

George Bredin Travel Fund Report

May 2026

My name is Elena Andree, and I'm a second-year graduate-entry medical student at Pembroke. Alongside my medical studies, I'm involved in computational neuroradiology research, with a particular interest in perfusion imaging in neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's.

With support from the George Bredin Fund, I had the opportunity to attend the 2026 International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) conference in Cape Town, South Africa. ISMRM is one of the world's leading conferences in MRI research and brings together clinicians, scientists, engineers, and industry leaders working at the forefront of medical imaging. This was my first ever academic conference, making the experience especially exciting!

At the conference, I presented my research related to cerebral blood flow changes in Alzheimer's disease and was honoured to receive a prestigious Magna Cum Laude award for my work. I also had the opportunity to meet and speak with experts in MRI and neuroradiology from around the world, which was an invaluable experience as someone early in their research career.

One of the most interesting aspects of the conference was learning about emerging developments in MRI technology, particularly the growing role of AI in advancing medical imaging and improving diagnostic capabilities. I also found the discussions around MRI in resource-poor settings especially inspiring, with many clinicians focusing on innovative ways to make advanced imaging more accessible globally.

Outside of the conference, I was able to explore some of Cape Town's breathtaking natural beauty through hikes and trail runs along the coast. Taking in the city's striking mountainous coastline was a highlight of the trip and made the conference even more memorable!

Attending ISMRM was an incredible opportunity. This would not have been possible without the support from Pembroke and the George Bredin Fund – thank you for supporting my research and making this unique experience possible!