

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/  
Conference Title:** Eurolife Summer School 2017; Antimicrobial drug resistance –  
Research and Innovation

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**Travel Dates:** 10 – 14 July 2017

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**Location:** School of Medicine of the University of Barcelona, Spain

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**Group member(s):** Derick Nii Mensah Osakunor, PhD Student

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**Aims:** To increase my knowledge related to different aspects in the field of  
antimicrobial resistance.

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To make an oral presentation of an aspect of my PhD

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To network with other researchers in the field

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

Eurolife (originated in 1999) is a network of nine prestigious academic institutions across Europe (of which the university of Edinburgh is a founding member) that facilitates collaborative research, joint postgraduate training and education, the exchange of researchers and students and the building of joint research projects.

For the first time, the network organised a 5-day international summer school (hosted by the University of Barcelona together with the Barcelona Institute for Global Health). The main focus was on the current challenges of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) with a major emphasis on the molecular basis of antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship, rapid diagnostic tools, research for the development of new tools (i.e. new antibiotics, vaccines, etc.), innovation and policies and strategic interventions to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

It was an intense 5-day summer school from 8am to 6 pm each day. It was well-represented by student researchers from all of the participating universities and the multidisciplinary nature and approach made it very intriguing. All of the talks based on the above topics were very informative and I sat through all of them with keen interest. In brief, I now have a good understanding of; the major problems associated with AMR, the current and future tools to detect AMR in clinical/research settings, integrative measures available to control the emergence and dissemination of multidrug resistant bacteria, and the tools available for analysing data. There were also sessions on biopharma in relation to new strategies to discover and develop new antibacterial drugs, patenting and licencing. Most importantly I got a few additional ideas for the AMR aspect of my PhD, through the various sessions.

On the second day, I got the opportunity to make an oral presentation of my work, entitled, ‘**Metagenomic analysis of urine and gut microbiome: characterising the structure and function of antibiotic resistance genes**’ to a panel of experts. I got valuable feedback on

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data analysis and the future applications of my work. I will now consider these inputs to improve my work.

Although packed, organisers ensured that we had periodic sessions of social activities and networking events. This was indeed beneficial; I had the opportunity see the city, learn about the university of Barcelona, and to meet new researchers and students.

I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for generously providing me with funding, which made it possible for me to attend this workshop.