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CQUni punches above weight at European sport science event

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PhD candidate Nattai Borges with European College of Sport Science President Tim Cable.

CQUniversity's Exercise and Sports Sciences program has punched above its weight at a prestigious European conference in Vienna, thanks to PhD candidate Nattai Borges.

Rockhampton-based Mr Borges emerged from a field of 471 nominations from 70 countries to win the 2016 European College of Sport Science Young Investigators Award, worth 4000 Euros.

CQUni Associate Professor Peter Reaburn reported that Mr Borges' presented to over 1000 delegates on *'The effect of age on pulmonary and muscle oxygenation kinetics following high intensity interval exercise'*, before being 'grilled' by an expert panellist.

"Nattai's win was confirmed by a panel of the world's leading sport scientists," Associate Professor Reaburn said.

"The achievement is huge. It's one of the only times the award has gone out of Europe and it's come to CQUniversity, a regional Australian University."

The 21st annual Congress of the European College of Sport Science was held from 6-9 July.

Mr Borges says he "was truly humbled and surprised to be listed as a finalist for the Young Investigators awards for 2016".

"Although at the time people were congratulating me and telling me how much of a big deal it is to win such a prestigious award, it has taken a couple of days for it to settle in and I can honestly say that the epiphany occurred during a Boss concert in Paris a couple of nights after the congress," he says.

"Not to sound like a cliché, but winning the Young Investigators Award really validates and puts in perspective all the hard work that I and my research peers have put in over the past couple of years.

"I would like to give personal thanks firstly to my principal supervisor Associate Professor Peter Reaburn and Fellow PhD student Thomas Doering who have both been there every step of the way with me. Additionally, I would like to thank my associate supervisors Dr Christos Argus and Matthew Driller as well the rest of the Research Higher Degrees team in the Medical and Applied Sciences School for their input and assistance through my PhD.

"Finally but most importantly, I would like to thank my friends and family who have supported me through all my life's endeavours; without them I would not be the person I am today and would not have won this award without them cheering me on.

"In regards to future career possibilities, I hope that this award leads me to research post-doctoral opportunities across the globe, particularly in Europe. Although it is still early days I would love to spend a few years working in conjunction with established football clubs in Europe."