

ECA 24 Sunderland – Post-Conference Report

ECA Fund Recipient: Monisha Premkumar

The impact of the bursary

I was honoured to have been awarded a bursary of £150 to attend and do a poster presentation at the ECA 2024 conference, which covered my travel and accommodation. This was very useful as my total for these two alone would have been around £260 since I was travelling from Wales, and despite how eager I was to attend the conference, it simply would not have been possible without some financial help. On top of this, ECA provided a list of nearby hotels which made it easier for me to compare pricing before booking. All of this meant that I had fewer things to worry about on attending this conference and could just focus on sharing and listening to talks on areas of interest in Anatomy.

Highlight key aspects of the conference

On the first day, we were able to take part in 3 workshop stations of our choice. It was hard to choose since they were all interesting concepts; from exploring newer anatomy teaching tools with Anatomage to discussing how exactly one of the oldest methods is prepared for students to learn. I chose the Embalming workshop, Ultrasound workshop and the Careers Workshop. In the embalming workshop I was taught the various types of embalming techniques and their implications. Since my poster was on the effect of Whitwell on Medical Student performance and satisfaction, I was now able to understand the perspective of this technique from the viewpoint of staff actually involved with handling and preparing the cadavers for our teaching. I had also not yet attempted using an ultrasound machine myself before this event. Not only did we get the opportunity to do an ultrasound, but we were taught the clinical significance and got the opportunity to observe an ultrasound of the abdomen after one of the attendees volunteered to be scanned. The careers workshop was enlightening because it forced anatomists at various stages to actually think about our future, and this motivated progression through the use of thought provoking questions and group discussions which allowed me to get out of my comfort-zone and talk to more attendees. All the staff members involved in running the event were very kind and passionate in the field which made me feel comfortable in sharing my interests. On the second day of the conference, there were Oral Presentations and Poster Presentations after lunch. The oral presentations were very informative and covered important, relevant topics such as newly advancing Generative AI to an interactive approach to the Teddy Bear Hospital. The poster presentation allowed for better networking

and allowed me to openly communicate my interest in Anatomical Education with those with similar interests. I was then able to gain insight into the opinions on the topic from experts in the field. I was also able to talk to other poster presenters about their projects and gained an appreciation for their area of interest too. During the awards and raffle section, I was also elated to have won a year's access to a 4D Interactive Anatomy Tool for learning anatomy which I know will be useful for me this Year at Medical School. By the end of the conference, I had gained many new connects and friendships, as well as knowledge about areas within anatomy through socialising in a supportive environment with other students, as well as obtaining advice from those further along in their career. I am very grateful for this opportunity and am excited to hear more about the next ECA 2025 conference in Nottingham.

