

Name: Dr Suman Rai

Training year: ST1 Histopathology

**Why did you want to go to the Joint Meeting?**

The Ghent Pathology was my first participation in an international conference. The Joint Meeting provided an opportunity to learn about recent advances in histopathology. It also gave me a platform to do a poster presentation on a rare soft tissue tumour. The meeting has immensely helped me in my career progression. This would not have been possible without the BDIAP bursary.

**Do you feel more confident in your clinical practice following attendance at the Joint Meeting?**

The trainee symposium provided excellent education on gynaecological pathology and breast pathology. I would be able to identify endometrial tumours, ovarian tumours and mesenchymal lesions of female genital tract and draft reports more confidently. I would also be able to work out cases of ductal and lobular epithelial lesions of the breast.

**Highlight aspects of what you have learnt from the Joint Meeting which you were not aware of prior to the day.**

The practice of medicine is ever changing. I was not aware that the role of histopathology is leaning towards precision medicine. The CL Oakley lecture “The transformative role of molecular pathology in breast cancer: from histology to precision therapeutics” by Dr Maggie Cheang was of special interest. She highlighted the use of formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue in the development of gene expression classifiers. The use of digital pathology in resolving tumour-microenvironment heterogeneity and treatment resistance in endocrine-treated disease is equally exciting.

**Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the Joint Meeting that you would consider incorporating into your own practice or have already incorporated into practice?**

The “Waste in genito-urinary pathology: what we can do better” by Dr Murali Varma was particularly thought provoking. There is inadequate manpower and resource in healthcare. There should be optimal and wise use of time and money for diagnostic histopathology. For example, in genito-urinary pathology, prostate cores demand a significant amount of time. However, the data communicated in the report may not be clinically relevant, like the length of each core. This issue warrants a deep discourse for potential change in our practice.

**Did the Joint Meeting meet your expectations?**

The Joint Meeting in fact exceeded my expectations. The trainee symposium and case competition on Day 2 was rightly tailored for histopathology trainees.

**Finally, would you recommend it to your colleagues?**

Yes, I would highly recommend the Joint Meeting to my colleagues. The conference provides a wide range of educational opportunities that could be of benefit to trainees as well as experienced histopathologists.