



AWARDEE REPORT FORM

| | |
|---|--|
| NAME | SHARMILA SARAN RAJENDRAN |
| TWITTER HANDLE* <i>optional</i> | |
| UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD |
| NAME OF AWARD | <u>Barclay-Smith Travelling Awards 2025/26</u> |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD <i>conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.</i> | |
| <p>To present a poster at the Society's Winter Meeting, Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, 17th to 19th December 2025.</p> | |
| <p>REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?</p> <p><i>Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.</i></p> | |
| <p>The 2025 Winter Meeting is explicitly focused on "Anatomy and its role in society: Application and Impact". I anticipate benefiting greatly from a wide range of sessions and themes, including hands-on workshops such as Exploring the Functional Anatomy of the Upper Limb using Ultrasound Imaging and the 3D Morphometrics with SlicerMorph workshop, which will enhance my practical and analytical skills. The conference programme spans diverse educational and research themes across each day, including General and Applied Anatomy, Clinical Anatomy, Education and Flash Talks, Technology, Development and Ageing, and Education and Outreach. Each session features distinctive topics and expert speakers that will strengthen my understanding of current anatomical research and practice. For example, clinically focused talks such as "From Shape to Symptoms: The Hip as a Model for Disease" will deepen my applied anatomical knowledge, while pedagogy-focused presentations such as "A Novel Advance HE-Accredited Anatomy Education Module: Design, Delivery, and Early Impact" will provide insights and compare with my approach to anatomy education. Technology-driven sessions, including "Artificial Intelligence for Ultrasound: Progress and Pitfalls of Real-Time Anatomical Segmentation", will further enhance my research skills and methodological approaches. I anticipate that the meeting offers valuable networking and collaboration opportunities, particularly through poster presentations, discussion sessions, and engagement with sponsors. These activities will allow me to connect with peers, senior academics, clinicians, and industry partners. Participation in the Early Career and Student Social will also provide an opportunity to meet like-minded early-career researchers and educators.</p> | |

COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event.

Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.

Attending the conference provided a rich and varied learning experience across academic, professional, and cultural dimensions. One of the initial benefits was the opportunity to familiarise myself with Anglia Ruskin University, including exploring their anatomy laboratories during the pre-conference workshop. This allowed me to observe their laboratory protocols, teaching models, technology-enhanced facilities, and gain insight into their anatomy curriculum and pedagogical approach. The scientific sessions that followed offered a diverse range of engaging and thought-provoking research presentations. A keynote talk on bra biomechanics was especially fascinating, notably the innovative use of immersion in soybean oil to justify the neutral equilibrium of the breast. Presentations by young investigators on cadaveric dissections and anatomical variations—such as the lumbar plexus, Gantzer muscle, extraocular muscles, and cranial dural vessels—demonstrated the breadth of contemporary anatomical research and the variety of methodological approaches used across studies. A particularly impactful experience was attending the performance and discussion of “Anatomy of a Doctor”, which powerfully conveyed medical students’ emotional perspectives on learning anatomy through donor bodies. This was complemented by the anatomical art exhibition, where detailed and expressive artworks further reinforced the intersection of anatomy, education, and the humanities. Educational sessions and keynote lectures strongly aligned with my own academic interests. Discussions on artificial intelligence explored how different AI tools interpret anatomical images, offering critical insight into both the opportunities and limitations of emerging technologies. I was also deeply intrigued by the presentation on the Dutch fetal biobank, particularly their work on specimen collection, segmentation, and high-fidelity imaging using advanced scanning technologies—an initiative with significant implications for embryology research and education. Another talk showcased student experiences using embryology software, offering perspectives on importance of embryology learning in early medical education. In addition, participation in the Anatomical Society committee meeting provided insight into the society’s activities, updates, and prize awards, further strengthening my understanding of the wider academic community. Informal interactions and networking opportunities allowed me to meet and converse with leading figures in the field, including Dr Susan Standring and Dr Helge Rask-Andersen. Their talks on the history of Gray’s Anatomy textbooks and the beautiful scanning electron micrographs of the organ of Corti, highlighting different frequency perception and the “dancing” hair cells, were among the highlights of my conference 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.

I gained hands-on experience and skills in ultrasound imaging of the upper limb using donor bodies, which also helped me to understand its benefits and limitations. I developed foundational skills and practical understanding in 3D morphometric analysis using SlicerMorph, including landmarking techniques and an introduction to morphometric concepts. The conference also strengthened my understanding of qualitative research methodologies, particularly thematic analysis and grounded theory, which I frequently use in my projects. Exposure to a wide range of research designs-spanning cadaveric studies, imaging-based research, and technology-driven approaches -enhanced my ability to critically evaluate and compare different methodological frameworks and reflect on how these approaches could be applied to my own research. My digital and technological literacy skills was further enhanced through

engagement with sessions on innovative, cost-effective gamification strategies for anatomy education. These experiences provided a valuable perspective on how digital tools can be used effectively to support learning while remaining accessible and pedagogically sound. I also developed a stronger understanding of inclusive anatomy teaching practices, particularly the importance of appropriate language, ethical considerations regarding the use of donor images, and the adoption of learner-centred approaches. Observing how educators thoughtfully integrate technology and innovation into their curricula has directly informed my own teaching practice and curriculum development. Also, the interactive session on - Ethics on Public display session was very insightful. Finally, through participation in poster sessions, workshops, committee meetings, and social events, I enhanced my professional communication and networking skills. These opportunities allowed me to engage more confidently in academic discussions, clearly articulate my research interests, and build meaningful connections with early-career researchers, senior academics, and clinicians.

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.

The learning experiences gained from this conference will be directly applied to my future practice across teaching, research, and professional engagement, with a focus on three key areas.

First, the introduction to 3D morphometric analysis using SlicerMorph has informed my approach to anatomical research and digital anatomy education. I plan to further develop these skills and explore the use of 3D datasets and morphometric concepts within my research projects, particularly when conducting morphometric analysis of typical and atypical anatomical variations. This experience will also support my ability to critically engage with emerging imaging and modelling techniques in anatomy research. Second, I intend to adopt ideas from sessions on cost-effective gamification strategies and digital learning tools to enhance student engagement. These approaches will be applied thoughtfully within my teaching practice to support active learning, while ensuring accessibility, inclusivity, and pedagogical soundness. Third, the interactive ethics session and discussions on the public display of anatomy have reinforced my responsibility as an educator to balance educational value with respect and professionalism. Going forward, I will strongly step into my ethical decision-making, particularly in relation to the presentation and use of donor material and anatomical images, ensuring that teaching practices remain respectful, transparent, and aligned with professional standards.

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

DATE

06/01/2026

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

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