

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: The 49th European Human Genetics Conference

Travel Dates: 21st to 26th May, 2016

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Group member(s): Richard Fordjour Oppong

Aims: To present a poster of my PhD research to date at the conference

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The 49th European human genetics conference presented the platform for all workers and researchers in human and medical genetics to review the state of the art, present new advances and build up new research collaborations. The 4 day conference was set up in beautiful Barcelona, Spain, and was attended by over 3000 participants from around the world.

The programme involved educational sessions on a wide ranging topics in human genetics, workshops on funding and career development and on new methods and techniques. There were parallel sessions and the works presented covered topics in human genetics from basic research in population and quantitative genetics and evolution to more applied fields such as genetic counselling and gene therapy. There were interactive sessions where participants break into interest groups to discuss topics of common interest and this was particularly useful to me as a student because I had the opportunity to interact with leaders of the field as we discussed key issues in human genetics.

There were also poster sessions which covered even more topics. This session was my favourite because it kind of provided structure for the breaks by unconsciously defining some sort of a path to follow during the break as you walk through the posters which was great. I had a good time walking through the posters and reading all the various works on display and I had the chance to interact with most presenters one on one and exchanged ideas. I have since been in contact with some of them after the conference to continue the discourse and build useful collaborations.

The highlight of my conference was on the last day when I stood by my poster to present some of my PhD work on investigating the genetic control of kidney function of individuals in the Scottish population. I had received useful comments and feedback on the work and also on other ways to improve the work.

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In all it was a positive experience and I learnt a lot at the ESHG 2016 meeting in Barcelona and I am thankful for the funds provided by the James Rennie Bequest to enable me attend the conference.