

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/**

**Conference Title:** The 50<sup>th</sup> European Human Genetics Conference

**Travel Dates:** MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY AND 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE , 2017

**Location:** Copenhagen, Denmark

**Group member(s):** Richard Fordjour Oppong

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

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

The 50<sup>th</sup> European human genetics conference returned to Copenhagen for the first time in many years after the first conference was held there 50 years ago. This year's meeting brought together all stakeholders and researchers in human and medical genetics to review the state of the art, present new advances and build up new research collaborations.

The conference programme involved educational sessions on a wide ranging topics in human genetics, from sequencing to genome editing and bioethics. Others topics covered in those sessions includes the evolution of genetic counselling, cancer genetics and network medicine. There were workshops on funding and career development, quality assurance in interpretation and reporting in genome-wide diagnostics and on new methods and techniques. There were concurrent sessions and symposia and presentations 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 plenary sessions that celebrated landmark advances in the field of human genetics spanning the last 50 years and awards were presented to outstanding researchers in the field.

The conference also had poster sessions which covered a lot more topics. 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 was able to present part of my PhD work on using a Bayesian mixture model to investigate 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.

In all, it was a positive experience and I learnt a lot at the ESHG 2017 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark and I am grateful for the funds provided by the James Rennie Bequest to enable me attend the conference.