



AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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UNIVERSITY	University of Edinburgh
NAME OF AWARD	Barclay Smith Travel Fund 2045/25 (Round 1)
PURPOSE OF AWARD	<i>conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.</i>
	To aid in my attendance of the 2025 Winter Conference (06/01/25-08/01/25) hosted by the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, at which I presented a poster detailing my summer research funded by the Anatomical Society.
REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?	<i>Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.</i>
	<p>I attended this conference to present my poster detailing my summer research that was generously funded by one of the Anatomical Society's Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships. Having never attended a conference before, I looked forward to being able to share my work with others in the field. I also hoped that presenting my poster at the conference would allow me to gain more confidence in presenting to others and being able to answer questions that people may have had regarding my work.</p> <p>The theme of this year's winter conference was Anatomical Education and Imaging. My summer research focused on structured light scanning – a form of 3D imaging – and so I was very much looking forward to being able to hear about some of the other imaging-focused research that is currently ongoing within the field of anatomy.</p> <p>I also anticipated that I would be able to gain more insight into the advances and innovations that are being made within the education of anatomy. As an undergraduate student I was looking forward to getting to hear about the various resources that are being implemented into universities to aid in teaching as well as self-study.</p> <p>As this was my first time attending a conference, I anticipated that I would be able to gain some insights into what attending a conference is like whilst also gaining confidence within a new professional environment. In addition to this, I also looked forward to being able to network with other likeminded individuals from further afield.</p>

COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event.

Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.

The first day of the conference primarily focused on anatomical education. Throughout the day there were a range of presentations that covered the implementation of various imaging modalities within anatomical education, whether as a resource used within the classroom or the lab, or as an additional resource that students can use for self-study. The implementation of more radiographs and CT images into education was discussed in the context of improving students' image interpretation skills. The use of 3D resources such as AR/VR was also highlighted as being important for both teaching and student revision by aiding in an increased appreciation of spatial awareness and the relation between structures. Professor Scott Border (University of Glasgow) gave a very interesting presentation about more effective teaching strategies such as increasing the number of formative assessments and ways to improve student recall. Whilst this talk was of course aimed towards lecturers, I also particularly enjoyed it as a student as it touched on new learning and revision strategies that I plan to adopt in the future.

The second day of the conference focused on various imaging modalities and their roles within anatomical research. A wide range of talks were given at this session, with research presented regarding human anatomy as well as comparative anatomy. Much of the research presented focused on CT imaging, however other modalities such as MRI and immunofluorescence were also discussed. One topic that I found particularly interesting was the ways in which CT imaging can be used to investigate diversity between various primate species, and how this research can then be used to aid in the identification of other more rare species. I also enjoyed the talk on the work that is being carried out by the Dutch Fetal Biobank to create 3D digital and tactile models that can be used as resources to teach embryonic development. During the second day of the conference, I also had the opportunity to hear a talk from Dr Chisaka Kuehnemann about her research that was awarded the Aging Cell Best Paper Prize in 2023. This was a fascinating talk about the potential link between antiretroviral therapies and the accelerated development of an aging phenotype. I felt that this topic is not something that is commonly discussed and so it was very interesting to gain an insight into the research that is being carried out within this particular field.

The final day of the conference largely focused on 3D imaging in research, as well as public engagement in anatomical education. It was particularly interesting to hear about the various ways in which digital 3D resources can be developed, such as through the use of photogrammetry or structured light scanning. There were also two talks delivered that discussed different public engagement events that have been held in the hope of introducing the wider public to anatomical education. Both events had taken a more creative approach with hands-on activities, therefore members of the public had the opportunity to learn some basic human anatomy in a fun and relaxed environment that is suitable for all ages.

I also enjoyed the networking opportunities that were available over the course of the conference. The early career social was a great event that gave me the chance to meet other anatomy students at different universities, whilst the gala dinner was a perfect opportunity to talk to others about their research in a more relaxed environment. Through my networking I was fortunate enough to meet some wonderful people who I hope to cross paths with again in the future.

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?

Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.

My main reason for attending this conference was to present my summer research in the form of a poster. By presenting my work at the poster session I was able to gain greater confidence in presenting, whilst also getting to develop my critical thinking skills in the form of answering questions.

Creating my poster for the conference also gave me a chance to develop science communication skills as I had to be conscious of the main information being presented on my poster and how best to lay this information out. I also gained greater presentation and critical thinking skills thanks to this opportunity to present and answer questions about my own research, as well as through engaging with others and their work.

I also gained new skills in the interpretation of medical CT imaging through the CT workshop that was held on the first day of the conference. I previously had limited experience in navigating through a full body CT scan to identify specific anatomical structures, however the workshop has given me the confidence to do so. As well as learning to navigate through a scan, I was also able to learn about the different CT windows and which are best for the visualisation of the lungs, soft tissues and the skeleton.

The talks centred around anatomical education also provided me with the unexpected opportunity to gain new ideas and skills that I can use for self-study during the remainder of my degree and beyond.

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?

Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.

Through the creation and presentation of my poster I was able to gain new science communication and poster presentation skills that I will be able to put into practice for future poster presentations or similar tasks where I need to create a visual resource to convey my findings.

The presentation skills that I was able to develop will also be useful to me for the final semester of my undergraduate degree at the University of Edinburgh, as I have several upcoming presentations such as my final dissertation presentation. In addition to developing my presentation skills throughout the conference, I also gained a much greater sense of confidence when presenting. This is incredibly beneficial as it means that I now feel more comfortable as a presenter.

Aside from the skills that I have further developed over the course of the conference, I feel that I have gained a better insight into what attending a conference is like, therefore I am now less apprehensive about attending another and look forward to hopefully getting the chance to attend another conference in the future.

Overall, I am incredibly thankful that I was able to attend the Anatomical Society's Winter Meeting as it has given me the opportunity to develop skills and attributes both professional and personal that will be of great use to me as I complete the rest of my degree and progress onwards.

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**

YES

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**

YES – The images visible on the image of my poster were generated by me using some of my study samples.

SIGNATURE

ELLIE HORNE

DATE

15/01/25

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

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