

**Nigel Clarke Memorial Education Bursary 2017 Report**  
**Clara Chung**

Thank you for awarding me the Education Bursary in 2017. With the help of the funds provided, I was able to attend the International Research Conference on Tuberous Sclerosis Complex and Lymphangiomyomatosis, which was held in Washington DC, United States of America from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This was an invaluable experience for both my clinical and research career.

Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is my area of research interest, being the topic of my college research project and one of the focuses of my Masters in Research. This conference therefore provided me with an in-depth update and learning about the most recent clinical and basic scientific research surrounding this area. This knowledge has improved my understanding of this condition and has allowed me to provide better care of the patients with TSC that I see in clinical practice.

There was also a dedicated session focusing on the advances in understanding the genetics of TSC. This session was invaluable to my understanding of the molecular basis of *TSC1* and *TSC2* variants, such as the differences between the germline variants and those found in the benign tumours that are clinical features of this condition, as well as building my knowledge on the current research being undertaken in genetics.

I also had the opportunity to present a poster titled “Early detection of tuberous sclerosis complex: an opportunity for improved neurodevelopmental outcome”. This poster presented the data from the retrospective research study I had done looking at a cohort of paediatric patients from the multidisciplinary TSC management clinic at Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick, NSW. It adds to the knowledge around early diagnosis, which is the main focus of new TSC management currently.

Not only has this been a great occasion to learn more about the up-and-coming research in TSC, but I was able to also meet and network with preeminent researchers in this field, and develop a greater relationship with representatives from the TSC support group in Australia, Tuberous Sclerosis Australia. It also sparked my interest to continue research in this field.

Once again, I would like to thank the Australasian Association of Clinical Geneticists and the family of A/Prof Nigel Clarke for providing me with the opportunity to attend this fantastic conference.