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AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Emily Young | | |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | |  | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | Royal Veterinary College | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | International Conference for PhD | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* | | | | |
| Asian Conference on Fish Models for Diseases  Indonesia, Bali, Kuta, 26-29th February 2024 | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? | | | | |
| One of my anticipated benefits of attending the conference was that I hoped to learn about various related research in the zebrafish model field. The conference was very relevant to my project, as symposium themes included both zebrafish and disease models. I am currently working with zebrafish and have been using models of epilepsy and specifically a model for CLN2 disease.  I was also keen to network and meet researchers involved in zebrafish research from around the world and a key aim of attending was to improve my presentation skills by giving a flash talk and presenting a poster. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. | | | | |
| The conference was well organised and was in a lovely hotel in Kuta, Bali. The conference was made up of various 15–30-minute talks, 5-minute flash talks and posters. The talks were split up into different topics: Developmental Biology, Immunity, Metabolism, General Fish Models, Cancer, Technology and Haematopoiesis.  I found the conference enjoyable, and it was a great experience. It was informative and interesting listening to the various presentations on a range of topics. For example, Yoonsung Lee’s presentation on screening for zebrafish phenotypes in the early embryo using an office scanner. Vladimir Korzh’s presentation of the KCNB1 model of epileptic encephalopathy and how they are more susceptible to PTZ induced seizures and have photosensitive seizure like activity. I also enjoyed Fons Verbeek’s presentation on how AI is supporting the analysis of phenotypes in fish for disease models. All these presentations were relevant to my PhD project, and it was exciting to see how techniques for analysis of zebrafish development are evolving.  All the participating researchers were very friendly and happy to share knowledge and advice, both during the conference itself and during the coffee and lunch breaks. I found the conference to be a welcoming, supportive environment. I carried out the flash talk and poster presentation on the second day and everyone was very receptive. I had several participants come to talk to me about my work and was given some suggestions on things which could be useful to investigate, and I was provided with a thesis which could be relevant to my project to have a look over. It was also nice to get positive feedback on my talk/poster. I was very pleased to be awarded joint first prize for my poster/flash talk and this has given me confidence in presenting my work to a wide audience.  The venue and Bali were beautiful. Attending the conference meant I got to visit a country I otherwise would have not been to and provided the opportunity to experience the richness of some of the Balinese traditions and culture. After the first night of the conference, we attended an activity (booked through a tour group via the conference organisers) to the Garuda Wisnu Kencana (GWK) Cultural Park where we saw statues and watched a kecak dance then had dinner. This was a really good opportunity for networking with other researchers. The GWK visit along with the conference dinner, breaks and lunches also provided a good opportunity to talk to the other researchers more and learn about their careers outside of listening to the presentations and this has helped me to think more about my career after my PhD has finished.  I am very grateful to have had this opportunity to go to the conference and to Bali, it was an incredible experience which I would have not been able to have without the funding. My thanks to the Anatomical Society for your generous support. | | | | |
| 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? | | | | |
| My presentation and scientific communication skills were improved by attending the conference. Coming joint first for the Poster/Flash talk prize has been good for improving confidence related to presenting as I am a nervous presenter. Making the flash talk presentation has also improved my ability to structure a presentation so an overview of the project was given concisely (to fit in a flash talk presentation) whilst keeping it easy to follow. I had positive feedback from the presentation so can apply similar structures to future presentations.  I also have gained and improved my knowledge on Zebrafish disease model related research which is going on around the world. It was a motivational meeting, and I was inspired by the other researchers and the variety of projects they were working on. I also gained input from other researchers, one provided a thesis that may be useful for the project and others gave suggestions on potential avenues that I could investigate.  The interactions with other researchers also allowed me to develop my network, so that I now have contacts in many countries. I now feel part of a much bigger community of scientists and feel I have a wider group of people that I can contact for collaborative support in my work and for advice on my future career. | | | | |
| 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? | | | | |
| Attending the conference has improved my knowledge and expanded my awareness of various techniques being used in the zebrafish field. I have made contacts who I could speak to if I have questions about techniques they have used or work they have done. I now feel much more confident in doing so.  There will also be numerous times in the future where I will need to present and attending the conference has helped improve confidence for presenting in front of large groups and provided good practise for science communication via presenting the flash talk, poster and talking to the other researchers. Good communications skills are invaluable and will be needed throughout my career. For example, they will be essential during the PhD in viva to communicate my project and for future presentations. | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| Yes- I am the only person present.  Image 1: Photo taken after the poster/flash talk prize announcement.  Image 2: Photo taken during the flash talk.  Image 3: Photo taken next to the poster. | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| The conference organisers took images 1 and 2 and provided a link to download these photos, they have confirmed that they are happy for them to be used. I own image 3 and are happy for this to be used. | | | | |
| SIGNATURE | Emily Young | | DATE | 18.03.2024 |

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

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-220922 – International Conference*