

(Abroad • Domestic) Official trip report form (Student)

2016/06/07 Year/Month/Day)

Name	Nesta Bortey-Sam
Laboratory	Toxicology
Year (Grade)	4
Destination	Nantes, France
Period of trip	May 20-28, 2016
Purpose of trip	Conference

Summary of activities (about 800 words, provide photos, tables and figures that clearly show the activities during the period)

Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, SETAC, Europe, 26th Annual Meeting; 22nd-26th May 2016, Nantes, France

I arrived in Nantes, France on May 20th to participate as a presenter during the 26th SETAC annual meeting held in Nantes, from May 22nd to 26th 2016 with the theme “Environmental contaminants from land to sea: continuities and interface in environmental toxicology and chemistry”. On May 22nd, the opening address for the ceremony was given by the SETAC Europe Executive Director, Dr. Bart Bosveld, who talked about our involvement in building a sustainable environment. Dr. Thomas Maes also gave a lecture on the use of plastic and the implications on the environment. In addition, he entreated all and sundry to avoid disposing plastics anywhere as these end up in water bodies polluting it and causing risks to aquatic organisms. The conference was a success and there was exchange of knowledge, ideas and discussions on current issues related to environmental toxicology and chemistry throughout the world and ways to curb the situation.

A total of over 2000 scientists/participants from 100 different universities and over 60 different countries including USA, Japan, Nigeria, South Africa, Canada, UK and France participated in the meeting. There was daily keynote lecture by various and renowned researchers, who talked about different subjects in the field of chemistry and toxicology with emphasis on water quality and pollution, emerging contaminants, pharmaceuticals and nanomaterials. I was privileged to meet and have one on one discussions with some renowned researchers e.g. Prof. Alistair Boxall, who also advised me about my career and how to get

fellowships. We discussed issues pertaining to “one health” for all and all for “one health” and stressed on the fact that various disciplines would have to work together to provide a safe and friendly environment for all.

Students later met the various regional presidents of SETAC and each introduced the aims SETAC and where the next meetings were going to be held. They spoke about helping to make SETAC grow. It was a great scientific meetings and I met many scientists/colleagues that I only knew from their publications.

Concerning this meeting, I presented on “Human health risk due to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs) exposure in Kumasi, Ghana; and excretion of PAH metabolites in cattle urine from urban and rural sites”. We had lots of discussion concerning this topic, talking mainly about the sources of these carcinogenic compounds and ways to control/minimize pollution. Some of the questions I had during the discussion time were:

1. The possible sources of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons to cattle and humans.
2. Ways of exposure.
3. How environmental agencies and policy makers in Ghana intend to solve the problem.
4. The use of naphthalene-containing-mothballs in water purification.
5. How difficult would it be to solve the situation?
6. With these risks, what is my future plan?

The sessions (more than 1800 platform and poster presentations) were filled with top notch research, and the poster sessions were impressive. I learnt so much from this meeting. Some of the presentations/sections I visited talked about:

1. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and pharmaceuticals in the environment.
2. Heavy metals remediation in soil.
3. Emerging contaminants.
4. Risk assessment.
5. Water quality and effects on marine organisms

With these activities and knowledge acquired, I believe to contribute strongly to the concept of one health and would (gradually) become a leader in chemical hazard control.

Approval of supervisor	Institution・Official title・Name : Prof. Mayumi ISHIZUKA 印
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