

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/Conference Title:** New Approaches and Concepts in Microbiology

**Travel Dates:** 27/06/2017 to 30/06/2017

**Location:** Heidelberg, Germany

**Group member(s):** Smitha Hegde

**Aims:** To participate and present a poster in the conference

---

---

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

James Rennie Bequest supported me to attend a reputed microbiology conference “New Approaches and Concepts in Microbiology”, conducted by European Molecular Biology Laboratories. This conference brought together microbiologists working in a broad range of topics in prokaryotic biology. As my Ph.D. research focuses on understanding single bacterial cell responses to commonly faced environmental salt stress, this conference was a great opportunity for me to meet and discuss with the academic peers working in parallel areas.

The conference included talks and poster presentation by experts as well as budding researchers in the field. The emphasis was on novel approaches that had potential to revolutionize future research in microbiology. Some of the topics covered which I found relevant and insightful were new approaches in systems biology, single-cell biology, and antibiotic resistance and persistence. As my group works majorly on single-cell biology and antibiotics persistence, the dictation summary and conference proceedings also benefitted rest of the group members. The talks on the state-of-the-art research with respect to single-cell imaging, microfluidic techniques were commendable and in-line with the progress we have made thus far in our group; the challenges faced while developing these techniques were useful first-hand information.

I had an opportunity to present a poster “Dynamics of *Escherichia coli*'s Passive Response to a Sudden Decrease in External Osmolarity”; I received immensely useful feedback regarding alternate ways to approach my research from peers expert in areas, which I lacked exposure. Some of them shared the routine challenges faced in novel techniques and the alternate ways of addressing them. In summary, the conference was highly appreciated by the attendees and I believe I made the most of it. I strongly recommend attending this conference for those working in prokaryotic biology and new techniques.

I sincerely thank James Rennie Bequest committee for funding my travel to Heidelberg, Germany, and providing me an opportunity to attend this conference.