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 AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | Andrea Pollard |
| UNIVERSITY | Imperial College London |
| NAME OF AWARD | Symington Bequest Round 4 2017/18 |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference attended (full name) with city and dates* |
| Attendance at the 45th European Calcified Tissue Society Congress, 25th to 29th May 2018 in Valencia, Spain.  |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| I attended the meeting to present my work entitled “Slc38a10 is a novel genetic determinant of bone mass and osteoblast proliferation” as an oral poster. The ECTS congress is one of the largest skeletal biology conferences with over 1000 delegates so it is an ideal place to present and discuss new data and further avenues for research. The conference also offered a number of mentoring sessions for new investigators, including round table discussions on grant writing, making the best of your post-doc, and more technical discussions on skeletal imaging which were very valuable.  |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar. |
| The conference began with pre-congress sessions on the 25th May, with working groups on bone imaging, transgenic animal models for musculoskeletal research and rare bone diseases, among others. The first full conference day, on 26th May, opened with an update on basic bone biology and was followed by clinical updates on common bone diseases, spotlight presentations on cellular senescence in ageing bone and two valuable sessions by Hans Van Leeuwen and Franz Jakob on new basic and clinical research in the skeletal field from the last year. Sunday 27th May featured talks on how large-scale, collaborative genomics research can provide new insights into bone biology, plenary oral presentations and an illuminating workshop on the use of fish as models for skeletal diseases. Oral poster presentations and poster tours took place, which allowed for plenty of discussion. Monday 28th began with a session on intravital and molecular imaging, which generated lots of discussion and interest, and was followed by more oral presentations, 1 minute poster SNAP sessions, and more oral posters. A New Investigator mentoring session with round table discussions on grant writing, project management and skeletal imaging among other sessions was held on Monday evening, and this was followed by a conference dinner.The conference concluded on 29th May with sessions on bone marrow fat, oral presentations of bone and cartilage biology and osteoporosis treatment, and also on weight loss and bone. A number of networking events, including a networking dinner and a charity volleyball tournament organised to raise money for research into Camurati-Engelmann’s Disease, provided the opportunity for delegates to network with colleagues from around the world and see some of the sights in Valencia. |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant)* |
| The sessions on skeletal imaging were extremely valuable and will influence the choices I make for future research projects. The new investigator mentoring sessions gave valuable insights on project management, prioritising multiple ongoing projects and grant writing. Prior to attending ECTS in May 2018, I had not presented my work at a conference in almost two years due to moving labs and starting a new project, so the opportunity to present my work as an oral poster was valuable in allowing me to maintain and improve my communication skills. Organised networking events and poster sessions also provided the opportunity to catch up with current collaborators and to meet potential new collaborators. |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? |
| The grant writing session provided me with insights that I will use in applying for early career grants in 2018/19. The chance to discuss my current research project and get feedback from other researchers in my field during poster sessions resulted in ideas for additional experiments to incorporate into my current research project. |
| SIGNATURE | Andrea Pollard | DATE | 19/06/2018 |

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

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