

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

**Expedition/Project/  
Conference Title:** American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Annual Meeting, 2012

13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**Travel Dates:**

**Location:** The Moscone Center, San Francisco, California, USA

**Group member(s):** Giulia Vargiu (Earnshaw Laboratory)

**Aims:** Discuss my project with outstanding scientists, learn as much as possible from minisymposia talk and poster session, networking.

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

The ASCB Annual Meeting is one of the largest gatherings within the field of cell biology. The location of the meeting changes every year among few cities in US. It brings together, in just one event, scientists with all different knowledge of cell biology coming from all over the world. In my personal experience, this has been the biggest science event I have ever taken part into. To give an idea of the proportion, at this last meeting the participants have been estimated around seven thousand. The structure of the meeting is quite busy indeed there were minisymposia, table talk, exhibitors, posters and evening appointments every day for five days. The minisymposia are really important to follow, each of them is about a specific topic and it includes about six talks on it. The table talk were also quite interesting because we had the chance to engage a discussion with big names of science in very small groups, 10 people maximum.

Taking part in the meeting was extremely exciting and inspiring. I had the chance to present a poster about my work. It was quite important for me because that was the first poster I was presenting in my career. The poster session was meant to last one hour and a half but in the end I spent at least three hours talking about my work with different people: PhD peers, postdocs or PIs. Everybody was really enthusiastic and curious about my work. Some questions were specifically addressed to the technique itself I'm using (PALM microscopy), some others to the protocol procedure I chose for my experiments. Some others were just surprised about how we apply super-resolution microscopy to the study of kinetochore assembly and wanted more comments about it. My participation to the meeting was really important for my project because I got very useful feedbacks and suggestions. On the other hand it was also crucial for my self-confidence in talking in public about my science. Moreover, I had the opportunity to get information about laboratories I might be interested for future jobs.

On the whole, I really want to thank the James Rennie Bequest Travel Grant for allowing me to take part in this great science event that contributed importantly to my project and significantly challenged myself in terms of developing my communication skills.