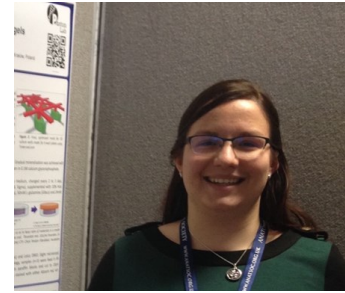


*MIRIAM GRAUTE
UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER VACATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
INTERVIEWED AT THE SUMMER MEETING 2017, GALWAY*



Please introduce yourself and tell us about your research

My name is Miriam Graute and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Edinburgh in medical sciences. Last year I conducted a summer undergraduate research project funded by The Anatomical Society. I was working in tissue engineering researching the enthesis *in vitro*. I also used computer-aided design to modify the physical environment the Paxton lab uses.

How have you benefitted from the undergraduate research scholarship funding?

I have had a weekly stipend as well as contribution towards laboratory expenses, giving me the freedom to carry out my own project rather than just helping someone else with their ongoing work. I have also had the opportunity to attend the summer meeting with my registration fee covered and I am very happy to be here. The Barclay-Smith Travel Fund covered my travel expenses

Has the experience from this project influenced your thoughts on your future work/career plans?

Yes, most definitely! I returned to the Paxton lab for my honours project, again tissue engineering the enthesis. I have found I really enjoy the practical lab work and want to continue on a career path that allows me to continue with that. In September 2018, I will start studying for the MRes Tissue Engineering for Regenerative Medicine in Manchester. It includes a 6-month laboratory project – my preferred mode of studying as I came to realise during my summer project.

What advantages does association with The Anatomical Society bring you, as a student and beyond?

It will be beneficial to tell employers (including potential supervisors) that I am associated with the society, and show them what I was able to achieve with their support. With time, I believe I will find out more of the advantages as they occur – ask me again in 10 years and I will be better able to tell!

What are the best aspects about attending an Anatomical Society meeting?

This being my first meeting so far, the best part is getting in touch with areas of anatomy that I have not had exposure to before; for example by talking to the person next to me in the coffee break. I also enjoy listening to the talks to learn something new simply for the sake of learning it – no exams!

Tell us about your experience of presenting your work here as a poster

It has been very positive, and I was happy that people, especially more senior academics, were genuinely interested in the work that I had done. They were asking questions and several of them walked away saying they had genuinely learnt something! I had heard previously that these poster sessions are fun, so I am glad this proved true and that it went this well.