

BDIAP Bursary Award Report

Liverpool Pathology 2023

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The Liverpool Pathology conference was the first conference that I attended in person since starting my training as a Histopathology registrar in 2020. Commencing my training during the pandemic presented some difficulties in terms of the missed opportunities for face-to-face interactions with fellow histopathology trainees within the UK. Furthermore, most conferences were virtual which led to limitations in building meaningful connections with fellow colleagues from different hospitals. The Liverpool pathology conference provided the perfect opportunity for meeting fellow UK trainees, experts and colleagues from all over the world. I found it particularly interesting to learn how the healthcare system and pathology services in developing countries such as Rwanda differed from the UK.

The poster displays were a great opportunity to learn about rare and/or complex cases in different subspecialties. I was given the opportunity to present a poster on three interesting salivary gland tumours which are not so commonly seen. This was a valuable experience in learning how to summarise the salient points and answer difficult questions from experts in the respective subspecialties. Learning about the advances in AI and their current use in some histology departments across the UK was fascinating as it gave a window into what my future career as a consultant could look like in a few years. The discussion regarding AI use with other delegates, their experiences of using AI systems in their daily work were some of the most intriguing conversations during the conference.

The conference was well organised with a wide range of high-quality lectures presented by brilliant speakers. Learning about the various research projects currently carried out in the UK such as the research on gut microbiome and their association with bowel cancer was fascinating. The scale of the research and the amount of work involved in carrying out such research projects highlighted the dedication and commitment of the researchers. I particularly enjoyed the sessions aimed at trainee pathologists, such as the sessions on pleural pathology and soft tissue tumours. The soft tissue symposium was very helpful in giving an approach to use when assessing soft tissue neoplasms, which can seem very daunting even to senior trainees. I was very grateful for the sessions on mimics of urothelial carcinoma, renal tumour classifications and updates on RCPATH datasets, which were very useful for daily clinical practice.

The welcome reception, conference dinner and orchestra at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall were some of the many delightful experiences from the conference. I am truly grateful for the generosity of BDIAP for supporting my attendance at the conference. It provided the best opportunity for expanding my knowledge, learning about pathology services outside my current trust and building connections with trainees across the UK. I would certainly encourage my colleagues to participate in this conference in the future and I am looking forward to attending next year.