IMS 23, Glasgow: reflections from a first-time attendee

This year I attended the International Myeloma Society Annual Meeting for the first time, with the support of a UKMS travel bursary, and presented my PhD work on long-read RNA sequencing in multiple myeloma. My project uses Oxford Nanopore sequencing of patient samples from the UKMRA RADAR trial to look at full-length transcripts, which lets us see isoform switching, fusion transcripts and allele-specific expression that short-read data often misses. Presenting to an international audience was exciting, and the questions and discussions at my poster were really valuable. It was also a great opportunity to learn about related research being carried out by other groups and make connections that could lead to future collaborations. Beyond my own session, the scientific programme was a great overview of where the field is heading. I particularly enjoyed the talks on MRD testing, T-cell-redirecting therapies and advances in smouldering myeloma. As a first-timer, I appreciated how approachable senior researchers and clinicians were, and some of the trainee sessions, such as those on writing and publishing, were a good way to meet other PhD students and postdocs working on myeloma. I've come away with new connections, fresh ideas and a much better sense of how my work fits into the wider myeloma community. Many thanks to UKMS for making this opportunity possible."

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