

BDIAP Trainee bursary, ESP-IAP Congress 2020

Name: Dr Jocelyn Aldridge

Year Bursary Awarded: 2020

Employing trust: Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust

Trainee Grade: ST3

I submitted a GI poster; A Tale of Two Cities: A comparison of current practice in two District General Hospitals looking at the impact of routine elastin staining to detect vascular invasion in colorectal cancer resections to the ESP-IAP Congress December 2020. As a submitting author I was awarded a trainee bursary from the BDIAP. I attended the Congress, as all delegates this year, virtually in response to the COVID pandemic we are all enduring. The online experience, of which I admittedly was sceptical, turned out to be an extremely successful and informative event which I gained a huge amount from attending. Not being academic, whilst I enjoy the social aspects of a face-to-face event, I am not reliant on the networking and my main concerns were that it would be less easy to immerse myself in all of the learning opportunities and become distracted by normal daily tasks. In fact, I was able to attend many more sessions and was not faced with the inevitable agonising decisions about which simultaneous events to dial into but instead was able to map out my own timetable over 3 days with earlier starts and shorter breaks (perfect to fit in around 3 young children). I also appreciated not having to travel or be away for 3 days with the added expense and impact on my family. I felt the organisation was very good and my experience was of a very smoothly run event with only minor technical hiccoughs which were quickly remedied. The sessions covered a fantastic range of topics and the speakers were engaging and knowledgeable. The trainee sessions were brilliant and for my part I would have loved more! I look forward to the next conference.