

IAP congress report

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Training year: 1

Institute/Organisation: Cork University Hospital, Ireland

Why did you want to attend the Congress?

As a first year trainee, this would be my first international histopathology congress to both attend and to present a poster at. Attending and presenting at conferences is such an important experience, both for professional development as a trainee, and also from a networking perspective, and is heavily encouraged by our consultants throughout our training. The IAP congress in particular is one of the bigger international pathology conferences held each year, and so I knew that it would also be a fantastic opportunity to see the level of research carried out by other trainees and pathologists from around the world.

Do you feel more confident in your knowledge / understanding of pathology following attendance at the Congress?

Yes. I found the congress short courses and workshops to be particularly helpful, as they all touched on some basic cases and common diagnoses within each specialty, while also highlighting current research being carried out by some of the presenting consultants. I also enjoyed the comprehensive display of the latest molecular and digital pathology, courtesy of the various biomedical companies in attendance.

Highlight aspects of pathology that you have learnt from the Congress which you were not aware of prior to the event.

The main aspect of pathology which I was not fully aware of prior to the conference was the technological advancements in digital pathology, which were nicely highlighted by the biomedical company exhibitions. As a first year trainee, we mainly focus on the specimen cut-up and microscopy aspect of pathology, but have yet to delve into the materials and technology utilised by the lab, and the companies which provide these materials crucial to day to day functioning, from immunohistochemical stains to processors.

In particular, I was unaware of the how prevalent the use of digital pathology was in different international centres (such as the USA), specifically the use of digital slide scanners, compared to centres in Ireland which still largely rely on microscope use for viewing slides, and where digital scanners are used primarily for photographing cases. The capacity of our scanners is also far less than some of the larger commercial scanners which were on display, and so it was interesting to see the different commercial scanners available, and how these will hopefully in the future be incorporated into Irish laboratories to tackle the increasing case load that we receive into our departments.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the Congress that you would consider incorporating into your own practice?

I found the content of the short courses, in particular the uropathology short course delivered by Dr Victor Reuter, to be something that I could definitely incorporate into my day to day practice as a first year trainee going forward. For example, Dr Reuters talk focused primarily on common diagnoses in uropathology with accompanying cases, and the mistakes that he made regarding the diagnoses of these cases throughout his career as a GU pathologist. I found his methodology of grouping together differential diagnoses to be very useful in drafting GU microscopy reports at work.

Did the Congress meet your expectations?

Yes, the congress actually exceeded my expectations. It was very well organized and efficiently run, with a multitude of lectures and workshops to choose from, and I found the conference app very clear and user-friendly. I thought the conference centre itself was a great location too. I also appreciated the extra opportunities to meet other trainees that were organized, such as the wine symposium.

Finally, would you recommend the Congress to your colleagues?

Yes, it was a fantastic opportunity and I would definitely recommend any of my colleagues to attend the IAP congress, and I hope to be able to attend again myself in the future!