

BDIAP Virtual Molecular Pathology Study Day

Name: Kate Tilley

Training year: ST3

I wanted to attend the BDIAP study day as I find molecular pathology a very difficult subject. As a histopathology trainee it is important to have a basic knowledge of molecular biology, however as most trainees can relate, it has been a long time since I studied any form of molecular science at medical school. Now with the advancing era of molecular pathology, it is now an expected part of our syllabus and something that we will come across most days in our working practice. Therefore, understanding what molecular tests are required following histopathological diagnosis is fundamental in obtaining the appropriate treatment for a patient.

The study day definitely increased my confidence of molecular pathology as it consolidated what I have been doing in my day-to-day practice however with explanation to why these tests are performed. The day targeted the main specialties whereby molecular investigations are requested at an appropriate level without going into too much detail. The supporting material that was given at the study day was much appreciated as it explained some of the basics of molecular pathology that was covered in the lectures. Although I would have preferred to attend the conference in person, I really like the fact that you can review the recordings afterwards in your own time. As with some virtual conferences I have attended, a day looking at a computer screen can be overwhelming however the molecular study day was comprised of mostly 30-minute lectures and kept to a 9am to 4pm timetable.

The day definitely met my expectations, and I would definitely recommend it to colleagues who would like to develop further understanding in molecular pathology as a histopathological level.

BDIAP Virtual Approach to Cut Up Study Day

Name: Kate Tilley

Training year: ST3

I wanted to attend the BDIAP study day as I felt my confidence was lacking with regards to trimming specimens. I feel there can be a huge amount of pressure attached to histopathology trainees, especially those more junior, when left to their own devices when trimming and there is not always support available when you have concerns about what blocks to take, why you should take them and how many blocks is too much or too little etc. Therefore, I wanted to attend this comprehensive cut up day to gain more knowledge on how to trim specimens from a wide range of specialties and then be able to apply the knowledge within the laboratory of my own department.

Since attending the BDIAP study day I do feel more confident with approaching cut up at the trimming bench. As long as you follow the RCPATH datasets and have a basic approach prior to cut up you should be able to tackle any specimen with ease. What I also found interesting was that there are many different ways of trimming specimens. I think it's very difficult to learn a new approach, especially when you have trimmed a specimen the same way for a long time. However, it is good practice to keep an open mind when learning about new techniques. It is important to keep up with the latest guidelines so that when you are trimming a specimen, you are doing it to the best of your ability. Therefore, allowing optimal management for the patient which of course is the entire reason we are trimming in the first place.

The study day definitely met my expectations. It was very comprehensive and covered every speciality within pathology. I also enjoyed the live question and answer sessions as I felt entirely comfortable asking questions. Although I would have preferred to attend the conference in person, I really like the fact that you can review the recordings afterwards in your own time. I would definitely recommend this course to my colleagues.