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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Gerard O’Keeffe | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | University College Cork | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Departmental Award | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| The purpose of this departmental seminar award was to invite Prof. Michele Morari from the University of Ferrara, Italy to speak at the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience at University College Cork. Prof. Morari’s lab staff work on understanding how the structure and function of the basal ganglia are affected by Parkinson’s disease, and then they use this understanding to develop new therapeutic strategies for neuroprotection and neuroregeneration. | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? | | | | |
| The primary anticipated benefit was that this seminar would provide an opportunity for third and fourth year undergraduate students in anatomy and neuroscience, and post-graduate students in the department to hear from an internationally recognised expert in this field. Additionally it was hoped that this seminar award would open new collaborative research opportunities with Prof. Morari’s group at the university of Ferrara. Specifically that it would create new opportunities for student exchange visits between our laboratories. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. | | | | |
| Prof. Morari visited UCC over the course of three days (including day of arrival and departure), and his seminar was held on October 22nd 2018. This was attend by ~30 students who were enrolled in their third and fourth years of the BSc degree in Neuroscience in UCC, approximately 20 postgraduate students registered in the department of anatomy of anatomy and Neuroscience at UCC, and approximately 30 interested staff from other departments in the University. Prof. Morari’s talk focused on his lab groups work on the biology of LRRK2 mutations in Parkinson’s disease, and how these mutations affect the structure and functional of the nigrostriatal dopaminergic pathway in vivo. Additionally Prof. Morari also outlined his work that is focusing on targeting the LRRK2 pathway for neuroprotection and neuroregeneration in Parkinson’s disease.  In addition to this, Prof Morari also met a number of PhD students in the department who were working on areas of related interested. These students presented their on-going work to Prof. Morari who provided constructive advice on their work. Additionally and he and I also discussed areas of mutual interest and explored the possibility for collaborative work between our laboratories, with a particular focus on the arrangement of student exchange visits. | | | | |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant.* For public engagement/outreach awards what did your audience gain and how did you evaluate success? | | | | |
| The most important things gained from this visit was the benefit students gained from hearing an international expert speak about their work. Additionally this departmental seminar award also created new opportunities for student exchange as outlined below. The success of both of these things was evaluated in two ways; 1. By the design and refinement of experimental plans by post-graduate students based on discussions with Prof. Morari, and 2. The development of a timeline for student exchange visits. | | | | |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? For public engagement/outreach awards how with the materials/knowledge generated by this activity be used in the future? | | | | |
| As a direct result of this visit, one PhD student from my lab is visiting Prof. Morari’s lab at the University of Ferrara, Italy for a five week research visit from 22/02/2019 to 29/03/2019. Future plans are also in place for a Pharmacy student from the University of Ferrara to visit our group here on a 6-month Erasmus placement later in 2019. | | | | |
| Data Protection/GDPR: I consent to the data included in this submission being collected, processed and stored by the Anatomical Society. | | | | |
| YES | | | | |
| Graphical Images: If you include graphical images you must obtain consent from people appearing in any photos and confirm that you have consent. A consent statement from you must accompany each report if relevant. A short narrative should accompany the image. | | | | |
| NOT RELEVANT | | | | |
| Copyright: If you submit images you must either own the copyright to the image or have gained the explicit permission of the copyright holder for the image to be submitted as part of the report for upload to the Society’s website, Newsletter, social media and so forth. A copyright statement must accompany each report if relevant. | | | | |
| NOT RELEVANT | | | | |
| SIGNATURE | GERARD O’KEEFFE | | DATE | 18.02.2019 |

*If submitted electronically, a type-written name is acceptable in place of a hand-written signature*

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-BLANKCO-SEAL-date110216-Amended AT-070818*