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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Asha Venkatesh | | |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | | @venkatesh\_asha | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | University of Aberdeen | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Symington Bequest Fund | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| IFAA Congress 2024, Gwangju, South Korea, 5th-8th September 2024 | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?  *Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* | | | | |
| The IFAA congress is a unique global conference with over 1000 participants from the field of Anatomy and allied subject areas and from over 64 countries. At the stage of my career as a mid to senior-level educator and as the Anatomical Society Membership Officer, it was an opportunity to network with colleagues worldwide and gain an understanding of the topics of growing significance and those which are of interest to me in my journey in teaching and learning.  As a Licensed Teacher of Anatomy, one of my areas of interest is in body bequeathal systems, which, whilst well established within the UK, is still in its infancy or non-existent in many countries across the world. I was very pleased to be able to listen to papers presented from various countries (e.g. India, Argentina) and I hope to be able to collaborate with these authors for some scholarly work in this area.  Attending two sessions specifically focussed on legacy collections and their management, our ethical responsibility (Jon Cornwall et al.) was another highlight and I have followed this up by reading their publication, giving me ideas of how to improve our own practice in my home institution.  I met several colleagues from within UK, and it was good to be able to meet and discuss anatomical topics with them face to face.  I also networked with several international colleagues including those from India, Malaysia, South Africa, Portugal and Australia. I have begun to follow-up with these connections after returning home and hope that some of this will result in effective collaborative activities. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event.  *Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* | | | | |
| Even though I have attended several conferences in the past, including the IFAA in 2019 in London, this conference was special as it was the furthest away from ‘home’ that I have ever been! Having to plan and organise the entire trip and the knowledge that I was the only one representing my university, was certainly empowering!  As always happens at such events there were at times more than one parallel session that I would have liked to attend, but I certainly felt intellectually rewarded by the sessions I did attend.  My poster was about online anatomy assessment, and I had hoped to have some stimulating discussions about this. Though there was some interest and I did speak to a couple of colleagues about this, not having to ‘present’ the poster and needing to take it down after the 6th (due to a second set of posters being displayed) meant that there was not as much discussion about it as I would have hoped.  The Korean Anatomical Society succeeded in making the entire conference a memorable experience. There were no IT hitches, the programme flowed smoothly and most sessions were kept to time. There were plenty of breaks that facilitated good networking opportunities. We also felt very welcome at the conference dinner where there was a fantastic cultural programme. I also personally appreciated the “Try on a Hanbok” stall at the conference! It made this an even more unforgettable experience! | | | | |
| 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 was a wide variety of topics being presented and discussed and this helped me gain a better understanding of the types of pedagogic and research activity in the field of Anatomy that was being undertaken across the globe. Therefore attending this conference helped me stay updated and bring back some of this thinking into my own teaching and learning practice in my institution.  The keynote speech by Klaudia Krebs was very inspirational. Her simple technique of “Keep-Fix-Change” is a simple strategy for change management that we will probably adopt with our own digital technological journey within my institution.  Further, speaking to colleagues who presented their experience and research on the Anatomage virtual dissection table at their institution has already led to sharing of good practice and resources across institutions.  Preparing my own poster helped me further my own communication and presentation skills.  As mentioned above, networking at a global scale was one of the biggest benefits of being able to attend IFAA Congress 2024. I hope to be able to follow up with the contacts that I have made from other institutions.  As always the networking achieved through the conference is immensely valuable and has helped me come into contact with like-minded educators across the world. | | | | |
| 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 would like to put the new knowledge that I gained into practice within my own institution. This includes the ethical aspects of legacy collections such as bones. I have already consulted with the literature that was highlighted in some of the presentations within the meeting and will be speaking to other Licensed Teachers of Anatomy within my institution.  I hope to build links with colleagues setting up bequeathal programmes within their institutions and countries and share good practice in the UK.  I also hope to build links with two other institutions and run possible collaborative Anatomy dissection/ educational projects.  Links with colleagues who have expertise in the virtual dissector table have already led to the sharing of their practice and its use within our institution for induction sessions. I have also proposed, within my institution an undergraduate educational project and will liaise with colleagues I have networked with so we can compare our results and draw generalisable inferences where possible.  I hope that this can result in further presentations at future conferences including the Anatomical Society conference at Lancaster.  Lastly, the very process of working towards creating my poster meant that I spent some time evaluating our assessment practice and analysing the psychometrics of our assessment items. Due to the generalised workload pressures that all in HE face, I would not have undertaken this analysis had it not been for the conference. I believe that this analysis has meant that our own assessment practices have improved. | | | | |
| 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 | Asha Venkatesh | | DATE | 06/10/2024 |

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

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