

Hi, my name is Rebecca Nachiappan. I'm currently working as a locum senior house officer in A&E in England. I will also be starting histopathology training in August 2025. In this report, I will be writing about my experience with the Ghent Pathology 2025 congress.

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

I'd recently realised that aside from the RCPATH International Pathology Day, I've not attended many pathology-specific conferences. I wanted to gain more exposure to the field in preparation to starting as an ST1 in August, as well as learn about any recent and upcoming advancements in the field.

I also wanted to mingle with other aspiring and current pathologists. I have done histopathology taster weeks and electives, but wanted to take this opportunity to network with pathologists involved in active research and clinical academics.

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

Absolutely! I really enjoyed the undergraduate symposium. My undergrad years are a fair few years behind me at this point, but I wanted to learn a bit more about the job itself before I start in August.

I've already got an idea on what will be expected from me as an ST1, but Dr Matthew Clarke's talk about his career journey as a histopathologist was truly enlightening. He answered a few questions I had on the exams in the early stages of training.

I learnt about the career path of pathology trainees who followed the 'traditional' academic clinical fellow path as well as those who took OOPR (out-of-programme research) instead to pursue research. The latter is something I might consider for myself.

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

Thanks to Dr Thomas Butters' talk in the undergraduate symposium, I learnt that you can still pursue a career in clinical academia despite not securing an academic clinical fellow post. Dr Butters talked about how he secured research grants and took OOPR time during his training.

I was also uncertain about whether the OSPE examination is still something that is routinely done in ST1. Dr Clarke explained that it was a requirement a few years ago, but it's not routinely done now.

### **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?**

I absolutely lapped up the oral presentations on machine learning and 3D modelling from pathology slides. I will be keeping up-to-date with advancements in digital and computational pathology alongside pursuing my Msc in bioinformatics.

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

It exceeded my expectations! I thoroughly enjoyed the undergraduate oral presentations in particular. I felt so proud of our current medical students and the contributions they've already made to clinical research.

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

100% yes. The conference was intellectually stimulating and very enjoyable. I would definitely attend a similar one again, and would recommend it to anyone I know.