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As a biomedical scientist who has progressed onto the NHS' Scientist Training Programme in histopathology, I have seen a larger emphasis on elements of my training including specimen dissection and molecular pathology. As such the opportunity to attend both study days tailored exactly to these needs was perfect! As a BMS, general handling of specimens involves simple transfer and non-complex simple dissection, and the transition onto handling both benign and malignant large, complex cases was a big step up from my previous role. The information and guidance provided in the study days gave a great oversight of general cut-up techniques, and more specifically delved into exactly why we sample and block organs as we do.

I particularly enjoyed the clearly positive and encouraging outlook on the role of scientists in both of these areas, which is uplifting as I look forward to how I will fit in my new role as a clinical scientist in the future. As my current role is centred around both IHC and downstream molecular testing, the impact of formalin fixation on failure rates for downstream testing is something I will feedback from this conference experience, as it could have a very real impact on our ability to provide the best outcomes for our patients. Both days exceeded my expectations and has been the most well-organised and informative training event I have attended in my training so far. I will certainly be spreading the word amongst my BMS colleagues regarding membership as a scientist and encourage them to explore attending the study days in the future.