

The Society was delighted to announce at the Society's Annual General meeting held on 7 January 2025 at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Preston, during the Society's Winter Meeting, the award of the Symington Memorial Prize to Dr Bipasha Choudhury (University of Manchester).

The Symington Memorial Prize is one of the Anatomical Society’s two most prestigious awards. This award is given every two years. Originally established in 1920 by the Queen's University of Belfast in commemoration of Professor Johnson Symington, who was a former President of the Anatomical Society, the prize is awarded by the Academic Council of Queen's University on the recommendation of the Council of Anatomical Society, which sought the advice of its Education Committee. The award is made for contributions to the advancement of Anatomy, including education in Anatomy, by a Member of the Anatomical Society not of professorial status.

**ENCOMIUM FOR DR BIPASHA CHOUDHURY**:

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Dr Bipasha (Bip) Choudhury graduated with a medical degree from the University of Manchester in 2003. After this, she worked in a number of hospitals in the Northwest of England in different specialities including acute medicine, colorectal surgery, and orthopaedics. She then moved into full-time teaching, first as an anatomy demonstrator in 2005, a teaching fellow in 2006, and completed her PhD in medical education in 2017. She is a Reader in Anatomy at the University of Manchester and teaches topographical anatomy to a wide range of students. She teaches anatomy and histology to students on many different degree programmes, including medicine, dentistry, optometry, midwifery and life sciences. She also teaches physiology and pharmacology practical skills to medical and dental students. In addition to her teaching commitments, she is a Person Designated under the Human Tissue Act 2004, and is also the Deputy Programme Director for the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical and Health Education. Her research interests are in anatomy education, with her PhD being on the Anatomical Student Experience.

Within her own institution, Dr Choudhury has a sustained record of effective delivery of anatomy teaching and student support. This is evidenced by excellent student feedback and her publications regarding the use of innovative methods of teaching, including the use of 3D printing and flipped classroom to enhance student engagement and learning. She has made a significant contribution to the design and development of existing and new teaching programmes in Manchester. She created a noval approach to the traditional assessment format based on anatomical prosections, focussing on the need for comprehension of function and clinical relevance rather than mere identification of structures.

Dr Choudhury is also actively engaged in anatomical activities outside her own institution. She was an External Examiner for the University of Glasgow from 2017 to 2022, and is currently the External Examiner for the Preston Campus of the American University of the Caribbean. She has been a member of the Anatomical Society since 2008. Her main area of service to the anatomical community has been through her role as Meetings Secretary of the British Association of Clinical Anatomists, which she held for 7 years from 2017 to 2023. She organised their bi-annual scientific meetings efficiently and competently, and she was always very supportive to students and trainees who were giving oral or poster presentations at these national conferences. Her fellow-Councillors at BACA were especially impressed by the way in which she overcame the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, when in person meetings were not possible. Undeterred by this limitation, Dr Choudhury made a wise decision to use the Zoom webinar platform to continue with regular online meetings. These were known as "BACA Beats" and were greatly appreciated by all attendees, as they promoted constructive dialogue and fruitful exchange of ideas with regard to best practice in teaching anatomy remotely. During a period when many anatomists both in the UK and abroad were in need of new ideas for course delivery, these online meetings provided them with encouragement and inspiration.

Furthermore, Dr Choudhury is very active in outreach events, as she is especially enthusiastic about inspiring future generations about anatomical sciences. She has published several children's books on the human body for ages 6-9, with Dorling Kindersley. Her first book "Human Body" in the DK Findout! series, was published in September 2017. Further titles include "The Body Book" and "My Very Important Human Body Encyclopaedia". It is a rare gift to be able to explain a complex subject in simple terms to the general public and especially to very young readers.

Both Professor Jo Matthan and I have had the privilege of working with Dr Choudhury for several years as a fellow Councillor on BACA, and what stands out to us is that she is genuinely service-oriented, soft-spoken and considered. She does not draw unnecessary attention to herself, is all about the job and maintains a wonderful level of professionalism. She is well-respected by all and works well across our different societies to promote both clinical and anatomical knowledge.

In view of all her contributions to anatomy teaching, anatomical education research, and efforts to bring anatomical knowledge to the general public, Dr Choudhury is indeed a worthy recipient of the 2024 Symington Memorial Prize.

Professor Cecilia Brassett

Honorary Deputy Secretary

Anatomical Society

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