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20th Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology meeting 2016, Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA, 18th-21st April 2016

The Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology meeting was held at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA. The meeting was organised by Nicola Harris (EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland) and Felix Yarovinsky (University of Rochester Medical Centre, NY, USA) and thanks to the generosity of the Royal Society of Biology I was able to attend and present my work.

The WHIP meeting is a relatively small conference but it attracts experts in the field of immunoparasitology from the USA and other parts of the world. This makes it a great forum for early career researchers and particularly for PhD students to meet and network with principal investigators. The programme was varied and covered several different aspects of immunology and parasitology. The meeting was divided into three sections each day with focus on specific topics such as “regulation of immune responses to parasites”, “parasite transmission and virulence”, “adaptive immunity” and “microbiota and mucosal immune responses”. Each day one keynote talk was given among several presentations from both early career researchers and more experienced speakers. Posters were available for viewing for the duration of the entire meeting. Presenters were also allocated a few minutes between the different sessions to pitch their posters and poster sessions with refreshments were held at the end of each day allowing attendees to network after the talks and discuss research in a very relaxed and stimulating environment.

I am extremely grateful to the RSB for supporting my attendance at the 20th WHIP meeting, which allowed me to present my project to an audience of experts in the field and gave me the opportunity to consolidate my collaborations and grow my professional network.