

December 23rd, 2016

Natalia Murray

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Dear Human Genetics Society of Australasia and the Australasian Association of Clinical Geneticists,

My name is Natalia Murray and I am the 2016 recipient of the Nigel Clarke memorial prize, a financial scholarship of \$1200.00. I am honoured to receive this award and grateful for the opportunities it has provided me.

I did not have the privilege to meet the late Associate Professor Nigel Clarke but during my first year of advanced training in Clinical Genetics I have come across much of his work in neuromuscular genetics. Those who knew Associate Professor Clarke held him in the highest regard as a member of the HGSA and Australasian Neuromuscular Network, as well as an outstanding clinician and scientist.

In August 2016 I attended my first HGSA meeting and was fortunate to present work on KBG syndrome on behalf of the team at Hunter Genetics as well as collaborating geneticists from across Australia. This scientific meeting was a fantastic opportunity to learn from senior colleagues through Dysmorphology day, oral and poster presentations and seminars from leading international speakers.

With the funding provided by this award, I was able to attend the World Muscular Society congress in beautiful Granada in October 2016. During this meeting I learned about updates in the muscular dystrophies including biochemical and imaging biomarkers and treatment, as well as the genetic underpinnings of structural myopathies and genotype-phenotype correlations. I believe this has broadened my approach to the differential diagnosis of congenital myopathies and will inform and guide decision making in adult neurology/ genetics. In the months following this meeting, this information has benefitted my approach to patients with congenital neuromuscular disorders presenting to Hunter Genetics.

The opportunity to attend the HGSA and WMS meetings this year has piqued my interest in neuromuscular disorders and inspired my ongoing training. Next year I will commence core training in adult neurology and aim to complete Clinical Genetics training thereafter. I look forward to the exciting new developments in these fields. Thank you for your investment in the futures of genetic registrars like me.

Yours sincerely,

Natalia Murray