**BSPR bursary awarded for attendance of BSPR 2018, Bradford**

As a final year PhD student looking for a career in academic research, the attendance at scientific conferences is of great benefit. BSPR scientific meetings not only offer a platform to learn, discuss and collaborate, but it opens the door to future opportunities for employment for young investigators. Being awarded a student bursary from the BSPR enabled me to attend the meeting this year where I presented an oral abstract in front of an expert audience. Questions asked immediately after my presentation and discussions thereafter have allowed me to think about the experiments that could be done in the context of further progressing my own work. Additionally, since BSPR 2018 I have had the opportunity to keep in contact with other groups across the UK where we can share ideas and help one another with experimental design and troubleshooting. Additionally, we as a research group have been able to make some great contacts with the industrial sponsors. Without the support from the BSPR for students I wouldn’t have been able to attend Bradford 2018, so can only thank the society in helping to build the foundations of my career in academia.