



AWARDEE REPORT FORM

NAME	Diyya B Ameen
TWITTER HANDLE* <i>optional</i>	
UNIVERSITY	King's College London
NAME OF AWARD	Barclay Smith Award
PURPOSE OF AWARD <i>conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.</i>	
<p>Award received in order to support travel, accommodation, and registration fees for the Anatomical Society Summer Meeting at St John's College, Oxford, July 2025.</p>	
<p>REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? <i>Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.</i></p>	
<p>The anticipated benefits of receiving the Barclay Smith travel award included the opportunity to attend the Anatomical Society Summer Meeting at Oxford by having the travel, accommodation, and registration costs covered. This benefit was anticipated to remove the financial barrier to attending the conference as a full-time student and early career member. Thus, it was expected that I would then be able to attend the conference even during the other two days where I was not presenting my poster. Through facilitating the conference attendance, the Barclay Smith fund offered the opportunity to engage with leading academics in the field and opened up the chance to partake in talks/workshops that ultimately contribute to career development of attendees such as myself. This meant I saw the fund as a doorway to getting the most out of the full conference with no restrictions. Furthermore, in addition to expecting the fund to allow me to interact with well-established academics in the field of anatomy, I also anticipated the award would open up the chance to meet other Early Career members of the society who were at similar stages of their career to myself. This was a particularly motivating benefit in my attendance of the conference as I felt there would be a great balance of learning from academics with decades of experience and those that are budding in the same era of science as myself.</p>	
<p>COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. <i>Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.</i></p>	

Being awarded the Barclay Smith fund allowed me to participate in the Anatomical Society Summer Meeting and present my research project to other anatomists. This was an invaluable experience that allowed me to have 1-on-1 discussions with leading and budding anatomists alike. Having these discussions helped gain insight into more avenues of anatomy work/research that I could explore in my own developing career. I also had the opportunity to converse with active professors of anatomy across many different institutions and hear about their journey to their current positions. Furthermore, these discussions were not only academically useful but also helped build motivation and optimism about the path as an Early Career member.

In addition to presenting my own work, the conference also provided the experience to attend talks from well-established academics in the field of cerebral cortex development. As a student who took their undergraduate thesis on the topic of cortical development, it was very exciting to hear about the latest research of academics from themselves in contrast to the many pdfs studied in the process of getting my degree!

Lastly, the socials of the conference greatly added to the overall experience. I came to the conference knowing only one other undergraduate there and a couple of academics from my own university, but I left having made many more friends passionate about anatomy! The Early Career quiz night was particularly great for this as it allowed us to connect over our different niches of knowledge in a more informal setting. Overall, the meeting brought both a great learning and connecting experience that I thank the Anatomical Society for facilitating.

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?

Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.

The conference provided me with the chance to advance my skills in scientific presentation and public speaking. I partook in presenting my research during the first poster session of the conference and this allowed me to develop my presenting skills by communicating my research project to academics working in different areas of anatomy and the life sciences. This helped develop my ability to convey the same research problems and questions in multiple different ways, as well as developing the skill to view my work from different angles (including adopting more critical angles). Moreover, I was able to gain more confidence in addressing different questions and challenges regarding my work. The significance of these skills is great given my intention to pursue a career in academia as I will be attending many similar conferences and carrying out similar presentations. Furthermore, through attending the conference talks, I was able to gain insight into the various research techniques used across the work of the different attendees of the meeting. My expanded knowledge of the different techniques being used across neuroscience labs means I can make better-informed decisions during my future experiment designs. Lastly, another of the most important things gained from the conference was building my networking skills and communicating with academics from many different backgrounds whom I hopefully may have the

opportunity to collaborate with in the future. To conclude, the overall key important skills gained were communication and engagement skills that will undoubtedly prove as an invaluable asset in my developing career in academia.

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?

Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.

I intend to put my learning experience from this year's Summer Meeting into practice whilst I am undertaking my doctoral studies and beyond. Given that I am working towards a career in academia, these bettered skills in communication and scientific presentation will allow me to become a better researcher as well as a better educator in the future. I will likely be putting this into practice during my work as a graduate teaching assistant who will be working with undergraduate students and thus be able to serve as a clear and concise communicator. In addition to this, having built confidence in these gained skills by presenting to numerous academics also motivates me to engage in more opportunities to present my work in the future. Moreover, I intend to use the skills acquired in understanding and responding to feedback to better my future work for upcoming conferences. Conversely, being able to view other people's work and give feedback will also be of great benefit to me during the peer-reviewing process and any potential marking work I carry out in the future.

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

Diyya Ameen

DATE

11.08.25

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

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