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| NAME | Dr. Alanna Stanley |
| UNIVERSITY | National University of Ireland, Galway |
| NAME OF AWARD | Symington Bequest |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference attended (full name) with city and dates* |
| 42nd Society for Cutaneous Ultrastructure Research (SCUR) “Looking into and beyond the skin – wounds, stem cells and differentiation” which took place in Heidelberg University in Mannheim, Germany from the 12-14th of March. |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| A large portion of my Ph.D work focused on studying the ultrastructural effect of skin bearing deletions of different Rho GTPase proteins in the keratinocytes. I had presented parts of this work in the form of a poster presentations at other international conferences, but was quite excited to present my data at an international conference that focuses primarily on the skin. Although the name suggests that its an ultrastructural only meeting, this is not the case, indeed from the event bullitin on the website it was clear that this meeting also incorporates many advanced imaging techniques of the skin. I therefore felt this was a great oppourtunity to get critical review from experts working in the field of skin research on my work which included a number of different imaging techniques and also image analysis methods. I also felt this would be a great oppourtunity to network and make collaborations for future work in skin research.  |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar. |
| I really enjoyed this conference and would recommend anybody working in the field of skin research to attend a meeting. I will take this oppourtunity to announce that the 2016 meeting will take place in NUI Galway in May (final date to be clarified).The conference began with a short session on the first evening during which we heard a greaat talk by Dr. Neil Grabe on the microscopic analysis of how epidermal cells close wounds. This session was followed by the welcome reception in Eichbaum Brauhaus, a restaurant beerhouse. Here we were treated to a lovely meal and got to try a few of the German beers. This was also a great location for everyone to mingle and introduce themselves to people. The second day of the conference was a full day of talks, a mixture of short talks, both scientific and talks from companies that sponsored the meeting, and longer talks by invited speakers, including a great talk be Prof. Petra Boukamp on Telomers and their role in skin aging and cancer. Following the day of talks, we had a wine reception which included a guided poster session giving those presenting posters a few minutes to talk about their work to the group. We all then headed off for a guided tour of the Kunsthalle museum followed by an evening of fantastic food and entertainment in C-five restaurant. Day three of the conferences was a half day of talks, during which I presented by work "Quantitative analysis of dermal collagen in mice bearing a keratinocyte restricted deletion of Rac1" for which I won best oral presentation. During the whole meeting, between the scientific program and discussions with other attendees I really expanded my knowledge of skin research.  |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant)* |
| In terms of skills, I definitly think it helped with my presentations. It increased my confidence knowing that I had successfully presented to experts in the area of skin research.  |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? |
| In terms of learning experience, this conference helped me see the application of many state of the art techniques now available to skin researchers. After recently completeing my Ph.D, I now need to work towards becoming an independent researcher and the knowledge gained will help when writing grant applications.  |
| SIGNATURE | Dr. Alanna Stanley | DATE | 12/04/2015 |

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