I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Association for Radiation Research for their financial support allowing me to attend and present my work at the 63rd Annual International Meeting of the Radiation Research Society in Cancun, Mexico on October 15-18, 2017.

This gave me such a great opportunity to both learn and benefit from interaction with members of the international scientific community on topics specific to my field of research, as well as to further my personal development in the broadest manner in other radiation research areas. It was a wonderful conference to attend as a PhD student who has submitted her thesis as it served as an ideal platform to establish wider working collaborative links independent of my working group.

I took the opportunity to present my work as a poster entitled "Radiation-induced chromosome instability: the role of dose and dose rate", exploring the role of dose, dose rate and radiation quality (x-rays vs. alpha-particles) on the induction of genomic instability in HF19, a primary human fibroblast cell line.

By attending other presentations, in particular the low dose radiation responses and implications for risk symposium, I have learned much and improved my own skills and knowledge about my field. It was also helpful to engage with presenters’ work, to ask questions and to go and talk to them after the panel. Additionally, I attended various sessions and networking events, and I had time to get to know other people socially.