

**Report from the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference on Fungal genetics, Asilomar, 22-27/03/2015**

Thanks to the travel grant that I received from the Society of Biology I could attend to the Fungal Genetics Conference in Asilomar, California. This is the most important conference in my research field and it takes place every two years. This year it was the 28th edition and it counted 920 attendees from all over the world, as well as approximately 650 posters presented and plenty of Concurrent Sessions dedicated to specific subtopics of research.

Attending to this Conference was incredibly prolific for my knowledge and for establishing contacts with the most prominent researchers in the field of fungal genetics. During the conference I attended to the Plenary Sessions and the Concurrent Sessions, some of which were highly related to my work, such as Synthetic Biology, Secondary Metabolism and Fungal Biotechnology. During the poster session, as well as throughout the whole Conference, I spoke with people who have been carrying out projects using similar techniques and approaches as mine. I believe this will be very useful for the last experiments of my PhD project.

As well as presenting my work through a poster I was also selected to give a talk in one of the Concurrent Sessions. I therefore gave a 15-minute talk during the Synthetic Biology Concurrent Session, followed by a 5-minute discussion with an audience of approximately 80-100 experts. During the Conference I was also awarded the prize for best poster in the category Biochemistry and Metabolism by the Genetics Society of America.

The reason why I applied to one of the travel grants offered by the Society of Biology is that as a PhD student I am not provided with much financial support for Conferences and Courses, and I was aware that the Society of Biology is issuing every year twenty travel grants worth £500 each to their members.

Overall attending to this Conference gave me the opportunity to give my first talk to an international audience and to enrich my knowledge, learning about the most up-to-date research being currently done in my field. I am very grateful to the Society of Biology for having contributed financially to my attendance to this Conference, and I will certainly recommend my colleagues to become members of the Society.