

Graduate School, College of Medicine and Health

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Conference Attended: The Annual meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), Location: San Diego from 3-7 February 2015

Following the award of a Doctoral Student Travel Bursary I attended the Annual meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) in San Diego from 3-7 February 2015. This important meeting draws a large international participation of maternal-fetal medicine experts. I presented a poster presentation *Communication skills in obstetrics: the impact on bereaved parents* from my PhD research into the spiritual and pastoral dimensions of stillbirth. This was a great opportunity to share some of our UCC research with an international audience and the subject matter resulted in many engaging conversations with clinicians from many parts of the world. The most common conversation was the acknowledgement by clinicians that they find communication in this area challenging and would welcome greater support in this area.

In addition to attending the conference and networking with experts in the field I was also able to avail of educational opportunities and most significantly for me the opportunity to participate in a Cochrane Review workshop.

I am grateful to the College of Medicine and Health for the opportunity to attend this conference and to share some of my research from our Pregnancy Loss Research Group.