

AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | | Mr Yarrow Scantling-Birch | | |
| UNIVERSITY | | University of Southampton | | |
| NAME OF AWARD | | Barclay-Smith Travelling Award – Round 4 | | |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference attended (full name) with city and dates* | | | | |
| Human Cerebral Cortex Development  Summer meeting of the Anatomical Society  23rd – 25th July 2018, St John’s College, Oxford  **Purpose of award**: To present work from the Centre for Anatomical Sciences, University of Southampton, titled ‘Do you see what I see? How histology videos can be used as an adjunct to traditional teaching’. This was a project co-supervised by Dr Stuart Morton and Dr Scott Border as part of the Undergraduate Summer Vacation Scholarship, kindly awarded by the Anatomical Society. | | | | |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? | | | | |
| 1. To appreciate the scientific advances in the field of human brain development. 2. To network with anatomy pedagogues and understand the current trends in educational research. 3. To gain experience in presenting in front of academics & defending my research. 4. To gain constructive feedback on my histology project. | | | | |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar. | | | | |
| The 3-day conference proved to be truly inspirational and show cased all the latest research in human cortex development. Professor Molnar and Dr Clowry were both fantastic hosts for the conference and made the whole atmosphere feel like a large family gathering rather than an intense 3 days of research bombardment. What made this conference unique in particular was the demonstration that human cortical research is being done with international collaborations, various experimental approaches and the use of a multidisciplinary team, including paediatricians, geneticists, cellular biologists and even surgeons.  Two particular talks stand out in my mind to this date. Dr Pasko Rakic detailed his journey from neurosurgical residency towards his current position as head of a neuroscience lab at Yale University. He completed his doctoral degree at the University of Belgrade and in the process realised that if you wanted to truly understand the inner workings of the mind, you could not do this purely from a surgical perspective. At some point, one must step into the world of academia and ask the right research questions. The second talk was from Dr Helen Taylor, a consultant radiologist based at the University of Cambridge, who beautifully demonstrated the usefulness of radiological integration, in particular ultrasound teaching, into the undergraduate curriculum and how radiologists are well suited to transitioning into clinical anatomy tutors through the nature of the speciality. Both talks were memorable from a careers perspective and showed the flexibility there is in the medical profession, whether it be neurosurgeon or radiologist, to transition into scientific research and anatomy education; two fields I am extremely passionate about.  The conference also did well to encourage young career researchers, such as myself, to present their humble work amongst international influencers in the field of cerebral cortex development. The whole experience was friendly and supportive, with constructive feedback provided towards project improvements and future studies. It was equally a fantastic opportunity to see all the hard work that was being done by other young researchers or students from across the United Kingdom, and allowed for inspiration in regards to future studies. Coming from a medical background as a final year medical student, I can truly state with little bias that the anatomical community are one of the friendliest and welcoming group of individuals.  In addition to all the academic presentations and networking, the location of the conference was excellent and provided an opportunity to explore the academic atmosphere within Oxford. | | | | |
| REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? *(does not apply to equipment grant)* | | | | |
| **Networking** – through the dinner and informal socials, there was a great chance to talk to like-minded individuals on a more relaxed and open level. These socials are pivotal in finding inspiration for your work, deciding the direction of your research or for opening up future collaborations.  **Greater understanding of the publishing process** – there was a publishing masterclass on day one of the conference that proved invaluable in understanding what editors want in a polished manuscript. The workshop also debunked a few common myths and pitfalls when submitting your first manuscript and normalised the whole process. This is vital, especially for young researchers.  **Greater confidence in public speaking** – the chance to present my research in the form of an oral presentation and have it positively critiqued by senior colleagues built my confidence in public speaking and has given food for thought in regards to future research. | | | | |
| REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? | | | | |
| Through the newly obtained understanding of the publishing process, I hope to produce a draft manuscript of one of my projects by the end of September. The histology educational work that was kindly sponsored by the Anatomical Society for my summer research scholarship will be published next year after we have generated more data with our postgraduate student.  Inspiration and constructive feedback has been gained from my oral presentation, which will be incorporated into future study work relating to our histology project at the Centre for Learning Anatomical Sciences, University of Southampton.  In summary, the conference has provided me with inspiration and feedback that I hope to use to continue improving the educational experience of histology at the University of Southampton. I hope to attend future Anatomical Society meetings and network with the anatomical community further. | | | | |
| SIGNATURE | Mr Yarrow Scantling-Birch | | DATE | 31-08-2018 |

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

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