

11th International Junior Academy in Riga / Latvija BDIAP Bursary Recipient Report

I would like to thank the BDIAP for the kind sponsorship to attend the 11th International Junior Academy Summer School. The course was organised on behalf of the German and British Divisions of IAP and it took place in the Radisson Blu Latvija Conference & Spa Hotel, located in the capital city Riga, Latvia. Special thanks to Martina Schmidt and her team who organised the sessions, hotel facilities, food and drink, and social programme.

The summer school was attended by trainees from different countries, predominantly from the Europe. Over the three days, we received five sessions of inspirational talks on specialty topics from renowned speakers. It was superled by Professor Martin-Leo Hansmann who gave the introduction and welcomed us. The school began with breast pathology by Dr Elena Provenzano. She has focused on the common entities, the use of immunohistochemistry to help with her diagnoses and molecular testing in certain tumours. On soft tissue pathology, we received a fascinating talk from Professor Eva Wardelmann covering common soft tissue tumours and the use of immunohistochemistry and molecular testing. It was followed by an inspirational talk by Professor Martin-Leo Hansmann on lymphoreticular teaching. For uropathology, Professor Arndt Hartmann focused on the updates of the subtypes of renal cell carcinoma, mimickers of prostate carcinoma, and an update on the grading. On day 3, Dr Calonje has extended our skin knowledge with talks on melanocytic lesions which are commonly confused with malignancy. All the sessions were very interactive, we were encouraged to ask questions and get involved with discussions. The speakers were extremely approachable. The presentations were made available to us online after the School ends via a link.

Before the School ends, all bursary recipients had the opportunity to present a case. This was a valuable experience for me and there was a variety of very interesting cases across different specialties. The cases also include those that are common in other countries but rare in the UK. We were again given opportunity to ask questions and had an insightful discussion. Feedback was also given by Professor Hansmann.

The social programme was very enjoyable, including a guided city tour in Riga. We were brought around the Old Town Riga by our tour guide providing interesting information on the history of the city. It was amazing to explore around the city on their cobble-stone streets and appreciate the architectural gems. The tour was followed by a fascinating dinner in a restaurant just by the Freedom Monument. In addition to our lunch and dinner together during the academy, this dinner was another opportunity to get to know my fellow participants and learn about how histopathology training differs in other countries.

Again, I would like to thank the BDIAP for the sponsorship and German Division of the IAP for organising the programme. I would highly recommend the academy to other trainees of all stages if they wish to widen their knowledge and receive teaching from experts in the field. It was also a great opportunity to present a case internationally, which will boost portfolio.

- Yen Xi Low



