

Travel Grant

1. Key details

[REDACTED]
Meeting/Course Title: International Conference on Bacilli and Gram-Positive Bacteria

Location: USA

Start Date: 23/07/2019

End Date: 26/07/2019

Total amount requested: £1612.00

Maximum we can award: £750.00

2. Proposal outlines

2.1 Benefits to professional development

I am currently just over one year into my second post doc position and I will benefit hugely from attending this conference as a networking opportunity as I embark on the next stages of my career (with the ultimate goal of running my own research group). Attending the conference will enable me to meet potential future collaborators, which will be very important as I try to establish an independent research group. Presenting my work at such a large international conference will benefit me in terms of getting exposure to leaders in the field.

This conference is a major international event where new discoveries on the molecular and cellular biology of not only *B. subtilis*, but *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Clostridium difficile*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, and *Listeria monocytogenes* are shared by experts. As I progress through this post doc I intend to start applying for my own funding. To increase my chances of success at this I intend to broaden out my research to include other clinically relevant Gram positive bacteria. Attending this conference will allow me to start getting to grips with the current state of the art research on these bacteria, as well as *B. subtilis*.

2.2 Benefits to research

In addition to sessions specific to my work, this is one of the largest microbiology conferences with large sections devoted to *B. subtilis* so will allow me to get a great overview of current emerging areas of research. Furthermore, some of the sessions, whilst not directly related to my research, are directly related to the work of other members of the lab. Attending these sessions will give me an excellent idea of the new hot topics in these areas and allow me to suggest ideas for colleagues and help students with potential future projects. An example of this would be the 2 biofilm sessions, which will be very useful as I am currently co supervising a masters student working on a biofilm project.

2.3 Expected research outcomes

My project aims to further understand the process of DNA replication in the context of cell growth and cell wall synthesis. My most recent data suggests that cell death associated with limiting cell wall precursor synthesis is caused by a combination of ROS-dependent oxidative DNA damage and high

levels of DNA replication, which has not previously been appreciated in the field. There are clear implications for antibiotic mechanism of action and potentiation which I will discuss as either a poster presentation, or hopefully an oral presentation.

2.4 Breakdown of costs

Flights: £827

Transfers: £50 (travel to Edinburgh airport subsidised by 1/3 as already have 24-30 railcard)

Accommodation: approx. £310 (\$405) I have opted for traditional on campus housing to reduce the cost of accommodation significantly

Early bird registration fees: approx. £425 (\$550) I will ensure the balance is paid before the fees increase