

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: 113th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology

Travel Dates: 15-23 May 2013

Location: Denver, CO, USA

Group member(s): Louise McGibbon (Gallagher group)

Aims: Present PhD work in an oral presentation and network with other students and research scientists in the field

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The 113th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology was held in the Colorado Convention Centre in Denver, CO, USA. Approximately 7000 scientists attended the meeting from a range of disciplines including immunology, environmental biology, virology and molecular genetics, and the diversity of the plenary sessions and symposia reflected this.

The meeting was organised such that, plenary sessions were each morning between 08:15-10:45 am, and a range of symposia were run between 15:00-17:30pm. In addition there were special interest symposia and award lectures on certain days at 11:00am. I attended a range of these to ensure I had a well-rounded experience. I particularly enjoyed the sessions on "Microbial Nanomachines" and "The Rising Appreciation of Post-transcriptional Regulation of Gene Expression in the Microbial World".

I also attended a student and Post-Doc breakfast each day between 07:30-08:00am, where there was an opportunity to meet with like-minded people of a similar age. The first morning was an orientation breakfast, during which we were given hints and tips to make the most of our experience.

My oral presentation was on the first day of the conference during the afternoon symposium on "Uncovering the function of unknown proteins". I delivered the talk as I had hoped and was asked questions afterwards. Following the session, I was approached by researchers who had further questions and wished to discuss aspects of my talk.

I believe that I made the most of my experience at the ASM 2013 conference, and that it was beneficial and worthwhile in terms of advancing my career in academic research. I was granted the fantastic opportunity to present my work in a 15-minute talk as a Young Investigator, and this helped to promote my work and initiate discussions with other scientists in the field. The conference has allowed me to see where the field of microbiology is at present, and what might become important in the future and I have made a few useful contacts along the way.

Finally, I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for their generous financial contribution, which made this trip possible.