

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: "Breaking Down Complexity: Innovative models and techniques in biomedicine". Enable European PhD and Postdoc Symposium.

Travel Dates: 15th-17th of November 2017

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Group member(s): Natalia Torrea

Aims:

- 1- To present the data obtained so far in my PhD project. Research data presented in a poster format.
- 2- To get insights into alternative career paths for PhD graduates in science.

OUTCOME:

"Breaking Down Complexity: Innovative models and techniques in biomedicine" has been the first European PhD and Postdoc Symposium organized by Enable in Barcelona. The symposium was divided in three days focusing on both career development and science. The aim was to promote communication between young researchers, open a science dialogue between different biomedicine disciplines, engage with society and create a link with research in an industry environment.

The first day of the symposium consisted of a career fair and workshops together with chats with professionals coming from different areas inside and outside of academia. The careers fair brought together a big number of companies and organisations where professionals holding a PhD could get a career opportunity. This was very useful and allowed me to get a better insight of different potential job positions I was not considering before as a career path for someone with my science background. The workshops included a wide variety of topics in order to improve in disciplines such as transferable skills, interviews for job positions, science communication and entrepreneur's ideas. I enrolled for the science communication workshop delivered by ScienSeed where I got a better understanding of how to communicate science more effectively to a wide audience and the use of different formats.

The second and third days of the symposium consisted of a science conference where keynote speakers had been invited to give a talk. Some PhD students and Postdocs were also presenting their data and we had different poster sessions where we could all participate. I presented my poster in one of these sessions getting useful feedback in order to interpret the data obtained in my research. The scientific program included four sessions about different research areas. I list the sessions here to show the different disciplines that were covered in the symposium: Building the Foundations of Biology: Synthetic and Cellular Research, The OMICS Revolution: Understanding the Layers of Life, In Vitro to in Vivo: Modeling Life in 3D, and From Discovery to Cure: The Future of Therapeutics. This provided a great atmosphere to discuss my research with different professionals and get an interesting point of view due to the interdisciplinary nature of the symposium.

Finally, I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for providing me with this travel funding, which made it easier for me to attend this international symposium.