



AWARDEE REPORT FORM

NAME	Dr Rosanne Raftery
UNIVERSITY	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
NAME OF AWARD	Symington Bequest Award
PURPOSE OF AWARD	<i>conference attended (full name) with city and dates</i>
<p>To participate in the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) annual meeting which was held in New Orleans, LA, USA from March 9th to 13th 2018</p>	
<p>REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?</p>	
<p>I attended the meeting to present my work on the development of gene-activated scaffolds for accelerating bone repair. My talk was entitled 'Incorporation of novel cell penetrating peptide-based gene delivery vectors into collagen hydroxyapatite scaffolds significantly accelerates bone regeneration'. The ORS is the largest orthopaedic research conference held in the world each year with approximately 3000 attendees so it was the ideal place to present my new research and make connections with leaders in the field. I met with current collaborators to discuss results and future plans and also met with potential new collaborators. The conference also runs a very beneficial mentor programme for young academics which I participated in. I also attended a grant writing workshop which provided helpful information as I progress as an academic.</p>	
<p>COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar.</p>	
<p>The conference started on the 9th on March and I presented two podium presentations that day; the presentation mentioned above as well as a 1 minute poster teaser session for a colleague who could not attend the conference. Both presentations were well received and I spoke to interested attendees after each session. I also had a poster presentation at the conference so had the opportunity to present more preliminary work and received some helpful feedback.</p> <p>There were a number of spotlight presentations by world leaders which were fantastic, in particular Catherine Kuo from the University of Rochester who spoke in depth about her work on designing treatments for tendon regeneration, and Kurt Hankerson who spoke about animal models for studying bone biology.</p> <p>New Orleans itself was an interesting city to visit and although I didn't have much time to see the sights, the social aspect of the conference was very enjoyable as I got to catch up with friends and colleagues from around the world.</p>	

REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? (*does not apply to equipment grant*)

Speaking at a major international conference is invaluable in developing my academic career. I now feel that I am beginning to get to know many of the leaders in the field. I presented two podium presentations as well as poster presentations so my confidence and my communication skills have improved. By attending a grant writing workshop, I gained valuable skills that will be very useful as I begin to apply for grants. I also met current collaborators and some potential new collaborators during networking events.

REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future?

I will follow up on new collaborators and have plans to write a new grant application with a current collaborator. I also aim to write two personal fellowship applications in 2018 so the grant writing workshop will help with that. From the feedback I got at my poster, I will add more experiments to my studies to produce a stronger paper and I got some nice new ideas from attending the conference that I will incorporate into my research going forward.

SIGNATURE _____

If submitted electronically

DATE 28.03.2018

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