

NIHR/BAD Travel Bursary – Dr Laura Mottram
44th Annual ESDR Meeting Copenhagen, Denmark
10th – 13th September 2014

Thanks to the NIHR/BAD Research Travel Bursary I was able to attend the ESDR in Copenhagen this year. The ESDR sister societies in the USA (SID) and Japan (JSID) were well represented making a truly international and diverse conference which was both enjoyable and informative. Additionally, the vibrant city of Copenhagen was an excellent host city.

There were several new components to the ESDR this year which I found to be beneficial including the “Come See my Poster” presentations whereby presenters had one minute and one slide to detail their research prior to the poster sessions. I found this extremely useful in determining which of the several hundred posters to visit during the poster sessions!

I was fortunate enough to present some of the data generated during my PhD during the “Cell Adhesion and Repair” concurrent session. Two weeks after attending the conference I submitted my PhD thesis and therefore the discussion and feedback from my presentation was extremely useful when thinking about future work and discussion points, it also provided insight into potential viva examination questions. Additionally, the oral presentation gave me a unique chance to improve and develop my presentation skills at an international level.

I really enjoyed the variety of talks during all the concurrent and plenary sessions but in particular found the “Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine” session on the first morning highly interesting. This session included a presentation regarding the PSORT multi-centre collaboration in the UK presented by Professor Griffiths. My supervisor and some members of his group are involved in this so it was great to learn more. Dr Louise Jopling from Johnson and Johnson also discussed the benefits of industrial and academic collaborations in scientific research during this session which was an interesting addition to the clinical and basic scientist talks that featured throughout the remainder of the conference. I thought the presentations were of an excellent standard and scientific discussion during the oral presentations, poster sessions and social events were both enjoyable and informative.

Without the financial support of the BAD I would not have been able to attend the ESDR in Copenhagen and therefore am extremely grateful for this opportunity.