

USCAP BURSARY REPORT FOR BDIAP

Name: Dr Kavitha Krishna Pai

Training year (ST if based in the UK): ST5 Histopathology

Institute/Organisation: Royal Stoke University Hospital, Stoke on Trent

- **Why did you want to attend the USCAP 113th annual meeting?**

USCAP is the largest gathering of Histopathologist's in the world. To attend in person to this annual meeting was my dream as an undergraduate. I took up training after completing my M.D in pathology in India. As an immigrant doctor in the NHS and a trainee Histopathologist now due to become a consultant, I strongly felt I should attend the annual meet this year to catch up on ground breaking research, learn first-hand from the pathology legends, delve deep into my specialty which is breast and gastrointestinal pathology.

- **Do you feel more confident in your knowledge / understanding of pathology following attendance at the USCAP 113th annual meeting?**

My perspective towards my specialty has changed, positively.

I have been made aware of the countless new avenues especially in digital pathology and AI within GI and breast pathology which are my areas of interests. I believe this is best time to practise histopathology and has motivated me to be able to enhance what we do within our set up here at Royal Stoke University Hospital.

- **Highlight aspects of pathology that you have learnt from the USCAP 113th annual meeting which you were not aware of prior to the event.**

I attended the specialty evening conferences in GI and breast Pathology and educative sessions such as 'Day in the sign out of GI pathology' which gave us information on day to day reporting and also latest WHO updates and advances within GI and breast pathology.

I also attended a ticketed event titled 'Fully Digital sign out, Step by Step - A complete guide to the glassless and paperless Pathologist's office of today', which was by far the best talk in the entire conference for me. It gave a perspective of how a modern pathologist needs to work and function within the healthcare system which I will try and implement in our centre especially in this day and age of molecular pathology.

I also attended the 'Rodger Haggit GI society session', 'Hans Popper's Hepatopathology and Pancreatico-biliary pathology society sessions which were informative and filled with recent advances in these specialties.

It was interesting to view and learn from posters from all over US/ Canada as well as from Asia and Europe presented in the exhibit hall. The sponsored satellite symposiums on digital pathology and AI generated diagnostic tools within histopathology were jam packed and attended by several pathologists including myself.

- **Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the USCAP 113th annual meeting that you would consider incorporating into your own practice?**

One of the experiences that will stay with me forever after this conference is the lunch and mentoring session with the distinguished GI pathologist Dr John Goldblum. We spoke about transitioning from a trainee to a consultant. The struggles and the challenges one faces and how to navigate our way through this phase and emerge more confident. He spoke about how there is never any substitute for hard work and why having the right mentors and team around us builds our self-confidence and self-esteem. These lessons will stay with me all my life.

Another fantastic experience that I will cherish forever is the opportunity to do a histopathology lab tour within Johns Hopkins pathology department whilst I was in Baltimore. I reached out to them before my travel to US, seeking an opportunity to meet and collaborate. I am grateful to Dr Lysandra Voltaggio, eminent GI pathologist and associate Professor of Pathology at Johns Hopkins University who kindly agreed to spend an afternoon one to one session with me. The chance to interact with lab staff, trainees and consultants within the Johns Hopkins pathology department was fantastic. I was able to see so many similarities with how things work within a US based histology lab and my own lab where I currently work at Royal Stoke Hospital. I was impressed with the work they are doing and got myself two books of my relevant specialty written and co-authored by the Johns Hopkins team.

I was fortunate to meet and interact with Dr Emad Rakha and Dr Elena Provenzano, eminent breast pathologists from the UK, who had some interesting talks in the Breast companion society meeting. I always admired them and listen to their talks online, hence speaking and interacting with them in person was inspiring. We discussed the similarities as well as differences between various centres across UK and overseas and learnt about challenges on how to overcome them in daily practice.

- **Did the USCAP 113th annual meeting meet your expectations?**

It has superseded my expectations with regards the venue, the quality of lectures, the posters and papers presented, the food, the team and the overall experience has been priceless.

- **Finally, would you recommend the USCAP 113th annual meeting to your colleagues?**

Most definitely recommend it to all trainee colleagues especially with support from the BDIAP, which has made it possible for trainees like myself to attend this conference. I would also recommend USCAP to all faculty within the pathology fraternity to expand their knowledge, to embrace world class networking opportunities and the chance to look at how histopathology is practised around the world. I would definitely want to visit the USCAP in the future as a Consultant.

Registration USCAP Day 1



USCAP at Baltimore Convention Centre, Baltimore, USA



with Dr Lysandra Voltaggio, Associate Professor of Pathology at John's Hopkins Hospital (Centre) and G.I fellow





At the John's Hopkins Hospital Campus at Baltimore



-with Professor Emad Rakha and Dr Elena Provenzano at the USCAP opening ceremony



Mentoring session with Dr John Goldblum, Cleveland Clinic