

## Rebecca Ackermann



### **My professional experience acquired at WAAVP**

My name is Rebecca Ackermann and I am currently a Master student at the department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa. The 27th WAAVP Conference was the first conference I have been fortunate enough to attend, so I did a lot of research beforehand about what to expect at such an influential event. However, nothing could have prepared me for the amazing week that I experienced in Madison. The first day opened with a fantastic keynote presentation about One Health, accompanied by a memorable cultural

experience that set the tone for the rest of the week.

Being a graduate student in South Africa, I feel that opportunities to put your work in perspective to the global field of veterinary parasitology are very important, as well as having the opportunity to acquire awareness about the problems facing other parts of the world. This was unquestionably accomplished during this conference.

The next few days of conference was packed full of a variety of presentations spanning a wide range of topics. My knowledge of the broad field of veterinary parasitology has been quite limited and being able to attend the various presentations allowed me to experience not only different topics but also different view points from more experienced scientists. The information I gained during this conference will definitely aid me during my postgraduate years and far into the future.

I was privileged enough to be able to take part in the conference in the form of a poster presentation. This was certainly the most significant part of the conference for me, as it allowed me to share my work with people from all over the world. I had some of the most fascinating conversations about my work that allowed me to view my own project through many different perspectives. This resulted in me being able to determine some areas of my project that I could improve upon.

I would just like to thank everybody involved in organising this extraordinary conference. Especially the WAAVP African Foundation Scholarship which made it possible for me to attend the conference. It has left a large impact on my life as a young scientist.