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 AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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| NAME | Caroline Curtin |
| TWITTER HANDLE\* *optional* | @CarolineCurtin8 |
| UNIVERSITY | Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland |
| NAME OF AWARD | Symington Bequest Fund Award |
| PURPOSE OF AWARD *conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.* |
| Attendance at the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS) Americas Chapter Meeting 2023, April 11th – 14th, 2023 Boston Marriot Copley Plaza, USA |
| REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? |
| The Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS) Americas Chapter Meeting is the leading tissue engineering conference in the United States, attracting world leaders in the field to share cutting-edge research. As an invited speaker, I anticipated the opportunity to showcase my groups work while also learning about the most recent developments in the field of cancer research and tissue engineering. I correctly predicted the expansion of my knowledge in a wide host of scientific areas. I expected there would be many opportunities to both formally and informally discuss findings with peers, post-docs and PhD students from across the world, aiding my scientific network and the development of new exciting collaborations. |
| COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. |
| On arrival to Boston, we were greeted with some unexpected warm weather which set the tone for a thoroughly enjoyable conference. The conference venue was at the impressive Boston Marriott Copley Plaza, which is ideally located in the Back Bay area of the city. This meant conference delegates were close to many of the sites of Boston, which they got to enjoy during downtime. The conference began on April 11th with a number of welcome addresses and an open plenary panel session ‘Reflecting on the Past, Living in the Present, and Envisioning the Future of Tissue Engineering for human health and longevity’ which was a nice opening to the conference. This was followed by a Welcome Reception and the first Poster Session. This gave me the opportunity to network and meet some old colleagues which was an ideal start to the conference. Day 2 started with an impressive plenary symposium followed by 4 concurrent scientific sessions dotted throughout the day. I presented my groups work in the afternoon which was well received by the delegates and prompted some questions from the audience. This was a very enjoyable and informative session focusing on 3D Tissue-Engineered Cancer Models, one of three such sessions on the 12th, 13th and 14th April at the conference. This was followed once again by an impressive poster session highlighting the impactful research being performed in the Americas region. The cancer session on Friday 14th April included a talk by my PhD student which evoked a lot of interest from the participants as denoted by the questions she received. She was very capable at answering her questions and overall the work was very well received. In addition, I obtained numerous new ideas in relation to progressing our areas of research. |
| 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? |
| The ability to forge strong work connections was one of the primary outcomes of this conference. The way in which the poster sessions and welcome reception were organised was particularly amenable to ensuring this happened with ease. In addition, the central location of the conference made it easy to arrange to meet contacts nearby. This enabled a relaxed friendly atmosphere and simplified the process of networking. Obviously, a huge amount of knowledge was acquired throughout the conference with new ideas generated for a range of projects which is extremely beneficial moving forward for future grant applications. As it was very easy to discuss ideas with other research groups, this ensures I have the right contacts if I have queries regarding specific experiments and techniques moving forward.Additionally, exposure to a different cohort of researchers that I rarely meet allowed me to observe and listen to a variety of different presentation styles giving me ideas on how I can improve on my own presentation skills. Upskilling is always highly beneficial. |
| 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? |
| I am now more comfortable approaching other researchers discussing their work in detail and have been able to put this into practise since returning to Ireland. I find it easier to forge connections which is highly beneficial. I have since been in contact with some of the researchers I engaged with at the conference which will have valuable outcomes in the future – there are currently discussions to apply for collaborative funding. In addition, I am implementing certain parts of presentation styles I was impressed by and these are being received well. Overall, the attendance at the conference was highly productive and would not have been possible without funding from the Anatomical Society, for which I am extremely grateful. |
| 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 | Caroline Curtin | DATE | 13-06-23 |

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

*File: Curtin – Website version – Uploaded 150623*