

BDIAP Bursary Recipient Report – IAP 2024

Professor Marta C Cohen | Consultant Paediatric Pathologist | South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, Sheffield



I am grateful to the BDIAP for awarding me a Bursary to attend the XXXV IAP Congress of Pathology in Cancun, Mexico, 27-31 October 2024. The Bursary helped me to attend this highly reputed congress.

The scientific committee invited me to present at two sessions. One presentation was at the Perinatal Pathology Slide Seminar session, where I presented an unusual placental specimen, from a 23/40 WGA small placenta (<10th percentile), with a white tumour presenting in the membranes, next to its insertion at the margin of the placenta. The histology was in keeping with an Inflammatory Myofibroblastic Tumour. The immunohistochemistry and genetic analyses confirmed the diagnosis (THBS1 (exon 4)::ALK (exon 19) fusion detected). I was also invited to co-chair the session.

The second presentation was a lecture on “Minimum standards for paediatric autopsies”, part of the Autopsy course organised and chaired by Dr Sigur Lax.



The congress was held in Cancún, Mexico. The venue was very well placed, close to the hotels and the beach. This was a plus and a minus, as I noted that the attendance increased on rainy days. Organisation was very good, and more than 1000 participants attended.

In addition to the paediatric and perinatal sessions, I enjoyed many others that expanded and updated my knowledge and understanding in topics such as molecular pathology, haematopathology and head and neck pathology.

Networking is always a great opportunity at the IAP congresses, and I enjoyed and valued the possibility to catch-up with colleagues and meet new ones. As part of meeting new colleagues, I had the honour to be introduced to participants from Africa, and discuss with them setting up webinars to help their training and CPD.



I visited the industry every day, and discussed benefits and options of new technology, such as lab management software, digital pathology and IA. I visited the booth of the Japanese division of the IAP, met the local organiser and his team, and got the benefit of having an insight of the XXXVI IAP conference.

I have been a proud member of the BDIAP for almost two decades, and I felt honoured for the bursary I received. I hope that many BIAP members are able to attend the XXXVI IAP Congress in Japan 2026, as I am certain it will be another educational success.