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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME | | Dr Rosanne Raftery | | |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | | @RMRaftery | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA and University of Galway, Galway, Ireland | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Symington Bequest Award | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| 2023 Cartilage Biology and Pathology Gordon Research Seminar and Conference Mar-18-2023 - Mar-24-2023 Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco,  Lucca, Italy | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? | | | | |
| The Gordon Research Conference in Cartilage Biology and Pathology is the leading conference in the world on the subject, attracting leaders in the field to share their cutting-edge research. For me as a postdoctoral trainee, I anticipated learning about the newest research in cartilage developmental biology as well as expanding my knowledge on cartilage biology in general. The ample opportunity to informally speak with peers and PIs from across the world would also allow me to formulate new ideas and collaborations for future research. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. | | | | |
| The conference began with a day-long Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) for trainees where Prof Terence Capellini, from the Department of Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University gave a fascinating keynote lecture. This was followed by a series of presentations by graduate and postdoctoral trainees, including myself, which provided an excellent mix of research avenues being pursued. Finally, there was a session on careers where researchers at different stages gave advice and answered questions which was immensely valuable. The GRS was immediately followed by the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) where the leaders in the field of cartilage biology shared their research throughout the week-long meeting. I learned a lot about what is going on in the field and was able to formulate some new ideas for grant applications to pursue my research. Apart from the excellent science, the conference allowed ample opportunity to network over meals, sharing ideas, solving problems, and forging collaborations. I had the opportunity to present my research in poster format and was thrilled to be awarded the prize for best poster sponsored by the American Journal of Physiology.  The venue in Tuscany was fabulous and there were a number of outings arranged by the Gordon conference including a trip to the walled city of Lucca, a visit to an organic, biodynamic vineyard, a trip to the Wind Caves, and an Italian cooking class. | | | | |
| 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? | | | | |
| I learned a lot about how to present complex data in an engaging way by listening to the way senior PIs described their research. I also learned about some new techniques that I would like to try, and feedback on my presentation led me identify techniques to use to prove my hypothesis | | | | |
| 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? | | | | |
| I learned so much about cartilage biology by attending this conference and have lots of new research to read about. Most importantly, I believe that talking about my research with leaders in the field of cartilage biology allowed me to solidify my research into a coherent and valuable story that I am currently preparing for publication. This conference also helped me to see holes in my research and identify methods I need to use to complete my research project. I have made new connections with fellow cartilage biology researchers throughout the world that I can reach out to for collaboration going forward. | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| NA | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| NA | | | | |
| SIGNATURE | Rosanne Raftery | | DATE | 28-March-2023 |

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

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-220922 – International Conference*