

Ghent Pathology 2025

Name: Nichola Heslop

Job role/Training year: Trainee Clinical Scientist (final year of the NHS STP)

Why did you want to go to the Joint Meeting? I have attended BDIAP training events previously and found them informative. They have supported me throughout my training journey and advanced my understanding of pathology. The conference therefore appealed to me as I was able to attend many talks across the days.

Do you feel more confident in your clinical practice following attendance at the Joint Meeting? As I am still in training, I would say that the conference supported my understanding and awareness of current and future practice such as in Molecular Pathology that is quickly evolving. I still have much to learn but the talks on GI, Breast and Lung were especially relevant to my current training and I feel more confident for my final exam.

Highlight aspects of what you have learnt from the Joint Meeting which you were not aware of prior to the day. I found the talk addressing and dispelling the idea that Immunohistochemistry would become redundant as Molecular Pathology becomes routine for testing really engaging. As somebody who will be working in IHC and with a keen interest in molecular, I felt reassured the two can work in harmony and that new IHC tests are still being investigated.

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 have taken away several key points regarding IHC and Molecular Pathology which are very relevant to my future career path. The conference offered the opportunity to network with others who have kindly offered to share ideas and their established ways of practice.

A particular highlight at the conference dinner was being awarded 2nd place for my poster on a lung genomics quality improvement project! It was wonderful to have our hard work recognised and the difference we are trying to make for our patients and has encouraged me to keep driving positive change.

Did the Joint Meeting meet your expectations? It exceeded them. If I had to summarise in one word, I would say fantastic. The talks were engaging and relevant to me as a Scientist. I enjoyed the conference dinner with current and new colleagues. Ghent is a beautiful city that I loved exploring in my free time.

Finally, would you recommend it to your colleagues? Most definitely and I will be sure to attend further BDIAP events in the future. Ghent Pathology was a fantastic way to finish my STP training before I qualify as a Clinical Scientist. I am very grateful to the BDIAP for their generosity in gifting me the bursary that allowed me to attend.