14th International Junior Academy in Budapest, 2024 Lena Al-Hilfi

Post: Histopathology Speciality Trainee (ST2)

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I would like to thank the BDIAP for awarding me the bursary to attend the 14th International Junior Academy in Budapest, Hungary, in August 2024. This experience was truly valuable for my professional development. It gave me the chance to learn about the latest advancements in molecular pathology, which is an area I'm very passionate about.

The topics discussed during the event were fascinating, especially the sessions on Liquid Biopsies in Lung Cancer, Lymph Node Structure and Malignancy, Tumours of the Thymus and Mediastinum, and Biphasic Lesions of the Breast. I was particularly interested in the talks about liquid biopsies, as these non-invasive techniques are transforming how we diagnose and treat cancer. The potential for liquid biopsies to detect mutations and monitor treatment response is something I find especially exciting.

Another session that caught my attention was on **Lymph Node Structure and Malignancy**, where I learned more about the latest methods for diagnosing lymphomas and other cancers. The use of molecular pathology in these areas is something I'm eager to explore further in my own work.

A highlight of the event was meeting other trainees from different countries and learning about their training programs. It was inspiring to hear about the variety of approaches to histopathology education and practice across the world. These interactions not only broadened my perspective but also allowed me to connect with peers who share similar interests and challenges.

The event also included case discussions, where we reviewed digital slides in advance and then talked about the findings. This interactive approach helped me improve my diagnostic skills while learning from the experiences of other pathologists. The meeting was a fantastic opportunity to meet and learn from experts, as well as to explore how the latest advancements in molecular pathology are shaping the field. The insights gained from the event will definitely help me as I continue my studies and prepare for the FRCPath Part 1 exam.

I'm incredibly grateful for making this experience possible. This opportunity supported me to attend this event and gain valuable knowledge that will contribute to my future career.

