

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/Conference Title: 3rd ASM Conference on Salmonella: Biology, Pathogenesis & Prevention.....

Travel Dates: 5th – 9th October 2009

Location: Aix en Provence, France.....

Group Member(s): Katy Woodall

Aims: To attend and present work from my PhD on a poster at the 3rd ASM Conference on Salmonella: Biology, Pathogenesis & Prevention.....

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

This was the 3rd American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Conference on Salmonella, which are held once every three years and fortunately was scheduled at a beneficial time during my PhD programme. I am very grateful for the financial contribution from the James Rennie Bequest which enabled me to attend this prestigious international event, and broadened my knowledge, understanding and curiosity of research in *Salmonella*. The conference integrated the most recent developments in areas ranging from the fundamental biology of *Salmonella* to its epidemiology, pathogenesis, genomics and disease prevention.

It allowed me the opportunity to meet a number of fascinating guests and speakers at the conference whose academic careers have been dedicated to the study and research within this field. Due to the high profile of the meeting the guest speakers were among the most successful scientists in *Salmonella* research, resulting in extremely fruitful scientific discussions. The meeting opened my eyes to the regularity of foodborne outbreaks, particularly occurring across America and the diversity of their origin. Epidemiologist Robert Tauxe from the Centres of Disease Control and Prevention, USA imparted some fascinating facts about the occurrence and source of *Salmonella* epidemics in recent times and the increasing risk from uncooked vegetables and salad. Many speakers discussed a wide range of serovars implicated in disease outbreaks that I otherwise had not previously considered.

The scientific programme of speakers was extensive, however time was scheduled for breaks when food and beverages were provided whilst circulating among other attendees. During this time posters were on show and presentations were scheduled. It was of great interest to view posters related to areas of interest to the lab that I work in and speak to other researchers within this field. I received some interesting and thoughtful

feedback from a number of guests at the conference on the work I presented which was both thought provoking and appreciated.

A number of social events were organised to allow an appreciation of the location the conference was held. A guided evening tour/walk of the old town was arranged as was the opportunity to visit the home of Cezanne and a presentation and welcome drink hosted by the town Mayor. Aix-en-Provence is a beautiful historic town in Marseilles where the culture and atmosphere is overwhelming. A banquet was organised at La Bastide du Cours for attendees and guests.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the James Rennie Bequest for their generosity and support in facilitating my attendance at this event.