**2017-YEN Report for the Anatomical Society**

This year the Anatomical Society contributed towards the Young Embryologist Network (YEN) annual conference. The YEN was established to provide a platform *for* young scientists, *by* young scientists, to meet, exchange data, develop presentation skills and build an academic network. YEN conferences are completely free to attend, and rely on generous funding from societies such as the Anatomical Society to provide Ph.D students, postdoctoral researchers and other early career investigators a relaxed atmosphere in which to discuss their research. Attendees have the chance to present in both poster and oral format, and to receive feedback. Attendance for the YEN conference has increased year by year, and for the 2017 conference there were 160 registrants. We encourage attendees from the UK, Europe and further afield, and this year we were particularly pleased to be able to offer UK and EU travel grants to speakers and poster presenters. Every year the YEN invites exceptional senior presenters, and 2017 was no exception, with talks from Professor Michael Stumpf, Dr Karen Liu and the keynote presentation by Dr Darren Gilmour.

The funding from the Anatomical Society came in the form of prize money for the best poster and oral presentations. This year saw fierce competition, with talks on a broad range of subject relevant to the Anatomical Society’s wide-reaching aims, including the use of a variety of model organisms to study development. The winner of the 2017 Anatomical Society prize was Dr Vicki Metzis, from the Francis Crick Institute, with her excellent presentation “Genomic dissection of cell identity during neural induction”.

Feedback for the conference was excellent, with many regular attendees returning and numerous applications to have a more active role in supporting the YEN conference committee. With continued funding from supportive societies such as the Anatomical Society, we hope to keep providing a platform for all young researchers to share ideas as they begin their academic journey, and to support more and more attendance from across Europe in the coming years. We look forward to seeing you there!