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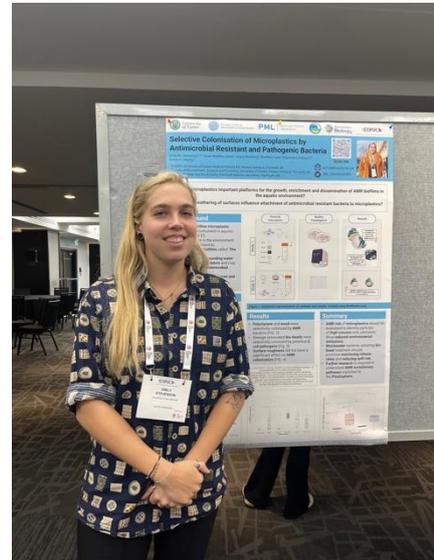
Environmental Dimension of Antimicrobial Resistance, Montreal, Canada, McGill Antimicrobial Resistance Center, May 26th – May 31st 2024

I am writing this report to express my gratitude to the Royal Society of Biology for providing me with a grant of £1000, which was essential for covering the costs of international travel and accommodation for attending the recent academic conference in Montreal, Canada. This conference proved to be a significant milestone in my final year as a PhD student, offering numerous professional and personal benefits.

Conference Participation and Activities:

At the conference, I had the opportunity to present my research through a poster titled "Selective Colonisation of Microplastics by Antimicrobial Resistant and Pathogenic Bacteria." This presentation facilitated engaging discussions with experts in my field, providing invaluable feedback and new perspectives on my research.

Additionally, I participated in an outreach event where academics acted as 'human books,' available for the general public to 'check out' and discuss our research. This event was a unique platform for me to communicate my work to a broader audience, enhancing my public engagement skills and raising awareness about the critical issues of antimicrobial resistance and microplastics.



Me presenting my poster: Selective colonisation of microplastics by antimicrobial resistant and pathogenic bacteria.



One of the highlights of the conference was being asked to deliver the final address. I read a poem written during one of the workshops, which eloquently discussed the threats and connections between antimicrobial resistance and climate change. This experience was both humbling and empowering, allowing me to contribute creatively to the conference.

Me taking part in an outreach event during the conference where academics were chosen to be 'human books' and could be 'checked out' by the general public to discuss their research.



Me delivering a final address to the conference where I was asked to read a poem that was written during one of the workshops discussing the threats and linkages between antimicrobial resistance and climate change.

Benefits of the Grant and Conference Attendance:

Personal and Professional Development:

The financial support from the Royal Society of Biology was instrumental in enabling my attendance at this international conference. Without this grant, the cost of travel and accommodation would have been prohibitive. The conference significantly benefited my professional development in several ways:

Networking Opportunities: I made numerous new connections with fellow researchers, academics, and professionals in my field. These networks are crucial for future collaborations and career opportunities.

Exposure to Diverse Research: Attending various talks and presentations broadened my understanding of the latest research trends and methodologies in microbiology and environmental science.

Career Advancement: I had the opportunity to discuss postdoctoral opportunities with potential mentors, paving the way for my future career in academia.



Me (back right) with a group of colleagues and new collaborators at the conference.

Contribution to My Research:

Presenting my poster allowed me to receive critical feedback from leading experts, which will help refine my research and improve the quality of my thesis. The discussions and insights gained will

undoubtedly enhance the impact and relevance of my work on the selective colonisation of microplastics by antimicrobial resistant and pathogenic bacteria.

Benefit to Other Attendees and the Wider Public:

My participation in the conference also had a positive impact on other attendees and the broader public:

Knowledge Exchange: By sharing my research findings and engaging in discussions, I contributed to the collective knowledge and understanding of pressing global issues such as antimicrobial resistance and environmental pollution.

Public Engagement: The outreach event allowed me to effectively communicate complex scientific concepts to the general public, fostering greater awareness and understanding of the implications of antimicrobial resistance.

Creative Contribution: Delivering the final address and reading the poem provided a unique and memorable closure to the conference, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the challenges we face and the need for collaborative solutions.

Conclusion

In summary, attending the international academic conference in Montreal was a transformative experience that significantly benefited my research, professional development, and public engagement skills. The support from the Royal Society of Biology was crucial in making this possible. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and look forward to applying the knowledge and connections gained to advance my career and contribute to the scientific community.