

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/**

**Conference Title:** Kinetoplastid Molecular Cell Biology meeting

**Travel Dates:** 24/04/15 -29/04/15

**Location:** Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA

**Group member(s):** Eleanor Silvester

**Aims:** To present recent data in the form of a poster

To network with other scientists and hear latest results

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

I am grateful to the James Rennie bequest in supporting my attendance at the Kinetoplastid Molecular Cell Biology meeting in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. This was my first international conference, and is also the pre-eminent meeting for my field of interest.

The meeting was tightly scheduled, beginning with talks at 7pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April, with the following 3 days running from 9am-9pm, and ending at midday on 29<sup>th</sup> April. As breakfast, lunch and dinner were catered for at the conference venue there was ample opportunity for networking. I spoke to many scientists for the first time, including students, post docs and senior investigators. It was particularly useful to meet one of the curators of the *Trypanosoma congolense* genome on TriTrypDB, as this is an extremely important resource for my research.

I presented my work in the form of a poster. There were 3 separate poster sessions at this meeting of 2 hours each, allowing each poster to receive a great deal of attention. This format allowed me to discuss my work with many scientists, including some group leaders, and receive insightful feedback. I was encouraged to find my poster well received, and was pleased by the number of questions asked.

The remainder of the meeting was packed full of interesting talks giving me an excellent overview of the current state of research. This will be very useful as I begin to write my thesis. My favourite sessions were those focussed on cell biology, biochemistry, and pathogenesis. I particularly enjoyed a talk on elucidating mechanisms behind *Trypanosoma brucei* social motility, as well as a talk describing direct interaction of a trypanosome surface molecule with complement factor H of the innate immune system.

I have returned from the meeting energized by this positive experience, particularly by the interest shown in my poster. I would like to thank the James Rennie bequest for facilitating my attendance at this fantastic meeting.