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 AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | Melissa R Andrews |
| UNIVERSITY | University of Southampton |
| NAME OF AWARD | Public Engagement and Outreach Award (201718 Round 5) |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* |
| Purchase of materials for **Public Engagement and Outreach event at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show, 26th July 2018** (Brockenhurst, Hampshire, SO42 7QH). |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| In presenting at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show (Public Engagement and Outreach Event),my anticipated benefits were:* to engage the public with neuroanatomy across all age groups helping to bring about a better understanding of the brain and spinal cord
* to educate and engage the public on the basics of neurons, neuroanatomy and their relationship to the body as a whole including the skeletal system (especially the skull and spine)
* to inform the public of current research approaches (specifically my own research projects) on spinal cord injury and repair.
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| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. |
| At the New Forest Show, our display was located in the Wessex Medical Trust tent within the ‘Discovery Zone’ (an area of the Show ground dedicated to educational activities). The Wessex Medical Trust tent also housed displays from other University of Southampton medical researchers, with 8 medical/biological displays in total.Throughout the day, we had many visitors of all ages come to our display wanting to learn more about our anatomical models. Young children were very curious about the brain and the spinal cord and seemed to enjoy being able to look and inspect the models. We quizzed some of the older children on basic parts of the brain, skull, spine and spinal cord which went over well especially with students that loved science and dreamed of being scientists when they grew up! Many children and young adults were keen to learn more about neuroscience and anatomy. We also had an activity involving making neurons (to take home) from pipe cleaner and Styrofoam which entertained the younger children whilst educating them on the building blocks of the nervous system. It was great to see such enthusiasm from all the visitors. |
| 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? |
| It was evident that both children and adults enjoyed learning about the nervous system and being able to interact with the models since our displayed attracted a lot of attention throughout the day. Hundreds of people came to the displays in the Wessex Medical Trust tent, and we engaged with several of them with discussions and/or anatomical demonstrations. Our audience gained an important understanding of the nervous system including its building blocks (via our hands on ‘Build your own neuron’ activity) and how it ‘fits’ and ‘works’ together with the rest of the body, using the skeletal system as an example. Through our interactions, we learned what appeals to the public (both children and adults). This has improved our approach to public outreach. It’s clear that many members of the public are very curious to learn more from anatomical models and this makes engaging the public with (neuro)anatomy all the more rewarding.A few of the adult visitors discussed with us personal experiences of various nervous system conditions and diseases (including motor neuron disease, traumatic brain injury and multiple sclerosis). These visitors thanked us specifically for our display and activities which in some cases educated their children on the (anatomical) basics of diseases affecting family members. It was unexpected to hear both personal stories and gratitude for our event and our research but it made the event impactful for both us and the visiting public. |
| 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? |
| This grant has allowed me to purchase anatomical models (skeleton and spinal cord/vertebrae) and posters specifically for public engagement/outreach, which served a great purpose for the event at the New Forest Show (in July 2018). **However, in addition and importantly, these models and posters will continue to be used at future public engagement events** such as Science and Engineering days and School Outreach visits, not to mention the next New Forest Show!The event at the New Forest Show this year helped us to learn more about what the public is interested in and what catches their attention. Both children and adults are keen to see and inspect anatomical models and learn more about them. Certain age groups, such as ages 9-15, were especially keen to have their own knowledge of science and anatomy basics tested which made for great interactions – and also further ideas for our own School Outreach visits! |
| Data Protection/GDPR: I consent to the data included in this submission being collected, processed and stored by the Anatomical Society.  |
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| 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. |
| Image, narrative, and consent statements are attached. |
| 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.  |
| **I own the copyright for this image which is from my personal camera and consent to its use,** |
| SIGNATURE | C:\Users\mra5\Documents\MRA5_e-sig.jpg DR MELISSA ANDREWS | DATE | 22 August 2018 |

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

*File: AS-Award-Report-Form-BLANKCO-SEAL-date110216-Amended AT-070818*