Ms Ailsa Dermody, Symington Bequest Award Recipient- Workshop Report.

Award given to enable participation in the 29th Microelectrode Techniques for Cell Physiology Workshop at the Marine Biological Association (MBA) of the UK in Plymouth, UK, from 5th to 19th September 2012.

I recently attended the 29th Microelectrode Techniques for Cell Physiology Workshop at the MBA in Plymouth, UK. This was an intense two-week workshop which I participated in to improve my understanding of the main technique which was taught on the course, and which is a significant part of my PhD research: *in vitro* electrophysiology. Whilst at the course I was able to observe experts in the field and gain practical experience conducting patch clamp recordings from oocytes, single channel recordings in cell lines and performing intracellular dye injection. The vast majority of my time was spent in practical workshops participating in the type of experiments detailed above.

I found three-day practical tuitions in how to conduct Single Electrode Voltage Clamp (SEVC) recordings from dissociated oocytes, and making single channel recordings from cells transfected with glycine receptors particularly fascinating. Whilst at the workshop I was also able to observe the generation of a Langendorff heart preparation for cardiomyocyte electrophysiology. I also observed the production of hippocampal sections for slice recordings.

The group of around 20 attendees (a mix of PhD students and post-doctoral researchers), were also given lectures to accompany the practical classes which ensured a good level of understanding of these difficult techniques was achieved by many students. I cannot state how important and useful this workshop has been for me. The Plymouth Workshop has helped to improve my practical knowledge of electrophysiology. This is proving invaluable to my PhD studies and I will continue to draw on my experience of the techniques studied on the course for the rest of my PhD.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Anatomical Society for providing funding which meant I could attend this workshop.

Ailsa Dermody.