

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/**

**Conference Title:** EMBO/EMBL Symposium – Novel approaches in Microbiology

**Travel Dates:** 26/06/17-03/07/17

**Location:** Heidelberg, Germany

**Group member(s):** Leonardo Mancini

**Aims:** Increase my knowledge on topics such as persistence that are closely related to my project. Gain a more organic view of the current state of the field.

Present my data, gaining some feedback

Network with other researchers

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

The EMBO/EMBL symposium on novel approaches in microbiology is held in Heidelberg every two years. It brings together academics from many parts of the world and concerns topics such as: antibiotic-related research, network biology, bacterial communities, cell biology, regulation & signalling, pathogenesis and evolution. Further than for such a broad range of topics, this series of conferences is particularly interesting for its approach. Microbiology is in fact a relatively mature subject, considering the long history of microorganism use in human food production and the early discoveries by scholars the likes of Spallanzani, Pasteur and Koch that date back to the eighteenth century.

In the symposium, microbiology was discussed in the light of new technologies, giving space, in example, to wide screenings of drugs and microbes interactions enabled by machines, or to studies on antibiotic tolerance enabled by deep sequencing. I found this aspect particularly inspiring, as I had the chance to learn of techniques that could potentially be useful for my project. The conference had also many names I had read on journal articles, who were presenting their research. As a result, I could contextualise some of the results I had read of, gaining some insights on experimental setups and having the chance to interact with the authors. The breadth of the topics presented made sure that in every session I had something to learn.

The poster session, where I was given the chance to present my work was maybe the best organized I have been to. I received a lot of feedback that has on one hand given me a lot of motivation and on the other, yielded some good suggestions that I can now consider in my work. Thanks to the poster I have also seen what areas of my research are more difficult to present and explain, information that will be precious when I will be writing my thesis. I also had the chance to roam and visit posters of others, which has given me an idea of what other research groups in my field are doing.

Heidelberg turned out to be a beautiful city with a very well organised university.

I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for the funding that has allowed my participation to the conference.