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## ARMS Chapter Travel Award Report | Denise Dillon, JCU Singapore

- Submit a brief (one) page report 6 weeks after the conference. The report should outline what you had learnt from attending the conference. This information shall be used for promotional purposes. Please note that the results of these awards will be published in an upcoming edition of our e-newsletter, Up In ARMS and on the ARMS website

The ARMS23 Sydney conference was a blast for networking opportunities – research managers are evidently skilled at networking and are very generous in sharing ideas, knowledge and experience. This was just my second ARMS conference adventure, with the first being the 2022 virtual run, which gave me little in the way of understanding what it feels like to be amongst >700 like-minded souls who were ready and raring to talk about the various complexities and nuances of research management.

In the months leading up to the conference I benefited from being a part of the conference program committee, led by Lisa Beckham and Maria Zollo, who drew together a remarkable and diverse team of experienced and well-connected research managers from Australia and New Zealand. While I contributed a Singapore connection (I'm based at James Cook University in Singapore), the committee involvement reinforced to me the importance and value of being well connected in the research community.

As a current enrollee of the Established Level Accreditation Program (ELAP), an additional advantage of the conference was the opportunity to meet up in person with several of my ELAP cohort as well as with Dana Watts, the ARMS Accreditation Program Administrator. Our monthly Zoom sessions are valuable for various reasons, but there's just no comparison with meeting in person. Ironically, I met one of my fellow Singapore ELAP peers for the first time in Sydney. The welcome reception was another occasion for networking, for strengthening connections with past colleagues and acquaintances and for establishing new contacts.

To make the most of my conference experience I grabbed the chance to attend one of the pre-conference masterclasses. Presenter Connie Killey delivered a masterful lesson on Costing and Pricing of Research and I'm pleased to report that I managed to pass the post-masterclass quiz with 95% correct. The complexities of costing and pricing left me worried that I wouldn't manage the 75% passing score, so kudos to Connie for the explanations and resources to make it all digestible to an academic attendee.

As a conference participant, I was pleased to present a theoretical/conceptual paper on behalf of my JCU collaborators, Dr Susan Gasson and A/Prof Michelle Redman-MacLaren in the Higher Degree Research – Creating Consistency in Inconsistent Ecosystems session. To contribute further, I chaired two sessions on Improving Engagement, Improving Research and judged posters. Standout sessions for me were the Keynote by A/Prof Siouxsie Wiles followed by the Panel Session on Truth, Ethics and Integrity in a brave new world: open access, science communication and AI; and the Keynote by Prof Bronwyn Fox, who allowed me to take a cheeky selfie with her and Margaret Atkinson, from CSIRO. I also thoroughly enjoyed Anthony Ackroyd's Plenary Session that encouraged us to Stress Less Laugh More.

Thanks to ARMS for providing complimentary registration for program committee members and thanks to the Singapore Chapter for a Travel Award to cover some of my flight costs to attend the conference. What more can I say? I kept busy and the conference rocked. I've already saved the date for ARMS24 in Darwin and have plans to attend together with our JCUS Research Manager.