

Maastricht Pathology 2018: 11th Joint Meeting of the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology and the Pathological Society of Great Britain & Ireland

BDIAP Bursary Recipient's Report – Kezia Gaitskell

I have recently returned from the 11th Joint meeting of the BDIAP and the Pathological Society, held in Maastricht from 19th-22nd June, and I would like to thank the BDIAP for their kind and generous sponsorship, which allowed me to attend this meeting. The sessions were interesting, varied, and highly relevant to both my clinical and academic work. I was also able to establish contact with leading academic pathologists at other centres, with whom I hope to collaborate on future projects – so overall a really valuable experience!

The conference had a packed schedule of talks, with multiple parallel sessions, so the most difficult decision of the day was always which of the many excellent streams to attend! Much of my research has involved the epidemiology and pathology of gynaecological cancers, so particular highlights for me were sessions on gynaecological pathology, and on molecular pathological epidemiology. The plenary sessions also featured several outstanding talks. I particularly enjoyed Professor Stewart Fleming, who in the BDIAP Kristin Henry lecture gave a fascinating summary of the history of renal cancer classifications, showing the remarkable extent to which morphology corresponds to new molecularly-defined subtypes.

One of the great opportunities of the joint PathSoc/BDIAP conferences for trainees is the chance to present our own work. I presented a poster on preliminary results of epidemiological analyses, exploring the association of smoking with the risk of different histological types of cancers of the kidney and urinary tract. Being able to discuss my results with international experts, and receive feedback and suggestions for further work, was particularly valuable.



The conference dinner venue – the Grotten van Kanne

There were also plenty of opportunities for socialising and networking, which gave us a chance to see some of the local area outside the conference venue. The opening reception was in the nearby Bonnefantenmuseum art gallery, where we could enjoy guided tours from expert art historians, in addition to the drinks and canapes. For the conference dinner, we crossed over the Belgian border to the Grotten van Kanne, a vast network of caves deep inside a mountain, which had been excavated by hand over several centuries. The atmospheric dining area was a memorable venue for the excellent meal. These networking times were not only enjoyable, but also extremely useful for establishing links with pathologists at other centres, with whom I plan to collaborate on a future pilot study.

In summary – the conference was academically stimulating, clinically helpful, and really enjoyable – so thank you to the organisers for making it happen, and to the BDIAP for enabling me to attend!