality of my talk. This in combination to the friendly and interesting people I encountered during the conference made me feel that it had been successful and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.