

BDIAP FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Name of bursary recipient:

Dr Jonathan Potts

Year bursary awarded:

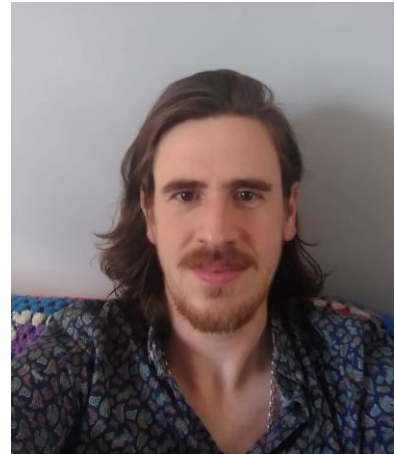
2020

Trust where employed:

North Bristol NHS trust

Trainee grade:

St4



Summary of project:

Our study looked at BRAF mutation rates in primary and metastatic melanoma cases referred for testing at Southmead Hospital, during the period 2012-2017. The supervisor for this project was Dr Yuening Zhang, consultant histopathologist at North Bristol NHS trust and I was helped in the data analysis by Dr Greta Feddern. My role was to extract data from the histology report for each case and compare BRAF mutation status to a number of clinical and pathological features.

Our work has provided us with an understanding of the mutation rate in the cohort of patients with melanoma in the five year period, 2012-2017. BRAF mutation rates were consistent over the five years and interestingly showed lower rates of positivity overall when compared to other large cohorts in the published literature. We also found very high rates of BRAF mutation in metastases to the brain, although the number of cases in total was small.

Effect of Covid-19:

Covid-19 had a significant impact on the project. We had hoped to review the histology of 150 of the cases analysed, both to benefit my training and review features that aren't mentioned in the histology report. The uncertainty around Covid-19 combined with my supervisor's maternity leave meant that this wasn't achieved, although I hope to continue the work and review the cases following my FRCPATH part II exam in April.

Experience of the meeting and virtual poster presentation:

I enjoyed attending the virtual meeting and found many of the seminars both educational and practically useful, particularly the dermatopathology talks. Presenting the poster virtually was an interesting challenge mostly due to the lack of immediate feedback you would usually receive. My preference would be certainly be to attend courses and deliver presentations in person!