

TRAVEL GRANT REPORT

Keystone Symposia Human Microbiome: From Models and Mechanism to Medicine

Banff, AB, Canada – Jan19-22, 2026

Molecular microbiology

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The Keystone Symposia was held over three days in Banff, Canada and brought together researchers from around the world working on microbiome research and microbial metabolites. I attended the conference as a last-year PhD student studying the gut microbiota and had the opportunity to present my work in the form of a poster. The conference was highly relevant to my research and provided valuable insights into current developments in the field. Attending talks by renowned microbiologists and medical doctors allowed me to gain a broader perspective on microbiome research, particularly regarding metabolomics and metabolite analysis, an area with which I was previously less familiar due to my focus on metagenomics. These presentations gave me concrete ideas on how to integrate metabolomic approaches into future projects. In addition, the conference offered excellent networking opportunities. I had particularly good discussions with Dr. Roshonda B. Jones and Khairatun Yusuff, who are working on projects closely related to my own. Their feedback helped me identify new aspects to explore in my research and opened possibilities for future collaborations. Overall, this conference significantly contributed to my scientific development by expanding my methodological knowledge, providing feedback on my work, and enabling me to share my research with an international scientific community.

