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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Juan M. Fons romero | | |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | |  | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | King’s college London | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Symington Bequest Fund Awards | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| The purpose of this award is to participate in the European Developmental Biology Congress (EDBC) at Keble College, Oxford, from September 25th to 28th. This event is organized by renowned experts in the field, including Sally Lowell from the University of Edinburgh, Shankar Srinivas from the University of Oxford, and Paul Martin from the University of Bristol.  The EDBC is an annual congress with the participation of the most prestigious scientists in Developmental Biology. | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? | | | | |
| I am an early career researcher on a path toward independence, with the ultimate goal of building and leading my own research group. Therefore, my primary aim was to connect with fellow scientists in my field, seeking opportunities for potential collaborations. In addition, I anticipated that presenting one of my ongoing projects to the wider research community would significantly contribute to the advancement of my career.  Furthermore, I had the expectation of broadening my knowledge by staying current with the latest developments in my area of study. Learning about the cutting-edge techniques and ongoing research relevant to my field was an important aspect of my participation in the event. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. | | | | |
| The Congress spanned across three European cities, namely Oxford, Barcelona and Paris. This unique format offered an interesting blend of both in-person and online presentations, enriching the overall experience and fostering higher levels of international participation.  Throughout the event, I had the pleasure of reconnecting with familiar faces from previous conferences, strengthening our friendships, and establishing a solid foundation for potential future collaborations. The meaningful discussions I had during the Congress motivated me to consider applying for lecturer positions at European universities.  In summary, the Congress proved to be a highly rewarding and fruitful experience, not only expanding my professional network but also inspiring me to pursue new career opportunities in academia. | | | | |
| 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? | | | | |
| I reconnected with a fellow researcher who had recently become a Principal Investigator, someone I'd met at previous conferences. We realized that our careers were at similar stages, and our areas of expertise seemed to complement each other perfectly. I proposed a collaboration for a grant application I'm currently preparing, and we've decided to move forward with it. Having this individual as a collaborator is a significant and beneficial addition to my career. | | | | |
| 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? | | | | |
| Observing the innovative hybrid approach used to organize this conference, with in-person and online elements across different cities, was truly intriguing. This experience has provided me with valuable insights and ideas for organizing similar events in the future. | | | | |
| Data Protection/GDPR: I consent to the data included in this submission being collected, processed and stored by the Anatomical Society. Answer YES or NO in the Box below | | | | |
| 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. Answer N/A not applicable, YES or NO in the box below | | | | |
| N/A | | | | |
| 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. Answer N/A not applicable, YES or NO in the box below | | | | |
| N/A | | | | |
| SIGNATURE | Juan M. Fons Romero | | DATE | 20-10-23 |

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

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-220922 – International Conference*