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| NAME | Dr Clemens Kiecker |
| UNIVERSITY | King's College London |
| NAME OF AWARD | Symington Bequest Fund |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference attended (full name) with city and dates* |
| Attendance of Experimental Biology 2015, American Association of Anatomists (AAA) with Anatomical Society |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| To attend an international scientific meeting with a broad range of topics related to both my teaching and research activities (Anatomy, Neuroscience, Embryology, Developmental Biology). I expected to meet and network with a large number of AAA and Anatomical Society members. I was also keen to disseminate my recent teaching activities--implementing active learning scenarios in various undergraduate teaching modules--and to network with other academic teachers in the fields of Anatomy and Embryology. |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar. |
| I enjoyed the meeting a lot--unlike many other conferences that I attended previously, this one offered a much broader range of different disciplines and topics which suits my academic interests. The conference was rather large (with some 15,000 attendants); however, it was very well organised, with a smartphone app that could be used to navigate around the conference centre and to compile a daily schedule.This was also the first time that I attended a conference with a substantial section on the delivery of, and research into academic teaching. I have become increasingly interested in this area, and this meeting has raised my awareness to what extent research into biomedical teaching is a science in its own right. I was impressed with the depth and diligence of research in this area. |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant)* |
| I have gained an appreciation as to how teaching can be assessed on a meta-level, how the efficiency of teaching can be assessed and of different personality patterns with respect to teaching and learning.With respect to my research, the presentations of two Nobel prize awardees (Eric Kandel and Stan Prusiner) on prions in health and disease in one single session was truly inspiring.I also enjoyed the AS-organised session on tissue engineering that opened my eyes to novel strategies of generating not only specific cell types, but entire tissues in vitro. |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? |
| The teaching aspect of the conference has inspired me to approach the assessment of my own teaching more systematically in the next academic year and to try new strategies in both the implementation of my own teaching duties.Research-wise, I feel inspired to move some of my research into cell type specification into the whole-tissue engineering direction. |
| SIGNATURE | Clemens Kiecker, PhD | DATE | 21 April 2015 |

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