Amber Boots at the Organization of Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting in Montréal: APH Aging and Later Life Travel Grant 2023

With the travel grant funding, I attended the Organization of Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) Annual Meeting in Montréal last July. The OHBM annual meeting is the main event in the field of neuroimaging and attracts thousands of researchers and students from across the globe. This year, the event uniquely included dedicated sessions for lifespan brain imaging for researchers linking brain development, lifespan brain health and brain aging.

My trip started two days before the conference because I attended a preconference symposium on lifespan network neuroscience. This was a very inspirational day with many exciting talks. The preconference symposium was held at the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI), which is a world leaning center in neuroimaging research, famous for developing the MNI standard brain which is often used in MRI neuroimaging analysis. I ended the day as a guest at the 'speakers dinner', which was a great way to informally meet many of the speakers.

Montréal Neurological Institute

Preconference speakers dinner

At the OHBM conference, I hosted a symposium titled: “Early life environmental factors and brain health across the lifespan – how will the modern world shape future generations?”, including oral presentations from international leading scientists in the field of lifespan brain imaging. I had the opportunity to present our research and received many positive comments on our work. This also led to some interesting discussions and ideas for new projects and collaborations. We added an interactive element to the symposium by asking questions to the audience using the conference app and discussing these questions and comments in a speakers panel, which resulted in interesting discussions and lessons that we can take home and implement in our research.

Symposium presentation

Many thanks to APH A&LL for making this informative and inspirational trip possible!