

I am an ST5 in histopathology, currently training in Oxford. Last year, I planned to do the FRCPath part 2 exams in spring 2021 and thought it would be an excellent opportunity to go on the BDIAP Virtual Molecular Pathology and Cut Up Study days, as part of my revision. I am very grateful to BDIAP for awarding me the bursary to attend both the study days.

During the entire duration of my revision, the world was hit by the COVID pandemic. The BDIAP study days were held in a virtual format comprised of streaming pre-recorded talks followed by live Q&A sessions with the speakers. The live Q&A sessions allowed delegates to ask questions and the speakers were all very informative. The entire event went smoothly.

Prior to the molecular pathology study day, my knowledge and confidence in the topic was basic and minimal. The topics were discussed on a specialty basis. I found the topics more digestible and easier to follow with this approach. Molecular pathology is a constantly evolving topic and attending the study has allowed me to be more confident with the theoretical knowledge. This includes an increased understanding of which molecular investigations are appropriate for specific cases and how to interpret the results. I have gained more insight into the clinical importance of certain molecular investigations within each specialty. I particularly enjoyed the breast talk!

On the second day, I found the approach to cut up useful as it made me more confident in my cut up knowledge and abilities. It prepared me for the macroscopic component of the FRCPath part 2 exams. The format of the day was also divided into specialties and the topics were comprehensive. The esteemed panel of speakers went through a systematic approach to cut up with excellent macroscopic pictures and diagrams.

Overall, the study days were beyond my expectations. I have benefited from attending the study days as they have helped me gain a better understanding in the two very important topics in pathology. I would highly encourage my fellow colleagues to attend!

By Atharina Julai