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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME | | Ruth Levey | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | NUI Galway | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Symington Bequest | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference attended (full name) with city and dates* | | | | |
| ESAO Congress – “New organs for life”  Madrid 12-15th September  Poster title: | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? | | | | |
| * To present my poster and receive constructive feedback from multidisciplinary researchers which will aid in the development, clarification and refinement of my research. * To provide the opportunity to interact with more members of the scientific/tissue engineering community. * To gain new ideas and approaches that will inspire me and make me more effective and efficient at work. * To learn more about the new technologies and solutions emerging in the area of fully integrated/implanted artificial organs which I will find hugely interesting. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar. | | | | |
| From start to finish this conference dealt with issues associated with organ donor shortage and the new technologies and solutions in development to help tackle these issues. As this conference addressed a wide variety of topics parallel sessions were in operation.  I was particularly interested in the “Biomaterials and Tissue Interaction” or “Tissue Engineering” sessions as they were most applicable to my PhD research. Through these sessions I learned of research from young and old researchers. Two speakers in particular really stood out to me, Prof Thomas Groth and Dr Nuno M. Neves.  Prof Thomas Groth is a Professor of Biomedical Materials with research interests in engineering of musculoskeletal tissue. His talks on biomimetic surfaces and anti-inflammatory activity were very informative and useful. He was involved in judging my poster and gave me some great suggestions for my research. Dr Neves Research involves production of porous biomaterials, development and modification of natural origin materials, surface modification and texture control in biomaterials, polymer based nanostructured composites and biomaterials for bone and cartilage tissue engineering, adult stem cells for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine and animal models for testing of biomaterials. All these facets of his research were so interesting to hear and I learned about many analysis techniques from his talks which are all applicable to my work.  Dr Harold C. Ott presented was a speaker at a plenary session with a talk titled “Organs on demand – From Biofabrication to Transplantation”. This was truly one of the most interesting talks I have ever attended, as it held my attention from start to finish. During his talk he gave an in-depth description of transplantation throughout history. He discussed his approach of reseeding an organ scaffold with patient derived cells which could eliminate donor organ shortage and the need for immunosuppression in transplant patients which could be used as an effective solution for millions of people in need of organ repair and replacement. | | | | |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant)* | | | | |
| * Presentation skills – Presenting my poster enabled me to become more confident in both my presentation skills and presenting and defending my data. * Networking and communication skills – The conference was the perfect time to meet new people, and connect with individuals who are experts in my field of research. * Learned new methods of data analysis, presentation and also gained many ideas on how to steer my research in new directions. | | | | |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? | | | | |
| Presentation skills will benefit me greatly in the future, allowing me to gain confidence for future poster presentations, talks and lecturing.  Networking and communication skills will enable me to call on other researchers in the field of tissue engineering, immunology and histology for their expertise and opinions on the lab work methods or analysis that I am carrying out. The aim of my PhD is to become a successful scientist. I trust that with the help of others this goal can be achieved.  Immunohistological and immunofluorescent stains for macrophages will enable me to analyse macrophage populations and other immune responses surrounding implanted devices and to steer my project in the direction of immune response analysis. | | | | |
| SIGNATURE | Ruth Levey | | DATE | 27/09/2018 |

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

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