

10 February 2025

Re: Maureen P. Swanney International Travel Award
Conference Attendance Report

To the ANZSRS Board and MGC Diagnostics Inc.,

I was honoured to be awarded the Maureen P. Swanney International Travel Award at the 2024 TSANZSRS Conference. I used funds from this award to attend the 2024 European Cystic Fibrosis Society (ECFS) annual conference in Glasgow between 5th-8th June.

This was my time attending a dedicated CF conference. The program was excellent and covered a range of important topics with an impressive line-up of guest speakers. Of particular interest to me were the sessions on CFTR modulator and alternative therapies, psychosocial care, microbiology and advances in pulmonary function techniques. I particularly enjoyed the presentations around the relationships between imaging and lung function techniques, as there are similarities with our work currently being conducted. This resulted in development of an honours project that is currently being conducted. I was also fortunate, and proud, to witness Professor Scott Bell (TPCH) receive the 2024 ECFS Award for his amazing work in the CF community.

During the conference I also delivered 1 oral and 2 poster presentations which outlined preliminary findings from our ongoing Early Life Origins (ELO) study; an observational study aimed at understanding the mechanisms of early CF lung disease onset and progression. This was an amazing opportunity to present our work to European colleagues and sparked several conversations with teams and researchers that are conducting similar work in this space. As a direct result of these conversations, we have discussed several collaborative opportunities within our team and adjusted study protocols to harmonise data collection and allow for potential combining of data.

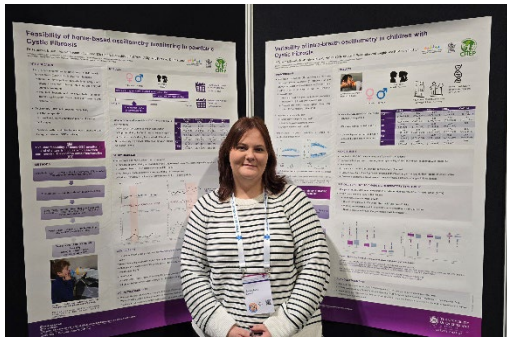
Upon my return I discussed the conference content and networking discussions with members of my research team and colleagues at the Queensland Children's Hospital. This experience has improved my knowledge on key aspects related to my work as a Research Fellow and team leader. Networking with international colleagues has proved instrumental in highlight my expertise in this field and in helping to shape future research projects as we strive to improve health outcomes for patients with CF.

Once the conference was over, I made time to enjoy the history, landmarks and some iconic Scottish experiences that make up this beautiful country. I am truly grateful to MGC Diagnostics and the ANZSRS board for this opportunity and encourage all members to consider applying for future opportunities. It was a privilege to represent the ANZSRS community at the ECFS Conference.

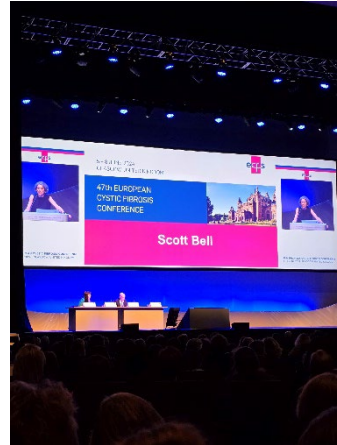
Yours sincerely,



Tamara Blake
Group leader; Respiratory Physiology
ELO Study Coordinator
Children's Health Environment Program (CHEP)
PhD, MCISc, BBSoc (Hons)



Poster Presentations



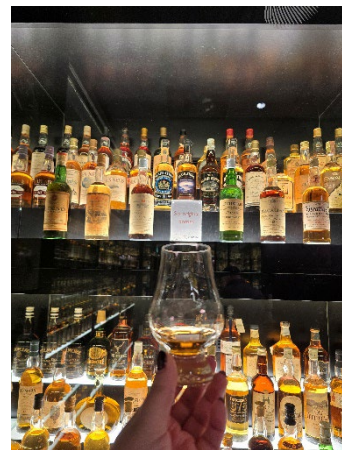
Professor Scott Bell's recognition



University of Glasgow



Fairy Pools, Isle of Skye



Scotch sampling