

Stephen Smith

NIHR/BAD Travel Bursary 2019 Report

**American Academy of Cancer Research
Annual Meeting 2019 (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)**

I was delighted and honoured to be selected to present my recent work on aging in melanoma at the highly prestigious annual American Academy of Cancer Research (AACR) meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in April 2019. This meeting is the premier cancer research conference in the world and is attended by 25,000 delegates from all corners of the globe. With multiple streams of talks, and amazing research being presented in many rooms simultaneously it was a challenge even knowing where to be at any given time, and organising the schedule was almost as challenging as keeping up with the science being presented!

The talks at AACR ran from 7am to 6pm with evening symposia as well, so there was not much time for sightseeing, but I was fortunate enough to be able to meet a number of new and existing colleagues, friends and potential collaborators over the four days. The CRUK staff who attended the meeting were incredibly helpful and supportive, tweeting about the work being presented by UK delegates and providing a refuge from the chaos in the exhibition hall. My own poster was well received with plenty of interest shown in it, and the opportunity to see ongoing and early work from groups across the world was one I relished. I would like to thank the BAD for generously supporting this visit and would recommend an AACR visit wholeheartedly to anyone involved in any aspect of cancer research!