

Name:

Dr Shane Brennan

Training Year:

Year 5 Specialist Registrar Dublin, Ireland

Why did you want to go to the meeting:

Dermatopathology has always been a key interest of mine as I am particularly invested in the dual aspect of the clinical and histological findings, with corroboration alongside dermatologists.

The programme for this meeting provided a range of talks discussing basic level histopathological findings as well as the various complexities of subspecialised cutaneous lymphoid neoplasms and melanocytic neoplasms.

In addition, the programme illustrated talks that were aimed at providing relevant updates for general and specialist practice, beneficial for trainees and experienced dermatopathologists.

Furthermore, the programme included talks from dermatologists. I was intrigued to learn first-hand the intricacies of the impact of a diagnosis proffered by a dermatopathologist, and what relevant treatment options are available.

Highlight aspects that you have learnt from the meeting which you were not aware of prior to the day:

The highlight of the meeting for me were the case based discussions. The discussions illustrated the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring laboratory based specialities do not work in isolation. The case based discussions demonstrated for exceptionally complex clinical presentations and the corresponding pathological findings, interdisciplinary input was vital to ensure provision of the best treatment options. For such complex cases, not one speciality may be able to provide a definitive diagnosis. As a collective group a final diagnosis may be achieved.

Further key aspects of learning for me pertain to the acceptance that no single immunohistochemical or molecular investigation can be solely relied upon. All investigations must be taken into consideration as a collective, as illustrated by the exceptional talk on the use of BRAF and PRAME.

In addition, the fantastic discussion regarding cutaneous lymphoma management shows ongoing research studies and clinical trials are showing promising outcomes for patients.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the Summer meeting(s) that you would consider incorporating into your own practice or have already incorporated into practice?

With regard to the complexities of cutaneous lymphoproliferative disorders, this meetings illustrated that no individual pathologist or hospital should work in a silo. Continued inter-institutional and international links are essential to aid learning and diagnosis in challenging cases. Due to the lower population size in Ireland, certain entities may be deemed quite rare to cross a reporting Histopathologist's desk. Thus, international links may be prudent to assist in diagnostic dilemmas.

From my viewpoint the discussions pertaining to melanocytomas was of particular interest. A recent dermatology teaching session I delivered to trainees highlighted a lack of knowledge of such entities. The in-depth discussion at this meeting further illustrated that the malignant/metastatic potential is yet to be fully elucidated. Thus, a take home message from this meeting that I will implement is that detailed discussions will be held with clinical teams at the relevant meetings regarding the latest literature findings and recommendations for treatment options.

A further key take home message that I will implement in my own practice is to conduct further literature reviews on the utilisation of PRAME for melanocytic neoplasms. The once deemed clincher immunohistochemical marker for melanoma does not seem to be suitable in isolation. It appears to be more suitable in conjunction to utilise in conjunction with other immunohistochemical stains within ones armamentarium.

Did the meeting(s) meet your expectations?

The meeting far exceeded my expectations.

Finally, would you recommend it to your colleagues?

Yes, the broad discussion of cases, including in-depth analysis was extremely beneficial to trainees at all levels of their training.