

BDIAP Trainee member bursary report and attendance at the virtual IAP/ESP meeting

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Year bursary awarded: 2020

Trust where employed: NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Trainee grade: ST3

I am grateful for having the opportunity to present my work at the 32rd European Congress of Pathology let alone receiving a bursary from the BDIAP. It was my first time giving an oral presentation at an international conference and having it virtual this year definitely eased the pressure of performing in-front of such a large audience! The entire process of recording my presentation was straight forward with easy to follow instructions to allow me to upload the recording via my online account. There were a lot of benefits to having a virtual conference. The first is the cost! By watching the conference live in your own home it saves money on accommodation and travel as well as saving time from commuting and walking from one meeting room to another. You're also able to take breaks when you can, I even had time to take the dogs for a walk at lunchtime! It was also beneficial to have the recordings available after the conference took place, so that presentations can be watched in your own time, especially if multiple presentations of interest are occurring at the same time. I cannot hide the fact that I was disappointed not to attend the conference in Glasgow as this is where I am based so it would have been a great opportunity for me to present in my own city with many of my work colleagues who also had posters and oral presentations. I missed the ability to socialise and network in person and I missed the atmosphere that a conference can create. Despite my disappointments and wanting an excuse to visit Sweden, I plan to submit an abstract for the upcoming 33rd European Congress and look forward to attending its second virtual meeting.

