



AWARDEE REPORT FORM

NAME	Katie Mill
TWITTER HANDLE* <i>optional</i>	
UNIVERSITY	University College Cork
NAME OF AWARD	Barclay-Smith Travelling Awards 2025/26
PURPOSE OF AWARD <i>conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.</i>	
<p>To attend and present a poster at the Anatomical Society Winter Meeting in Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, 17th to 19th December 2025. The theme was Anatomy and it's role in society: Application and Impact. The award supported my travel, accommodation, and registration fees for this meeting.</p>	
<p>REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? <i>Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.</i></p>	
<p>Since I have begun the initial stages of my PhD research, it has been a hope of mine to connect with other researchers doing similar education-based research. Due to the nature of anatomy, the scope of research topics is expansive and with one of the subthemes of this meeting being “Anatomical education and the impact this has on learners of anatomy”, I felt attending would be a remarkable opportunity. In particular, I was hoping to get to meet fellow early career researchers to chat about our respective pathways and aims.</p> <p>In line with this, I was eager to get to develop and present a poster on my early PhD findings, which I felt would be an invaluable learning experience. Getting the chance to learn from others and receive feedback on presenting my work was something I welcomed wholeheartedly.</p> <p>Alongside this, I was looking forward to hearing about ongoing research in clinical anatomy, gross anatomy, and development, which are not directly related to my PhD, but are keen interests of mine. I feel it is really beneficial to stay up to date on advances within the field, to try and anticipate shifts in teaching, and this meeting seemed to be a great opportunity for this.</p> <p>I also wished to learn new skills to apply to my current teaching, and see the current trends shaping the future of anatomical education.</p> <p>Overall, my primary aspirations attending this conference were to see the current landscape of anatomy education research, to meet members working within the field, and present my preliminary data.</p>	

COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event.

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

My experience attending the Anatomical Society Winter Meeting was incredible. It is an event I have wanted to attend for years, and I was delighted to have finally gotten the opportunity to go. Initially when I first arrived, I was a little apprehensive, as although I had attended in-house conferences in the past, I had not attended one internationally before. This feeling did not last long as everyone was so welcoming! The Angela-Ruskin Campus was lovely, and fostered a friendly environment for the meeting.

Firstly, getting the opportunity to meet so many people working within the field, was fantastic. I truly enjoyed the discussions I had about the current landscape of anatomy education. As part of my PhD, I want to see how different institutions carry out their teaching and assessing, especially in the lab setting, and so I really enjoyed getting to chat to people about this. I also appreciated the more casual networking opportunities, the early career members event and the gala dinner were lovely ways to break the ice.

I really enjoyed each of the talks given at the conference; they were enlightening. I particularly enjoyed the Keynotes given by Professor Joanna Wakefield-Scurr and Professor Gabrielle Finn and the Education Innovation Award Talk by Dr Aaron Berger and Dr Eva Sweeney. These talks have given me inspiration to bring into my personal life and my future teaching plans. The Flash Talks given on anatomy education were a lovely way to reflect on how much has changed in the education landscape in recent years. Seeing so many young investigators give talks has given me aspirations for future conferences.

During my time at the conference, I had the chance to attend and partake in several workshops. I particularly enjoyed the workshop on the ethics and opinions on public display of anatomy. Getting to discuss this with people from other backgrounds and universities was fascinating and made me reflect on my own experiences and views.

Lastly, getting the opportunity to present a poster of some initial results from my research was amazing, the whole experience taught me a lot. I particularly enjoyed the conversations I was able to have with fellow researchers about my poster and my ongoing data collection, and even the potential for future collaborations. There were many amazing posters on display, it was great to be able to see the scope of research ongoing at the moment.

As I look back on my time at the conference, it truly was a wonderful enriching experience, and has really helped me develop as a researcher. I look forward to attending more in the future!

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.

Attending this conference provided me with the opportunity to strengthen my communication skills, particularly in how best to communicate my research coherently and with confidence. It was of particular importance to me to ensure my research was displayed in an approachable and appropriate way. This conference was my first time presenting details of my research in an anatomy specific environment. This meant I had to shift my approach slightly from previous presentations which were aimed towards wider

audiences, including both medical and non-medical educators. This was an invaluable learning experience, as it is vital to cater to the intended audience. From speaking with other attendees and listening to the presenters, I was able to learn even more than I anticipated about this, and will definitely use this experience to adapt all future presentations appropriately.

Getting the chance to partake in the workshops was great, I learned a lot from the education workshop with Professor Gabrielle Finn. Getting to see and discuss different approaches to education research, in particular the ways of displaying qualitative data (I Poems) was unlike anything I have seen previously. I also appreciated the way the love/breakup letters gave a new perspective on reflections, which is something I will remember for my own future research and personal progression.

I also found seeing the research being carried out that is adjacent to my own amazing, as it has given me inspiration and confidence in the potential of my own research.

Further to this, attending this meeting has given me a lot of confidence when it comes to networking, in particular approaching and speaking with more senior academics. It was refreshing and reassuring to have conversations with people much further into their careers in more casual settings and feel as though I had a place at the table.

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 can already tell that my experience at the Anatomical Society Winter Meeting has had a profound impact on not only how I approach my PhD but my aspirations for my future career.

The discussions I had have already helped me reflect on my data and my plans for communication of my findings. I will take the feedback and guidance I received with me, and put them into practice as I continue to develop both personally and professionally as a researcher. I also plan to share my experience with other early career researchers in my department, to help them be aware of the opportunities available.

My experience seeing so many young researchers share their findings has truly inspired me to aim to present my own findings at future meetings. From this I have also learned about ways to share findings clearly. Seeing the way questions were phrased to the presenters, and the elements of presentations that were queried has given me a new perspective for preparing and delivering my own oral presentations.

Overall, I feel I will always remember my first experience at a conference of this scale, and it will inform many of the decisions I will make over the course of both my PhD and future career.

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

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N/A

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N/A

SIGNATURE	Katie Mill	DATE	10/01/2026
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If submitted electronically, a type-written name is acceptable in place of a hand-written signature

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