

Name: Dr Abigail Sharp

Training year: ST5 histopathology trainee in Sheffield

Why did you want to go to Liverpool Pathology 2023?

I presented a poster at a single day of the Pathsoc 2023 Winter meeting in London. I had not anticipated the effect the talks would have on my understanding of research, and I wished I could have attended the other two conference days. Seeing just-off-the-analyser research presented was inspiring and impactful. Attending that conference reignited my keenness for science which I had lost in the last few years of difficult (post) pandemic training and exam preparation. I decided to apply for a bursary to allow me to attend the whole conference, while preparing an abstract for submission. Seeing the provisional programme included autopsy sessions and GI pathology sessions also piqued my interest as these are areas I am particularly interested in.

Do you feel more confident in your clinical practice following attendance at the Liverpool Pathology 2023? Highlight aspects of what you have learnt from the Liverpool Pathology 2023 which you were not aware of prior to the day.

Absolutely. Hearing world-renowned experts speak on topics relevant to my practice gave me confidence that I am making good decisions on case management and diagnoses. It also cemented some corrected knowledge of entities that have changed from when I started training, such as appendiceal neoplasm classifications. I now understand a little about the role of organisations like the ICCR and its worthwhile aim of creating international documents which sit alongside RCPATH guidance.

The trainee sessions on the Wednesday morning were useful; the overview of pleura pathologies was a reminder of the spectrum and complexity of some cases of mesothelioma. Seeing a series of pleura cases one after the other was invaluable, considering those cases are not common in surgical pathological practice.

On the Thursday I attended the autopsy pathology track which provided an enjoyable variety of lectures with content for learning, legal matters and looking to the future of the coronial PM system, however worrying. I was also able to discuss my autopsy practice with one of the speakers as I was concerned that our local practice was not sufficient, however his answer was reassuring and the discussion was a useful one for me professionally.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during Liverpool Pathology 2023 that you would consider incorporating into your own practice or have already incorporated into practice?

There were multiple learning points from the autopsy day, including elements of the toxicology lecture (seeking further scene evidence to add value to the toxicological interpretation and understanding of the inability to interpret toxicology levels without such data) and the external examination lecture (marks or bruises anywhere on the face, not just the neck, being suspicious for requiring more in-depth investigation and the need to examine the hair-bearing scalp).

Did Liverpool Pathology 2023 meet your expectations?

Yes, very much so, thank you.

Finally, would you recommend it to your colleagues?

After attending the winter meeting in January, I encouraged my colleagues from Sheffield to plan to be at the summer meeting and a decent cohort of us attended. I will absolutely continue to recommend these meetings to colleagues and now that I have experienced attending with the help of this bursary I will encourage others to apply for future bursaries.

Many thanks for this opportunity.