

**British Division of the International Academy of Pathology Bursary Report –
Maastricht Pathology 2018, 19-22 June 2018**

I was delighted to be informed that I had been awarded a British Division of the International Academy of Pathology (BDIAP) Bursary to attend Maastricht Pathology 2018, the 11th Joint Meeting of the BDIAP and the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Arriving on the Thursday of the meeting, I attended the uropathology symposium which consisted of a series of excellent talks on prostate cancer including updates on grading and staging, its molecular pathology and diagnostic dilemmas relating to the intraductal variant. I was privileged to have the opportunity to give an oral presentation about a number of patients in Oxford who have developed tumour seeding of their renal cell carcinoma biopsy tract and hope to use this experience as a springboard to take this series to publication over the coming months.

Following this, I took a couple of hours to explore Maastricht; particular highlights included the many picturesque squares, the impressive Town Hall and the oldest bridge in the Netherlands. Returning to the conference, I attended a highly relevant and enlightening talk on digital pathology (Dr Bethany Williams, University of Leeds) and the Doniach Lecture given by Professor Jo Martin on the phagocytic capacity of neurons and its relevance to emerging treatments for medulloblastoma.



Maastricht city centre (left) including the baroque Town Hall (right).

That evening, I had the pleasure of attending the Conference dinner at Grotten van Kanne, just over the border in neighbouring Belgium. These man-made caves, which have provided stone for building work in the region since the 1400s, were a unique and memorable venue for the dinner. Furthermore, the occasion provided an excellent opportunity to get to know senior and trainee pathologists from the UK and further afield, including those visiting from as far away as Japan.



Conference dinner in the Grotten van Kanne (left) and meeting with visiting Japanese pathologists (left; from left-to right Dr Caroline Young [University of Leeds], Dr Philip Macklin [University of Oxford], Dr Aya Naiki-Ito [Nagoya City University], Dr Keigo Murakami [University of Leeds] and Dr Kaishi Satomi [National Cancer Center, Tokyo]).

I stayed on in Maastricht to attend the TEFAF Oncology Chair Summit which followed the conference on the Friday. During this insightful meeting, eight leading cancer researchers from around the world discussed how their research was contributing to ‘The Future Management of Cancer’; the varied topics included new updates on the p53 gene, DNA damage leading to cancer and aging, disease modelling through the use of pluripotent stem cells and dendritic cell vaccines as novel immunotherapies.



Professor Phil Quirke giving his seminar on ‘Doubling Survival in Bowel Cancer’ during the TEFAF Oncology Chair Summit.

Overall, I found the conference both very informative and enjoyable. I was impressed by the quality of the speakers and the balance between clinical and research topics. The facilities at the conference venue and adjacent hotel were of a very high standard and the staff were extremely friendly and helpful. I would very much like to thank the BDIAP for funding my place at the conference and to congratulate the conference committee on organising such a well-run event.