

Bursary report

Dr. Aza Yousuf



2019 Bursary winner.

Project: *Patterns of ER, PR, Her2 expression in Endometrial carcinoma in university of gezira medical laboratory.*

I was deciding my dissertation project in the 3rd year of my MD Pathology (Histopathology). I have always been interested in gynecological pathology; I think that many issues have been untouched and needed to be addressed so that women can have better access to diagnostic and management services. Endometrial cancer has not been studied as a sole entity in Sudan. It was referenced as part of gynecological malignancy in a handful of studies. Hormonal receptors and Her2 IHC expression have been studied thoroughly in international literature, and strong evidence has been deduced relating the expression of these proteins or lack of, to prognostic features and management plans including different treatment modalities. Nonetheless, this subject remained untapped in Sudan.

The first and foremost challenge to my project was the high cost. BDIAP has bestowed immense generosity with the funding of my project and I believe that without their help I could not have completed this research.

I collected samples of all patients meeting the inclusion criteria within the specified period of study. I reviewed the H&E slides with my supervisor. I performed the required immunohistochemical studies on each specimen and interpreted the results with my supervisor. The results represent original data obtained for the first time from Sudanese patients. My hope is that it starts a conversation among the gynecological physicians, oncologists and pathologists about endometrial carcinoma and the management plans for Sudanese patients. As well as driving more research forward to validate the findings of this study and answer more questions about the subject.

This was my first time attempting a research project. I was very enthusiastic and eager to go forward with the project. I have learned a great deal. I came to realize that research is most essential for one's development as a decent and relevant histopathologist.

I was very excited when my proposal was picked for poster presentation at the congress. And I was looking forward to physically attend and experiencing this wonderful scientific fest live. A visit to Scotland and its beautiful scenery was the cherry on the cake. I was very disappointed when the live conference was canceled due to the pandemic; however, I understand the difficulties the organizing bodies had to go through to convert it to a virtual meeting.

It was a great success! and I would like to congratulate you on such an amazing event. The varieties of topics covered histopathology through and through, there was a piece for everyone. The speakers were great and diverse. I especially liked the slide seminars and the comprehensive long and short courses. I had some

problems with internet connectivity which was a bit inconvenient because I had to go out of the virtual room and reconnect multiple times. The incredible asset that favored the virtual congress was the ability to revisit all the recorded session and soak as much knowledge as possible.

In conclusion I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the BDIAP for affording me such an opportunity. In a year where we endured so much hardship and pain, I personally lost three members of my family to the pandemic, these three days in December were the highlight of my year.

Thank you,

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