

BDIAP Conference: Gynaecological Pathology

22nd and 23rd November, 2019

Dr Emma Short

I was delighted to receive a bursary from BDIAP, which enabled me to attend their gynaecological pathology symposium. The conference was absolutely excellent – the programme was varied, highly educational and the speakers were world-renowned experts who all gave fantastic talks.

The symposium began with Robin Young speaking about his 40 years' experience of sex cord stromal tumours of the ovary. He gave an excellent overview of the most common tumours in this category, including their clinical features, morphology, immunophenotype and differential diagnoses. This was followed by Xavier Matius Guiu talking about the histological and molecular classification of endometrial carcinomas. His fantastic lecture made the molecular pathology incredibly clear and easy to understand, as well as highlighting its clinical and therapeutic relevance. We then heard Teri Longacre describing Mismatch Repair Immunohistochemistry (MMR IHC) in the female genital tract. This was another excellent talk and provided us with very useful immunohistochemical and genetic diagnostic protocols, as well as summarising some of the common problems which can be encountered when performing MMR IHC. The final talk before lunch was delivered by Marisa Nucci and tackled diagnostically challenging endometrial polyps. She gave a superb summary of adenosarcomas, focusing on how to distinguish them from benign lesions and also from other malignancies.

During the afternoon sessions Robin Young spoke about metastatic tumours to the ovary, and Naveena Singh gave a great talk about the prognostic indicators in serous borderline tumours of the ovary, which included a very helpful description of the morphology of peritoneal implants and extra-ovarian low-grade serous carcinoma. Marisa Nucci described the key diagnostic features of STUMPs and Glenn McCluggage spoke about the morphology of HPV-associated and HPV-independent cervical adenocarcinomas. Teri Longacre went on to give a fantastic overview of mesenchymal neoplasms in the uterus, and the day concluded with Glenn McCluggage describing some of the pitfalls in gynaecology pathology.

The course dinner was held at the Royal Automobile Club. The meal was delicious, and it was a great opportunity to talk with some of the world's most eminent pathologists.

The second day of the symposium encompassed a slide seminar. The slides were a great mixture of emerging entities, uncommon diseases and cases which are diagnostically challenging. They were all presented in a fantastic way and each case was discussed with all the key learning points highlighted.

The BDIAP gynaecology pathology symposium was a fantastic meeting to attend. The programme was absolutely superb, and the talks were all highly educational and clinically relevant. All of the speakers explained difficult areas in such a way that they became clear and easy to understand. I would highly recommend this conference to other trainees, especially those preparing for examinations or those interested in a career involving gynaecology pathology.