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 AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| --- | --- |
| NAME | Prof Fabio Quondamatteo  |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | @FabQu\_ |
| UNIVERSITY | Royal College of Surgeon in Ireland, Dublin |
| NAME OF AWARD | Departmental Seminar |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* |
| Dr Jennifer Paxton from the University of Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Anatomical Society, was invited to present her research at our weekly Tissue Engineering Research Group Meeting in RCSI. The Seminar she gave was on the 23rd of August, and on that occasion the TERG meeting, which normally happens weekly, was entirely dedicated to her talk. |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| I have known Dr Paxton for a number of years through the Anatomical Society and the cross over I had over the years with Anatomy in Edinburgh. I, therefore, knew about her research interest in Tissue Engineering approaches to stimulate tendon repair, focussing on entheses, and how successfully she is carrying it out. For these reasons I anticipated an exciting seminar which matched not only my research interests focussed on extracellular matrix and collagen fibrils in particular, but also the interests of the wide audience that was expected at the seminar. She was in fact invited to deliver her talk in a weekly meeting of the Tissue Engineering Research Group (TERG). This is a research consortium of RCSI where several PIs and their research groups slot in. Moreover, many of the TERG PIs, including me, belong to the Dept of Anatomy & Regenerative Medicine of RCSI. The audience of this weekly meeting is, therefore, expected to be composed of PIs, Postgraduate researchers, PhD and other research students, all heavily involved in Tissue Engineering research. Many of the PIs in this group also focus their tissue engineering research on the musculoskeletal system which was an additional point of contact with Dr Paxton’s research focus. Inviting Dr Paxton to our TERG Forum and dedicating the weekly meeting only to her talk was a fantastic opportunity for the TERG PIs in RCSI to cross over with an excellent anatomist carrying out high-end tissue engineering research, and for Dr Paxton to have a scientific exchange with an audience sharing the same research interest in a context where Anatomy is in the foreground. I can happily and safely say that all my expectations were excellently met. |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. |
| Dr Paxton gave an excellent seminar. The audience was composed as expected and illustrated above, and an interesting and stimulating discussion was held at the end of the talk. There was the opportunity for the audience to interact with Dr Paxton extensively, both at the talk and also informally, and there was also for her the opportunity to visit our research facility at RCSI and have constructive scientific discussion and explore potential cross-over and future collaborative research work with RCSI staff. |
| 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, personally, learnt a lot more about entheses, of which my knowledge so far was relatively limited. Dr Paxton highlighted the anatomy of them thoroughly and focussed considerably on how important is to explore the fine anatomical structure in order to understand the delicate function that these structures play in the body. This complex structure is very little explored and not extensively explained in textbooks but it plays a central role in many tendon injuries. I learnt a lot about the challenges in repairing them and on the key role that sound anatomical knowledge about them plays in promoting their repair process and on the potential of the bioengineering approach for this. |
| 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? |
| I, personally, discovered many points of potential scientific cross over between the work of Dr Paxton and mine, which is centrally based on the anatomical study of extracellular matrix ultrastructure, in particular collagen fibrils. Specifically, my background in ultrastructure of collagen may be a useful complement to the work of Dr Paxton and this may likely fuel future scientific exchanges. Hopefully, this scientific visit will be the first step to develop a scientific collaboration. This may apply also to other colleagues in RCSI, whose point of contact with Dr Paxton’s work may be more on the biomaterial front.We are all extremely thankful to the Anatomical Society for having provided us with this wonderful opportunity having supported the Dr Paxton’s visit to TERG in RCSI thus stimulating research cross-over within an anatomical context |
| 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 | Fabio Quondamatteo | DATE | 7th September 2023 |

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

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-220922*