

18th Biennial National Atomic Spectroscopy Symposium (BNASS), July 2016
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Thank you so much for awarding me the Atomic Spectroscopy Group Travel Grant to attend 18th Biennial National Atomic Spectroscopy Symposium (BNASS) (4th-6th July 2016) held in John Moores University, Liverpool. It was a privilege to get this grant. Without this grant, I would not have attended the symposium which was mostly about atomic spectroscopy within the field of analytical chemistry with famous keynote speakers who gave interesting lectures.

I am a 3rd year chemistry PhD student at the University of Aberdeen. With the help of the grant, I got a chance to present my research on the investigation of *Globicephala melas* (Pilot whales) stranding, a part of my PhD which is focused on investigating selenium (Se) deficiency as a possible contributing factor for the stranding of the whales. The work involved method development for Se speciation and species identification in different tissues of pilot whales (muscle, kidney, and liver).

This symposium was an excellent event for me because, not only did it give me an opportunity to present my work but it also gave me the opportunity to meet other scientists, interact with my peers and exchange ideas to push forward my work. Thank you for the wonderful experience.