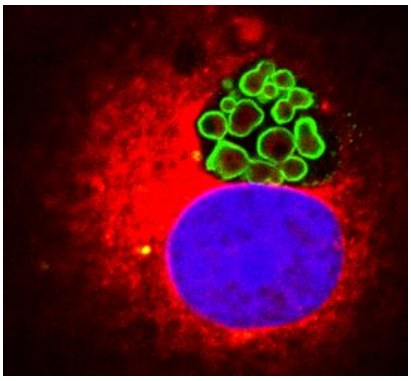
TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

Chlamydia Basic Research Society 2019			
Seattle, USA, 18th-21th March 2019			
Prokaryotic Biology			
Author of report	Aurélie Scherler	Affiliation of author	Institute of Microbiology, University of Lausanne

Thanks to the financial support of the SSM, I had the opportunity to attend the conference organized by the Chlamydia Basic Research Society, which took place in downtown Seattle from the 18th to the 21th of March 2019.



Aberrant bodies of *Waddlia chondrophila*, as seen by immunofluorescence. These large green bacteria, which represent persistent stages, were obtained after 24 hours exposure to piperacillin.

Each day, the first session started with an overview on the work done in different *Chlamydia* fields including genetics, cell biology, immunology and gene regulation. The conference was then divided into different sessions with various topics such as transformation of *Chlamydia*, chlamydial effectors, *Chlamydia*-host interactions or gene regulations and persistence. In addition, three sessions with presentations of 3 minutes were scheduled before the different poster sessions. Finally, as trainees, we had the opportunity to register for a lunch with established *Chlamydia* researchers, which allowed interesting discussions about *Chlamydia* but also about science in general.

During this meeting, I had the chance to present one poster on ParB, a protein implicated in chromosome segregation, and one poster on aberrant bodies, a persistent stage induced by different stress stimuli. In addition, I was selected for a short presentation in order to present the take-home messages of my poster on ParB. During the poster sessions, I had the unique opportunity to interact with numerous researchers about my work. These discussions and suggestions from the scientific community provided me innovative ideas for both projects.

This conference was also a unique opportunity to establish contacts and interact with researchers from the *Chlamydia* field and to update my knowledge on the biology of these fascinating intracellular bacteria.