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| NAME | Salman Goudarzi |
| UNIVERSITY | University of Portsmouth |
| NAME OF AWARD | Symington Bequest Fund Awards |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference attended (full name) with city and dates* |
| 9th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, Milan, Italy 5th to 9th of July 2014 |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| With the generous aid of the Symington Bequest Award, I had the opportunity to attend the 9th FENS Forum of Neuroscience in Milan, Italy, 5-9 July 2014. This biennial meeting is considered as the biggest European neuroscience meeting and the second biggest worldwide. The meeting was organised by the Federation of European Neuroscience (FENS) and many big names in the field of neuroscience were invited from all over the world to present their latest research or to educate the predominantly young audience (mostly PhD students) in symposia. The meeting was very well organised and sessions were divided into different categories, including technical workshops, networking events, plenary lectures, symposia and poster sessions. As a PhD student in his second year, this was my first experience of a large international meeting, and without a doubt, it was a unique and worthwhile one.  |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar. |
| I found in particular the symposia sessions and poster sessions to be the most valuable of all, which allowed me to update and increase my knowledge on topics of interest as well as directly ask questions on certain aspects of a project (jn the case of posters). There were a large number of sessions, covering the entirety of neuroscience research today, ranging from social care for patients to novel molecular imaging techniques for CNS studies. Sessions of particular interest to me included: emergent concept in axon guidance, stem cell- basic biology and postnatal neurogenesis, mechanisms of microglia phagocytosis in health and disease. As this meeting was very centred on youth, there were many networking events that brought yourng neuroscience researchers together and workshops that educated them on the elements to success in an academic career (e.g. grant writing, the art of publication, public speaking and poster presentation). I attended several of these and found them very useful for me, particularly as I embark on the final year of my PhD and begin to consider options for my future career.  |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant)* |
| I presented a poster, entitled ’TAM signalling activates pathways for promotion of optic nerve glial cell development’ – which outlined my current work on the mechanisms by which TAM receptor tyrosine kinases can stimulate repair of de-myelinated axons, as occurs in multiple sclerosis (MS). During my poster session, I received much interest and entered into some very useful and valuable discussions with people (PhD students and Professors) working within my field, and there was a reciprocal benefit in those discussions on neurogenesis, oligodendrogenesis, animal model of MS, remyelination and demyelination.  |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? |
| I come back from the 9th FENS Forum of Neuroscience meeting with an even greater passion for neuroscience than I already had before it and I am now certain that I wish to embark on an academic research career within the neurosciences, focusing particularly on the mechanisms behind stem cell differentiation and maturation of glial cells in the CNS. Therefore, I am very grateful to the Anatomical Society for awarding me the Symington Bequest Fund to help me attend and present my work in the 9th FENS Forum of Neuroscience.  |
| SIGNATURE | Salman Goudarzi | DATE | 24/07/2014 |

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