

# Bursary report

I applied for the BDIAP bursary during my ST1 year at the Royal London Hospital to attend the 2025 pathology meeting in Ghent; an experience that turned out to be one of the most rewarding of my career.

At the time, I was working on two separate projects and was eager to present them to my peers. The first was a case series investigating the features of germ cell tumours in men over sixty, completed under the guidance of Professor Daniel Berney. The second was a case report on trichilemmal carcinoma in a patient with Muir–Torre syndrome.

I submitted abstracts for both projects and was delighted to be awarded the BDIAP travel bursary, which covered my registration, travel, and accommodation. Needless to say, I was thrilled and determined not to squander this wonderful opportunity I had been given.

Arriving in Ghent felt like stepping into a blend of academic intensity and fairytale charm. I presented both posters to the review committees. It was initially intimidating as it was my first conference presentation during training, but I left feeling more confident, inspired to learn, and motivated to address the knowledge gaps I had identified.

The conference itself was exceptionally well organised, with sessions tailored to different specialties. As I was preparing for a six-month placement at the Royal Brompton, I found the lung pathology session particularly valuable, especially the lecture by Professor Andrew Nicholson. I also had the opportunity to hear from leading figures in GI pathology and uropathology; along with many international speakers, offering fresh perspectives on global practice.

The social events and networking opportunities were equally well managed, allowing me to form strong academic connections over the course of the meeting.

The biggest highlight was learning that my germ cell tumour poster had won third prize, a tremendous morale boost so early in my career.

Overall, the experience was one of the most enriching of my professional journey so far, and it has strengthened my commitment to pursuing research and sharing my work at future conferences. I would strongly encourage junior trainees to take the leap, get involved in research, and present their work — it is an immensely fulfilling experience.

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