

Manchester Pathology 2021 – Meeting report

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I was very grateful to have the opportunity to attend and present at the Manchester Pathology 2021 virtual meeting. I was able to attend some very helpful educational sessions, but also enjoyed learning more about many of the latest developments, particularly in the field of molecular pathology and how our specialty is evolving because of it. In particular, I learned a great deal about next generation sequencing and how it will continue to become more incorporated into diagnostic services alongside more traditional microscopy techniques.

I felt that the virtual platform worked very well for this meeting. I enjoyed presenting my poster and I felt that the session was very well run, both in terms of the organisation and the IT support. I thought that the poster presentations lent themselves well to this format, and thought that having a short recorded presentation for each poster really helped me to absorb the information in each session. The hosted Q&A sessions for the posters allowed focussed discussion of each poster, which I felt was an improvement over the traditional format.

It was great to be able to attend a pathology meeting again after the disruptions of the last couple of years, and it is heartening that the pathology community has embraced technological solutions to allow these meetings to resume. Having the sessions available to watch again online was very helpful, as it can often be difficult to attend all of the parallel sessions that I would like to during an in-person meeting. Not having the disruption of travel and hotel stays was also of benefit, as it was much easier to fit attending the meeting around my other work commitments.

I did miss some of the social aspect that comes with a traditional conference format, as I have found in the past that this often leads to unexpected and productive exchange of ideas. I think that in the future there will still be a place for traditional or hybrid virtual conferences, but that the many benefits of a well-run virtual meeting such as this one might make it the standard format in future years.