

ECA 25 Nottingham – Post-Conference Report

ECA Fund Recipient: Alex Whitworth, Brighton & Sussex Medical School

Highlight Key Aspects of the Conference

The ECA was excellent this year at Nottingham University. I enjoyed getting to know people interested in education and anatomy. I learnt about things going on in education that I didn't realise were happening like 3D printing prosections. The talks were very interesting I especially enjoyed the Jars lecture talking about the history of anatomical preservation, lots of medical history I was totally unaware of. Also, the lecture of anatomy technicians opened my eyes for the people who do so much but get too little consideration, including from myself.

I enjoyed meeting other students as well, from medical to biomedical to anatomy students. It was good to compare the ways we were taught anatomy and learn about our careers plans for the future.

The workshops were excellent, I had done playdough in embryology before, but I hadn't explored the specific systems like embryological heart development which was immensely valuable and good revision. The MSK workshop was brilliant, forearm anatomy has always been difficult for me to understand and using the clay to build layers is something I will suggest BSMS invest in.

I am also interested in science and art and the lecture about using art and craft in anatomy really interested me. The posters were also of high quality, and it was fascinating to see what people were doing all over the country.

Nottingham campus is also beautiful!

Impact of the ECA Fund

I am in my final year of medical school, and I am in that period of time where we have come to the end of the academic year, but I won't get paid until the end of August, whilst paying for additional expenses such as my GMC registration. So, money is tight at the moment.

Essentially without this bursary I would have found paying the money to come here quite stressful and difficult to balance the budget. Therefore, I am so grateful for this bursary to I can just concentrate on the learning rather than stressing about the expenses.

I have never done a presentation at a conference before and I think the ECA was a great place to try this out for the first time because of the friendly environment. This experience is

extremely valuable as I want to pursue the more academic side of medicine, and I hope this will not be the last time doing a presentation at a conference.

Also, it was great that so many people wanted me to send them my digital illustrations of my prosection, that was amazing since I was quite self-conscious of my drawings.

Personal Reflections

This conference has really made me reflect on my previous educational experiences in medical school. I get to see just how much work goes into trying to teach us, which I am so grateful for. It's great to see how much students are considered from their different learning styles to so many different ways to teach complex material. I can also see where my learning could have been improved by some of the methods I have learned about at the ECA. I really want to be involved in teaching throughout my careers as a doctor and I would like to be a part of the curriculum planning. The ECA has made me reflect and think about details of teaching that I would have not considered. Also, from a slightly selfish point of view this experience will also look great on future CVs!

