

BDIAP Study Days

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I recently attended the BDIAP molecular pathology and cut up study days at the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in London. I was so glad I braved the snow and cold weather as both study days were great!

The first day, the molecular pathology study day introduced us to the various techniques currently used in clinical practice. The day was divided into different systems with sessions on GI, breast, urology and lung amongst others. We had experts in each field explaining the various tests, the science behind them and the clinical implications. This gave me an understanding of why we do these tests and that they are not 'one size fits all'.

I found the hematopathology session extremely useful, I had always found the molecular tests in hematopathology intimidating and this session gave me the background knowledge I was looking for. It explained the importance of molecular techniques in haematology. It showed us how these tests formed part of the diagnostic process and how the clinical context is essential for the correct diagnosis.

Most importantly, helped me to understand the basics of molecular pathology. Now molecular techniques are much less daunting for me, I feel more confident talking about and ordering these tests. In addition, I learned that while molecular is becoming more and more important, the morphology remains essential.

The second day, the cut-up day was also excellent! It built on the skills & knowledge which we use everyday in clinical practice. The talks explained to us why we were taking the blocks, putting grossing into the context of tumour staging and grading.

Again, this day was split into different sessions allowing us to focus on difficult specimens in different specialities.

Especially useful for me was the ENT session. When I come across these rare specimens I have always found them unnerving. This session gave me techniques to approach these complex and difficult specimens.

In addition, in the afternoon we had a session on the macroscopic sections in the FRCPath exams. This was very useful as it placed emphasis to what the examiners were looking for.

All in all, these BDIAP study days were fantastic! I would recommend them to any trainee!

