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 AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | Meric Goker |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | @meric\_goker |
| UNIVERSITY | Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) |
| NAME OF AWARD | Barclay-Smith Travelling Fund |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* |
| Anatomical Society Summer Meeting 2025, Oxford, UK 14th-16th July 2025 |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?*Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* |
| As a recipient of the Anatomical Society PhD Studentship, I had high expectations for the Summer Meeting in Oxford. After two years of poster presentations, I was particularly excited to be selected for an oral presentation—my first one ever at this scale. I saw this as a pivotal step in my academic progression, offering the chance not only to gain public speaking experience, but also to test how well I could convey complex research findings to a diverse academic audience. I expected this opportunity to sharpen my ability to explain key concepts succinctly and convincingly, respond to critical feedback on the spot, and gain confidence in professional settings.Additionally, I anticipated the meeting would offer a valuable chance to deepen my engagement with the anatomical society and its research community. I looked forward to meeting new researchers and reconnecting with familiar faces from previous conferences. Attending lectures and panel discussions was also an important motivation, as I hoped to gain insights into the latest methodologies, technologies, and thematic trends in anatomical and biomedical sciences. I also hoped to leave the meeting inspired by innovative research, more attuned to interdisciplinary approaches, and with new ideas and potential collaborators for future academic endeavours. |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event.*Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.* |
| Participating in the 2025 Anatomical Society Summer Meeting in Oxford proved to be a truly enriching and professionally rewarding experience. Delivering my first oral presentation, after two years of presenting posters, marked a key moment in my doctoral training. It allowed me to communicate my latest findings to a broad academic audience and engage in deeper scientific dialogue. The feedback I received—especially regarding the translational aspects of my study—was both encouraging and constructive. It gave me valuable insights on how to frame my research for impact and relevance, particularly to interdisciplinary listeners.This year’s focus on brain anatomy and neuroscience introduced new dimensions to the conference that I found intellectually stimulating, even though my research is grounded in musculoskeletal systems and inflammation. The variety of talks sparked new connections and reflections on how anatomical research intersects across biological systems. It also broadened my perspective on methodological and conceptual tools that could be applied beyond my own research niche.Beyond formal sessions, the meeting fostered a strong sense of academic community. I engaged in conversations with peers and senior scientists, many of whom shared similar challenges and interests. Overall, the conference reinforced my enthusiasm for research and reminded me of the collaborative spirit driving scientific advancement. |
| 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 most significant skill I developed during the conference was the ability to communicate complex scientific material effectively to a broad and varied audience. Preparing for and delivering my first oral presentation to Anatomical Society audience pushed me to reflect on how to distil and structure my research in a clear, engaging, and accessible way. This process significantly improved my confidence as a speaker and helped me better articulate not only my findings, but also the rationale, design, and potential real-world impact of my work. The Q&A session challenged me to think on my feet and clarify my points under pressure, reinforcing my capacity for critical thinking and academic dialogue.In parallel, attending numerous talks enhanced my listening and analytical skills. Observing how experienced researchers framed their findings, used visual aids, and built narrative flow provided me with models to emulate in future presentations. I also became more comfortable engaging in informal discussions, learning to summarise my research succinctly during networking sessions and identify shared interests.All these experiences have collectively improved my communication, adaptability, and confidence—key skills for any researcher aiming to thrive in multidisciplinary environments, apply for funding, and eventually teach or lead collaborative projects in academia or industry. |
| 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.* |
| This learning experience has significantly influenced how I will approach future academic engagements, including upcoming conferences, publications, and even my thesis defence. The feedback I received has illuminated ways I can refine my messaging to highlight the translational relevance of my research, making it more accessible and impactful, especially to multidisciplinary or non-specialist audiences. These skills will be particularly useful as I prepare manuscripts for publication, grant applications, and future job talks or postdoctoral interviews.I also plan to implement several valuable techniques I observed in others’ presentations—particularly the effectiveness of storytelling, the importance of visual clarity, and the necessity of tailoring the delivery to the specific audience. Witnessing a variety of research styles and science communication strategies has significantly broadened my presentation toolkit. I now have a more nuanced appreciation of how to make scientific content not just informative but also impactful and memorable. One presentation that particularly resonated with me addressed the underrepresentation of different ethnic groups in anatomy education materials. This prompted me to question and reconsider some of the inherent assumptions I had unconsciously internalized. It was a powerful reminder that scientific presentations can go beyond simply delivering results, they can also challenge perspectives, stimulate reflection, and initiate important conversations. Furthermore, the interpersonal connections and networking experience have taught me how to engage more confidently in academic conversations, which I believe will aid in forming future collaborations and integrating into new research environments.Overall, the experience was not only academically beneficial but also transformative in shaping my professional identity. I now feel more capable and prepared to contribute meaningfully to the anatomical and biomedical research communities going forward. |
| 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 | Meric Goker | DATE | 28.07.2025 |

*If submitted electronically, a type-written name is acceptable in place of a hand-written signatureFile: AS-Award-Report-Form-171023 – International Conference*

*File: BS MG Report uploaded website 300725*