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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Kat Sanders | | |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | |  | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | Hull York Medical School, University of Hull | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Symington Bequest | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| Attend and present at the 21st Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA), Korea, 5th to 8th September 2024. | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?  *Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* | | | | |
| I went to the IFAA congress in Gwangju, Korea to present on two topics. My first talk was on international public engagement in anatomy, and where there were areas of controversy and agreement across borders. I was interested to see how this presentation would be received by international colleagues, as well as how it aligned with other presentations on related topics – especially the areas where opinions were particularly divisive (e.g., using human tissue in public facing activities).  I also presented on barriers to inclusive practices in anatomy education within a symposium on inclusivity. This presentation was towards the end of the conference programme, so I was keen to see whether any of these barriers to inclusive practices appeared in the earlier presented works of other attendees.  Beyond sharing some of the research I’ve contributed to, I was cognisant of the huge potential afforded by an IFAA conference to identify anatomists around the world to start new collaborations with, as well as the opportunity to catch up and nurture existing collaborations.  Finally, there was a strong programme of presentations and symposia on the ethics and practicalities of body donation, public dissections, and managing legacy collections from an international perspective. I aimed to attend as many of these as possible to enhance my own practice leading the body donation programme at Hull York Medical School. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event.  *Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* | | | | |
| A recurrent theme of the conference (emphasised by keynote speaker, Dr Claudia Krebs) was the importance of collaboration, rather than competition. There was a tangible culture at the conference of people making new connections and having the opportunities to establish new research and educational collaborations with international colleagues. This was strongly facilitated by the impressive number of symposia that were scheduled throughout the conference. Many symposia were structured to provide ample time at the end for there to be discussion between the presenters and the audience. These discussions drove forward our collective understanding of contemporary issues in anatomy and fostered a collaborative approach to addressing these as a discipline.  The conference also presented many opportunities to witness and immerse oneself in many facts of Korean culture. An example was the welcome reception which began with an impressive demonstration of Chaesang Sogo Choom. This is a traditional Korean dance in which the dancers spun long, papered tails from their hats while drumming and dancing around the exhibition hall – from an anatomical perspective, it was a marvel of cervical co-ordination and stamina!  The experience was perfectly rounded off by the incredible Korean food that was to be found everywhere around Gwangju. At times, the food also became a collaboration – cooking our own hot pot or Korean BBQ for the whole table. | | | | |
| 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.* | | | | |
| There were many sessions and symposia discussing ethical use of human tissue and body donation at the conference. I attended a range of talks on establishing *new* body donation programmes (in Africa and in Oceania) and the opportunities that come about when creating a programme without existing institutional memory. Approaches to this included co-creation with potential future donors, and consultation with member of under-represented communities to ensure diversity and inclusion are fundamental elements of a donor programme. As the HTA Designated Individual for my institution, I’m always looking for ways to enhance the work of our body donation programme for our donors, their loved ones, and our students. These talks challenged me to consider what we currently do in our existing body donation programme; especially what we do just because “we’ve always done it that way”, when there are perhaps better ways to serve our local community and the students who learn from our donors.  On a completely different note, this was also my first experience chairing a session at an international conference. I enjoyed getting to know the session’s presenters beforehand and have those important discussions to support them with timing and fielding questions – in particular, ensuring that questions from the audience were respectful and constructive, and managing it when they were not. | | | | |
| 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.* | | | | |
| As I hope you can tell from the rest of the report, my experience at the IFAA conference was very positive and I feel that I have benefitted from watching and participating in many discussions, especially those around inclusivity and how anatomy as a discipline can start enhancing the ethical underpinnings of human body donation. Soon, I will be starting a new academic role in a new country, and once there, I will put these learning experiences to practice in the following ways:   1. **Body donation programme development**: I learned about innovative strategies for creating body donation programmes, particularly in regions without established frameworks. This knowledge will help me contribute to developing and enhancing the existing programme at my new institution, as well as sharing this information with my current colleagues to continue our collaboration after I have left the UK. 2. **Community Engagement**: The emphasis on co-creation and consultation with under-represented communities re-emphasised to me the importance of actively involving diverse voices in body donation programme development. This already chimes with my work on anatomical public engagement and inclusive practices in anatomy education; it has been an eye-opening experience to see how my existing skills within these themes can converge and complement each other. | | | | |
| 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 | K A Sanders | | DATE | 24/09/2024 |

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

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-171023 – International Conference*