

BDIAP Summer Meeting 2024 bursary report

I was fortunate to receive a bursary from the BDIAP to attend the BDIAP Summer meeting 2024 at The Royal College of Pathologists. The two-day meeting focused on updates in dermatopathology and cutaneous lymphoma. I applied for the bursary as I was driven to deepen my understanding of advanced diagnostic tools for melanocytic lesions that I have not had the opportunity to use in practice to date. Additionally, I wanted to observe the case based discussions on skin lymphomas to see what added value I could provide in the pathology reports of these complex dermatological presentations.

Over the course of two days, I was introduced to highly relevant key learning points from each of the individual speakers. One of the most significant takeaways was the application of PRAME immunohistochemistry, which has emerged as a valuable diagnostic marker for differentiating between benign and malignant melanocytic lesions. Additionally, the use of BRAF immunohistochemistry was highlighted, particularly its potential dual role as a predictive marker for therapeutic response for patients with melanoma and as a diagnostic tool itself. The subsequent panel discussion on the right and wrongs of using PRAME provided clear and detailed scenarios where this marker should be employed, insights which are directly applicable to my practice in dermatopathology.

The case based discussions on the second day were another highlight, as challenging cases were dissected in detail with the panellists providing practical perspectives as well as offering valuable diagnostic and management strategies. The interactive format and the opportunity to observe top experts in the field challenging each other was particularly enriching. The inclusion of Dr Bjorn Thomas, a clinical dermatologist, was an excellent addition to the speakers and discussion panel as a way of broadening the pathologist's understanding of treatment strategies and the clinical perspective of cutaneous lymphoma.

The meeting far exceeded my expectations, primarily due to the exceptional quality of the speakers, whose expertise was clear in their comprehensive presentations, insightful panel discussions and questions posed to each other. Given the remarkable experience and the wealth of knowledge I gained, I firmly recommend attending future BDIAP events. These meetings are invaluable for professional development and offer unique opportunities to stay at the forefront of histopathology, as well as providing a chance to meet and engage with like-minded colleagues. Moreover, pursuing bursary opportunities can provide essential financial support to attend these high calibre educational events and I would encourage all pathology trainees to consider applying for a BDIAP bursary in the future.

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