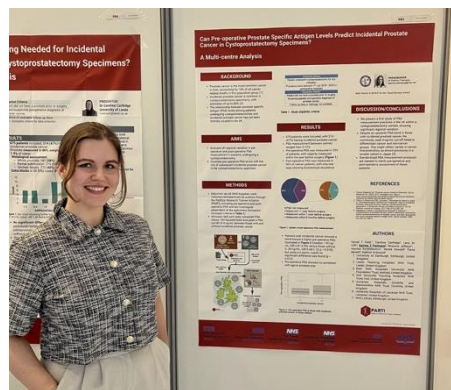


Report on BDIAP bursary to attend Ghent Pathology (24th – 26th June, 2025)

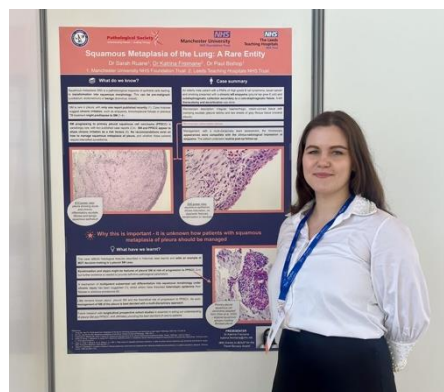
I would like to thank the BDIAP for the generous bursary, covering travel, conference registration and accommodation, which allowed me to attend and present at my first international pathology conference, held in the historic city of Ghent, Belgium. As an Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in Histopathology, this was an invaluable opportunity to further both my academic and clinical development.



The event featured a well-structured and engaging programme, tailored to early-career trainees as well as those with subspecialty interests. With gastrointestinal pathology being directly relevant to my ACF project, I found the GI symposium especially relevant. It was a privilege to hear from leading figures such as Professors Maurice Loughrey, Mark Arends, and Kieran Sheehan. A highlight was Dr Peter Vermeulen's talk on the heterogeneity of colorectal liver metastases, which offered insights for both clinical practice and my research into colorectal cancer.

The Trainee Symposium was equally beneficial, pitched at the ideal level for ST1–ST3 trainees. Covering gynaecological and breast pathology, it included practical tips on diagnostic reasoning, reporting techniques and molecular integration. Participating in the trainee case competition was a good challenge, prompting insightful discussion of unusual cases.

I presented two posters: "Can Pre-operative Prostate Specific Antigen Levels Predict Incidental Prostate Cancer in Cystoprostatectomy Specimens?" and "Squamous Metaplasia of the Lung: A Rare Entity." Presenting internationally early in training was rewarding and valuable in preparing for future PhD fellowship applications. I received useful feedback and engaged in thought-provoking discussions with peers and senior colleagues.



Beyond the academic content, the conference provided excellent opportunities to network with fellow trainees, academic histopathologists and consultants. These conversations offered perspectives on diverse training pathways and helped initiate potential future research collaborations.

Attending Ghent Pathology 2025 was an enriching experience on every level. I would highly recommend BDIAP-supported events to other trainees and look forward to further involvement with the academic pathology community.

Dr Katrina Freimane
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust