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REPORT OF ATTENDANCE AT THE ASM BIOFILMS 2000 CONFERENCE

The James Rennie Bequest kindly granted me £250 towards the costs of travelling to the Biofilms 2000 meeting which was held by the American Society of Microbiology in Montana from 16-21 July.


This intensive, 5-day conference was attended by experts from both academic and industrial fields. All aspects of biofilms were discussed, but particular attention was paid to the recent advances in the area of biofilm formation, and the importance of cell-to-cell signalling. This has given me a good grounding of recent advances in biofilm research, and has been extremely useful for writing the introduction to my thesis.

While at the conference, I gave a short presentation of my work on competitive bacterial interactions in the biofilm. This is an area which has not been studied before, and is producing interesting results that suggests biofilm competition is completely different to planktonic competition. I also presented a poster, 'Bacterial Warfare in Competitive Mixed Biofilms'. My findings received a lot of interest, which was a great boost to my confidence. Discussing my work with experts in the field also threw up many ideas and questions which I had not thought of myself, and further research of published literature has given me a wealth of ideas to include in the discussion chapter of my thesis.

Attendance of this conference has also given me an idea of what I'd like to do in the next stage of my career, and perhaps whom to approach as possible employers.

Personally, this conference has given me a tremendous boost of self-esteem and newfound enthusiasm for my own research. Thank you for your contribution towards the travelling expenses.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Tait