

The 12th BDIAP Approach to Cut Up Study Day Report

I attended the BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day on the 4th March 2019. This took place in the new luxurious Royal College of Pathologists' headquarters on Alie St in London. This day was of particular interest to me as cut up is an integral part of the routine duties of a histopathology trainee.

The day began with an introduction from Professor Ray McMahon, president of the BDIAP, which set the tone for the day. This was followed by presentations from experienced consultant pathologists with an interest in a particular subspecialty. Each talk focused on an organ system, which helped compartmentalise the information and make it more easily absorbed. They were augmented with many well annotated gross and histology images. The techniques described were compliant with the RCPATH cut up guidelines.

I found the approach to grossing head and neck cases to be especially beneficial as the anatomy is relatively complex and I encounter them infrequently. The protocols for cut up of skin specimens were also invaluable as the margin for error is low due to their limited tissue. The day ended with a lecture on why understanding gross pathology is of importance in the FRCPATH exams and for consultancy.

I would highly recommend this study day to histopathology trainees, particularly those in their first year. The fundamental knowledge and increased confidence I gained will be act as a foundation for the rest of my training and future career as a pathologist.

The 5th BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day Report

I'm a second year histopathology trainee who attended the BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day on the 4th March 2019. This took place in the new luxurious Royal College of Pathologists' headquarters in London. This day was of particular interest to me as molecular pathology is constantly changing and is of ever growing importance for pathologists in daily practice.

The day began with a welcome from Professor McMahon, president of the BDIAP. This was followed by an illuminating talk from Professor Salto-Tellez regarding the history of molecular pathology, its future and why it's of paramount importance for pathology trainees.

The day then proceeded with multiple presentations by leading figures in molecular pathology. Each session focused on a particular subspecialty such as gastrointestinal or haematopathology. This division helped me to absorb the information more easily.

I gained a greater appreciation for how molecular pathology is directing patient treatments and ultimately improving their clinical outcomes. Every new molecular target is another potential avenue of therapy. I was intrigued by the mutation testing and targeted therapies for non small cell lung cancer. This area is very topical and is already a reality in many histopathology departments. I was also introduced into more novel techniques such as the immune-genomics of sarcomas and the biomarkers of urothelial carcinomas. Overall, the material covered struck a balance between practical applications of molecular pathology today and the imminent future developments.

I would recommend this study day to any histopathology trainee, regardless of their stage. Molecular pathology is quickly evolving and is being incorporated into the daily workload of pathologists. We are uniquely placed as a specialty to be the leaders in this field.