

23.3.16

To The ANZBMS Council,

Report from Megan Thomas on the 2016 IBMS Herbert Fleisch Workshop.

Firstly I would like to express my gratitude for being given an ANZBMS International Travel Award. I greatly appreciated this support to attend the 2016 Herbert Fleisch Workshop.

My aims in attending this meeting were to gain experience presenting the research that I have completed to date, to get feedback on this work and advice on how it may progress in the future, and to begin building networks within the international bone research community. I believe that all my aims were successfully met at the workshop that was held in Brugge, Belgium from the 28th of February to the 1st of March this year.

I had the opportunity to present a poster at this workshop. As these posters were made a focus of the meeting, and a generous amount of time was devoted to viewing and discussing them, I was able to present my work to many other researchers. It also allowed me to view and discuss many posters presented by others. I found the chance to practice communicating my work in this format was incredibly valuable. In addition I received constructive feedback and suggestions both from very experienced researchers and other early career researchers. There were a number of other posters that related to joint disease, which is my area of research, and I found that discussing this work was both interesting and that it helped me to view my own work from different perspectives.

The workshop also provided a wonderful opportunity to socialise and begin building networks. I met researchers from all over the world, at different stages of their career and with varied experiences and interests. I met several people who I am looking forward to staying in contact with in the future. The social highlight was the dinner, held at a local brewery, but the time between and after sessions at the workshop was also a good chance to meet other delegates. It was also lovely to be one of a relatively large number of Australians present, given the distance that we have to travel to attend.

In addition to meeting my personal aims I also learnt a great deal from the oral and other poster presentations, especially from the keynote lectures. My understanding of osteocyte functions, cellular signalling pathways within bone and systemically, and how bone can be involved in systemic and neoplastic diseases has been greatly enhanced.

Thank you once again for the support you gave me to attend this workshop. It was a great experience and provided a valuable contribution to my research career.

Yours faithfully,

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