

ECA 24 Sunderland – Post-Conference Report

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The Early Career Anatomists conference was an invaluable opportunity to engage with fellow professionals who share the goal of advancing the field of medicine, particularly in anatomical education. The conference was thoughtfully organized around three primary themes:

Innovation, Education, and Humanity. The section on innovation was particularly compelling, addressing emerging technologies such as generative artificial intelligence and virtual reality. These advancements are positioned to revolutionise higher education, making it essential for educators to grasp their impact and potential.

As an international student who has just completed my master's degree, attending conferences has been a financial challenge. This bursary, therefore, was a significant aid, allowing me not only to attend but also to present my work on enhancing diversity and inclusion within anatomical education. The event greatly contributed to my professional development by offering the chance to learn from leading experts, acquire new skills, and broaden my perspective on how anatomy can be taught and understood. The networking opportunities were particularly valuable, leading to connections and friendships that will undoubtedly support my career as an educator and researcher in anatomy.

Additionally, attending the Early Career Anatomists conference deepened my understanding of the latest advancements in anatomical education and reinforced my commitment to fostering an inclusive and diverse learning environment. Presenting my work on diversity in anatomy education was particularly rewarding, as it sparked meaningful discussions and provided valuable feedback that will shape my future research. The chance to collaborate with experts and fellow early-career professionals has been instrumental in refining my future approaches to both teaching and research.

The workshops offered on the first day of the conference were not only informative but also highly engaging. The ultrasound workshop, in particular, was incredibly helpful and intriguing, especially given my limited experience with this form of medical imaging. The hands-on experience with the equipment will enable me to apply this skill to future roles and anatomy departments. Additionally, the anatomical careers workshop provided crucial insights into career progression as I embark on my journey as an anatomist, covering essential topics such as career advancement, salary expectations, departmental transitions, and practical advice on interview techniques. Lastly, the embalming workshop was a unique opportunity for me to

understand how other departments coordinate and run their dissection laboratories. Allowing me to understand the different forms of preservation formulas used in the embalming process and obtaining insight into how medical schools like Sunderland store and maintain their donors throughout their time with the university.

One of the most impactful aspects of the conference was the strong sense of community it fostered. Being surrounded by peers and mentors who are equally passionate about anatomy and medical education was both inspiring and motivating. The discussions on humanity in anatomy were particularly thought-provoking, emphasising the importance of empathy and ethical considerations in our work. Showcasing how there are still disparity gaps in medical curriculums that need to be addressed in order to properly train our future medical professionals. These conversations underscored that while innovation and education are vital, the human element should always remain at the forefront of our practice.

In conclusion, the Early Career Anatomists conference has been an enriching experience that has significantly shaped my academic and professional journey. The bursary was instrumental in allowing me to attend and fully engage with the event. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic and forward-thinking conference and organisation, and I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I have gained as I continue to develop my career in anatomical education and research. Thank you for making this experience possible and for investing in the future of anatomical science.

