

A report on ISME exhibition/outreach at the 3rd Annual WACCBIP Research Conference, held at the University of Ghana, 18 - 20th July 2018.

The West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP), held its 3rd Annual Research Conference from July 18-20, 2018 to provide a platform for the dissemination of research conducted by fellows at the Centre and by visiting scientists from its global network of collaborators.

The three-day conference with about 254 participants had the theme “Translating Molecular Research into Healthcare Solutions for Africa” and featured world-class scientists from Africa, Europe, and North America with emphasis on endemic tropical diseases. The conference afforded young resident scientists the opportunity to interact with seasoned ones, giving them better insight into their research projects and opening them up to new perspectives.

As part of the effort to promote microbial ecology in Ghana and across Africa, the participants were exposed to the activities and objectives of ISME during a short talk at the conference. In addition, a 3 day exhibition was held at the premises where ISME volunteers interacted with the scientific community. Branded souvenirs (Embroidered Lacoste) were given out to selected participants. All these generated great enthusiasm and excitement. For most people, it was the first time they had heard of such a society. Several researchers expressed interest in joining the community. However, the major challenge was the cost of membership registration for students.

After the conference, best performing students were awarded with certificates and awards. Prominent among them was Ms Ethel Blesse, a WACCBIP PhD fellow, who was awarded for her outstanding oral presentation on microbial ecology titled “Discovery and development of novel antifungal compounds from marine endophytic fungi. Furthermore, Aime´ Roland Sanhoun received ISME prize for his poster presentation on “Ecology of *Streptococcus infantarius* in the milk and its impact on the products value chain in Northern Côte d’ Ivoire.

The ISME ambassador fund was solicited to financially support each award winner with a certificate and a cash prize of 100 Euros. The funds also covered other organisational costs, including rental of a digital signage for 3-days photo exhibition, printing of ISME souvenirs and certificates and transport of logistic items. In all, an amount of 531 Euros was used to cover the ISME ambassadorial programme.

The detailed costs breakdown for the ISME activity during the WACCBIP conference at the University of Ghana, July 18- 20, 2018:

Item	Currency (GH¢)	Amount
Transport		435.00
Digital Signage rental		600.00
Souvenir (Lacoste T-Shirts) and certificate printing		750.00
Poster prizes		1080.00
Total		2865.00
Total amount in Euros		531.00