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 AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | Erin Boland |
| UNIVERSITY | University of Glasgow |
| NAME OF AWARD | Symington Bequest Funding 2018/19 Round 6 |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* |
| The Symington Bequest Funding 2018/19 Round 6 was awarded towards participation in the Matrix Biology Ireland Annual Meeting ‘Extracellular Matrix: Development, Disease and Evolution’ which took place from the 21st to 22nd November 2019, Dublin, Ireland.  |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| This conference brought together matrix biology researchers from a number of disciplines and various career stages. It provided an excellent opportunity to present and share my work as well as gaining valuable experience and feedback from other researchers. I was also looking forward to hearing about the latest research that is ongoing within the field and learning about new techniques that could be useful for my own project.  |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. |
| The first day of the conference began with a number of presentations from junior PhD students whose abstracts were chosen from those submitted to give a thesis-in-three style talk. My abstract was one of those shortlisted for presentation, and from this I received useful feedback regarding potential mechanisms of interest that will be invaluable going forward. In addition to this, the day finished with a formal poster session which allowed me to discuss my project in more detail and share ideas with a number of people. Throughout the conference there were many interesting talks given including those focussing on cardiovascular matrix biology which discussed vascular calcification & mechanotransduction. These talks highlighted new mechanisms/targets that I hadn’t previously considered. One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote lecture delivered by Professor Alexandra Naba who spoke on the Matrisome project and helped bring together the different fields of those attending into the bigger picture and how collaboratively we can begin to identify novel treatment targets and understand matrix disease mechanisms. The first day concluded with a gala dinner hosted by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland which was an extremely entertaining evening but also offered a more informal setting to network with other researchers. Day 2 of the conference primarily focussed on matrix biology in repair and reconstructive medicine which was a field that was unfamiliar to me but demonstrated how the kind of work that I am doing has translational value in the clinical field and how the extracellular matrix can be exploited therapeutically for patients.  |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant.* For public engagement/outreach awards what did your audience gain and how did you evaluate success? |
| Taking part in this conference was an excellent opportunity to network and make new contacts with researchers and students associated with Matrix Biology Ireland. I have also gained an appreciation for fields of matrix biology that were previously unfamiliar to me and how I can apply certain aspects to improve and expand my own work.  |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? For public engagement/outreach awards how with the materials/knowledge generated by this activity be used in the future? |
| Being given the opportunity to share my work at this conference has not only helped to develop my presentation skills but has also given me more confidence in approaching other researchers to discuss shared topics/techniques of interest. I am now excited to apply these skills at future events like this which could potentially lead to new collaborations and research avenues.  |
| Data Protection/GDPR: I consent to the data included in this submission being collected, processed and stored by the Anatomical Society. Answer YES or NO in the Box below |
| YES |
| Graphical Images: If you include graphical images you must obtain consent from people appearing in any photos and confirm that you have consent. A consent statement from you must accompany each report if relevant. A short narrative should accompany the image. Answer N/A not applicable, YES or NO in the box below |
| N/A |
| Copyright: If you submit images you must either own the copyright to the image or have gained the explicit permission of the copyright holder for the image to be submitted as part of the report for upload to the Society’s website, Newsletter, social media and so forth. A copyright statement must accompany each report if relevant. Answer N/A not applicable, YES or NO in the box below |
| N/A |
| SIGNATURE | Erin Boland | DATE | 09/12/19 |

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