

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/
Conference Title:** 15th Congress European Society for Evolutionary Biology

Travel Dates: 9 – 15 August 2015

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland

Group member(s): Josianne Lachapelle

Aims: Present a poster at an international conference and network with other students and researchers.

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

I am grateful for the funding provided by the James Rennie Bequest, as it made it possible for me to attend the 15th Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology.

The objectives of attending this international conference were to develop a network of researchers, share my work, and practice my oral communication skills. This is one of the largest meetings in evolutionary biology as it attracts about 1500 delegates every two years. It therefore provided an ideal occasion for meeting many of the leaders in evolutionary biology, attending talks on diverse topics, and sharing my research with a large audience.

The most rewarding outcome of this conference was meeting lots of people. I had the opportunity to catch up with some past colleagues and with some researchers I had met previously. I also had the opportunity to talk to a few researchers I had wanted to meet for a while. Another rewarding outcome of this conference was the discussions I had during the poster sessions. My poster was well visited, and I had some stimulating discussions about it with a few attendees. I also visited other people's posters, which gave me the opportunity to talk more in depth with them about their research. Finally, one advantage of such a large conference is that there are always a large variety of talks on various topics to attend. I attended many talks close to my own field, which helped bring me up to date on some of the recent work being done elsewhere. I also attended some talks in fields I am interested in carrying research in the future, which helped me form a better idea about methods, questions, and directions these fields are taking. Some of the talks I attended were very stimulating and have generated ideas for my own work. I come out of this conference with a larger and stronger network of researchers and some ideas for my own research.