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 AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | Benjamin Davies |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | N/A |
| UNIVERSITY | University of Cambridge |
| NAME OF AWARD | Barclay-Smith Travelling Fund |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* |
| Barclay-Smith Travelling Fund to support travel and accommodation expenses for the attendance of the Anatomical Society Summer Meeting 2024 – University of Edinburgh |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?*Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* |
| The Anatomical Society meetings attract a large audience of anatomists, who investigate a wide range of research topics and have a diverse background of scientific expertise. By attending this meeting, I hoped I would be able to expand upon my broader scientific knowledge and engage with the wider scientific community. I hoped to further stay up to date with the advancements in research techniques within the field of anatomy. This event is also attended by numerous top academics and principal investigators. Consequently, I was anticipating that this conference would be great for networking and building connections which could open up future career opportunities.Prior to the conference, I was very fortunate to be selected as the recipient of the Dr Sophie Miller Memorial Prize Lecture. I was therefore going to be giving a long form talk about my research. In addition, I was also presenting a poster on some of my PhD research, recently published in the Journal of Anatomy. Through giving these presentations, I hoped that I would be able to showcase my findings to a large audience and gain critical feedback from academics. I also anticipated that these presentations would be a fantastic opportunity to develop my scientific communication skills.  |
| 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 Anatomical Society Summer Meeting in Edinburgh was a fantastic experience. The conference was a very welcoming event and had a supportive and community-like atmosphere which greatly aided networking opportunities. I found all the talks very engaging. The conference marked the 25th anniversary of the Aging Cell and also featured a symposium from the Anatomische Gesellschaft. The presentations in these sessions greatly broadened my scientific knowledge of new research in neurobiology and cellular senescence. When attending the early career social event and Gala dinner I was able to reconnect with other students and friends I had made at previous events, as well as making new acquaintances and forging new professional relationships.At the poster presentation sessions, I was able to gain feedback on my work from a broad scientific audience and network with other students and academics. I received some very positive comments and insightful questions about my research.Before giving the Dr Sophie Miller Memorial Prize Lecture, I was able to meet with Dr Miller’s parents. It was inspiring to hear more about her story. I am very grateful to the Society for this award and to be able to contribute to her legacy. The long form lecture gave me an opportunity to discuss my research in depth and the subsequent questions I received after my talk sparked insightful discussions. I would like to thank the Anatomical Society for their generous support to attend this conference. |
| 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.* |
| Attending this conference has improved my knowledge of general anatomy and has exposed me to new ideas, perspectives and research techniques. The diverse topics covered at the conference have also allowed me to gain novel insights into research areas which I had minimal prior knowledge. This includes cellular senescence and neurobiology. Presenting a long form lecture about my research was fantastic for my career development. I found it both challenging and rewarding. It was an amazing chance to discuss my findings in detail and has greatly improved my confidence in speaking to larger audiences. Additionally, through giving this talk I have improved my scientific communication skills. Previously, I had experience in speaking to an audience that is highly specialised in my area of research. It was therefore very beneficial for me to practise tailoring my explanations to a wider scientific audience and practise being clear and concise in my descriptions of my research findings.At the poster sessions and coffee breaks I also advanced my networking abilities and have become more confident to approach academics and colleagues to discuss my research. These networking opportunities were also beneficial for me to work on concisely introducing my research project and conveying the importance and wider scientific implications of my work. |
| 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.* |
| I will undoubtedly utilise the skills I have gained and honed through my conference participation in the future. I aim to continue to broaden and deepen my scientific knowledge of the topics I have been exposed to at the conference. This will be very beneficial for my development as an early career researcher. I will use the confidence I have gained by giving my talks to continue to participate in future conferences and to disseminate my research to increasingly larger audiences. The development of my skills to also effectively communicate my scientific findings and concisely articulate my research will be extremely beneficial for my upcoming PhD viva exam. Additionally, these skills will be vital in engaging with collaborators and applications for future employment. The constructive feedback that I received on my work will also be greatly beneficial in informing future research directions.Through engaging and networking with colleagues and other early career researchers I have gained invaluable information into potential career trajectories and opportunities that will be available to me when I complete my PhD. I am to hoping to build upon the fruitful discussions I had throughout the conference to develop new connections, that could lead to future collaborations and be useful for my future 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 | Benjamin Davies | DATE | 05/08/24 |

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

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-171023*