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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Danya Stone | | |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | | @danyastone | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | Brighton and Sussex Medical School | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Symington Bequest | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| To attend the 21st Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) 2024, September 5th – 8th, Gwangju, Korea | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?  *Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* | | | | |
| My anticipated benefits of attending the International Federation for Association of Anatomists (IFAA) conference were multifaceted. First, I looked forward to presenting my research to an international audience, which offered the opportunity to share my findings, receive feedback from leading experts, and gain insights that could refine my projects. Presenting both a poster and an oral presentation allowed me to showcase two different research areas: innovative assessment methods in anatomy education and the impact of dissection on medical students. I anticipated that presenting in this forum would elevate the visibility of my work and potentially lead to future collaborations.  Another anticipated benefit was networking with professionals and peers from diverse backgrounds and institutions. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the anatomical society conferences as it has allowed be to grow my network. I therefore saw this as an excellent opportunity to continue expand my professional network, learn from the experiences of others, and explore potential partnerships for future research projects. The IFAA conference is a global platform, and I expected that meeting individuals from a wide range of disciplines and countries would provide fresh perspectives and new ideas.  Additionally, I was eager to learn about the latest advancements in anatomy education and research. I expected to be exposed to cutting-edge techniques, technologies, and methodologies that could inform both my teaching practice and research. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event.  *Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* | | | | |
| My experience at the IFAA conference in Gwangju, South Korea, was incredibly rewarding. The event brought together anatomists from across the globe, creating a vibrant atmosphere for both learning and professional networking. One of the standout features was the diversity of sessions offered, with six parallel tracks running at once. This provided me the flexibility to tailor my experience, focusing on subjects that aligned with my specific interests. I particularly enjoyed attending a number of talks and symposia focussed on the ethics of anatomy education and body donation.  The entire conference was exceptionally well-organized, from the smooth registration process to the clear signage that made the venue easy to navigate. The comprehensive conference booklet was valuable in helping me plan my schedule, and the abundant staff members were always on hand to assist with any queries.  The social events were equally impressive, with memorable dinners and performances that highlighted South Korean culture. These gatherings created a relaxed setting for informal discussions and offered additional opportunities to connect with peers in a more relaxed environment.  Beyond the conference itself, I truly enjoyed the chance to explore South Korea’s rich cultural and culinary landscape. Overall, the experience was both educational and culturally enriching, leaving me with a deep appreciation for both the field of anatomy and the host country. | | | | |
| 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 the IFAA conference in Gwangju, South Korea, provided an excellent opportunity to present my research, network, and learn about the latest advancements in the field of anatomy.  I had the privilege of presenting two research projects that I’ve been working on. First, I presented a poster detailing the innovative approach Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) has adopted for delivering formative anatomy spotter assessments. At BSMS, these assessments are now conducted in a hybrid format. Students still attend the anatomy laboratory, where questions are based on pins placed in prosections, but all questions and answers are delivered through iPads. This method allows students to receive immediate feedback on their responses, and more detailed feedback is automatically emailed to them upon completion of the assessment.  Additionally, I delivered an oral presentation on research from my PhD project. This study utilized six surveys conducted throughout the first academic year to assess the emotional, physiological, and psychological effects of learning anatomy through dissection. The questions from the audience and the discussions that I had with people after delivering this talk will help me shape the next phase of research for my PhD.  Beyond presenting my own work, I thoroughly enjoyed learning about a wide range of new research techniques in anatomy, engaging in discussions on innovative teaching methods, and reflecting on ongoing ethical debates in the field. I also attended a pre-conference workshop on Sihler’s staining technique, which renders tissue transparent while leaving the nerves stained. | | | | |
| 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 plan to implement the knowledge and insights gained from the IFAA conference in various aspects of my future work. A key highlight for me was the workshop on Sihler’s staining technique, which was particularly enlightening. This technique has significant potential to improve nerve visualization, and I am eager to trial it within our department. By using this method, we can offer students a more comprehensive understanding of nerve anatomy, which will enhance both their learning experience and our teaching capabilities. I am interested in potentially conducting some educational research looking at whether the preparation of prosections using the Sihler’s staining technique improves learning gain for difficult topics such as innervation of the face.  The ethical discussions surrounding body donation programs also prompted me to reflect on our current practices. I look forward to engaging in conversations about how we can better support students who work with donors, ensuring they have the necessary emotional and educational resources. Additionally, I aim to contribute to improving our memorial services to further honour our donors in a meaningful way.  The connections I formed with fellow professionals during the conference will be instrumental in fostering future collaborations. Building and maintaining these relationships will facilitate the sharing of valuable knowledge and resources, which will continue to enrich our research and teaching. This collaborative network will undoubtedly contribute to the continued growth and innovation within our department. | | | | |
| 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 | Danya Stone | | DATE | 02.10.24 |

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

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