

Name: Ollie Rugar

Stage: ST3 in Paediatric & perinatal pathology, based at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Why attend Liverpool Pathology 2023:

Having recently subspecialised in paediatric & perinatal pathology, and been fortunate enough to spend my ST1-2 in the Scottish hydatidiform mole follow up service (HMFUS, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee) an exciting case, with great learning points, came across my desk just prior to leaving Dundee. Given that products of conception specimens are relatively common samples, the techniques available at HMFUS meant that meaningful clinical data came from a single morphologically abnormal chorionic villus. DNA was extracted from maternal tissue and the chorionic villus, and found a triandric tetraploid partial mole!

Highlights/ what I learned:

The trainee-specific symposium was fantastic – including a variety of speakers covering a broad range of topics. However, the most memorable moment for me was hearing that a national soft tissue expert doesn't use Beta-Catenin IHC when assessing fibromatoses – morphology is key. It was also good to hear that balancing an academic career with NHS service provision is entirely possible.

Aspects to consider for my future practice:

An academic career sounds like a fulfilling challenge.

Expectations/Recommendations:

Based on my experiences in Liverpool - of course I'd recommend attending future meetings. It was an opportunity to meet up with both current and previous colleagues, make new acquaintances and explore the Cavern Club – birthplace of the Beatles – after a fun day of learning.