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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Lemonia Chatzeli | | |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | |  | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | University of Cambridge | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Symington Bequest Fund Round 6 | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| Conference attendance:  2023 European Developmental Biology Congress, Oxford  25th-28th September 2023  Oxford organisers: Sally Lowell, Shankar Srinivas, and Paul Martin | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? | | | | |
| To present my project on branching morphogenesis  To become updated with the lates advances in developmental biology  To strengthen existing and create new collaborations | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. | | | | |
| The conference covered a great range of topics from tissue patterning and morphogenesis to regeneration and biophysical modelling.  Of particular interest where topics related to cell competition. This includes talks from Shruthi Krishnan, Imperial College London who identified the important role of the stress response protein ATF4 in upregulating L-proline and conferring survival advantage. In addition, Stephanie Ellis from Max Perutz Labs, investigated the mechanism by which Sox2 overexpressing cells are eliminated in the developing embryonic skin while in the adult skin they become melanoma.  Equally interesting were topics related to tissue morphogenesis and patterning. This session covered the important role of morphogens in tissue patterning and highlighted additional mechanisms that could lead to symmetry breaking including the role of geometry, mechanical forces and cell adhesion as described by Jeremy Green from King’s College London and Diana Pinheiro from IMP, Vienna.  Spatial transcriptomics was a common topic covered by many talks. Among them of particular interest was James Cotterell’s talk from EMBL Barcelona who described a novel method of spatial transcriptomic analysis. In this method by labelling cells before the dissociation of the tissue and creating gradients of fluorescent intensities they we able to preserve the 3D spatial information of the cells within the tissues.  Finally and most importantly, it gave me the opportunity to meet with old colleagues and to strengthen my existing collaborations. For example I had the opportunity to meet with Edouard Hannezo who was a former lab member in Ben Simons group and now a group leader at the ISTA. We discussed about his latest work on branching morphogenesis in the lymphatic system of the mouse ear pinna and the similarities and differences with the salivary gland development. In addition, I met with a former colleague Neal Anthwal who shared his experience with me on applications for group leader positions and funding schemes. | | | | |
| 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 conference gave me the opportunity to describe my research in a broader developmental biology community and therefore increased my communication and networking skills. In addition it gave me the opportunity to attend to a variety of different talks related to development and spatial transcriptomics. This broaden my understanding of the mechanisms that regulate pattern formation and of spatial transcriptomic techniques. Finally I gained valuable advice on the application process for group leader positions and career development awards | | | | |
| 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? | | | | |
| In terms of my research project I gained important information on the variety of different processes that are involved on tissue patterning and the importance of timing in cell fitness. These processes will be now taken further into consideration when analysing my data on branching morphogenesis. I also gained a better understanding on the spatial transcriptomic techniques that are available and potentially implement them to my project. Finally I gained valuable advice on my career development. | | | | |
| 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 | Lemonia Chatzeli | | DATE | 30/09/2023 |

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

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