

Molecular study day bursary report

Name: Daniel Allsop

Training year: ST3

Why did you want to go on this study day?

I was eager to attend the molecular pathology study day as this a rapidly evolving area of practice. Molecular work up of specimens is becoming more common and will almost certainly become an essential aspect of my routine diagnostic reporting for both diagnosis and guiding clinical management. The BDIAP study day was a unique opportunity to get an up to date overview of current and emerging areas in molecular work from a range of experts.

Do you feel more confident in your knowledge / understanding of molecular pathology following attendance at the study day?

The study day has helped improve my knowledge and understanding of the range of options available for molecular work up in specimens I see in my routine practice. For example I feel more confident in interpreting immuno-histochemistry used to test for mismatch repair defects after Dr Rodriguez-Justo's session.

Highlight aspects of molecular pathology that you have learnt from the study day which you were not aware of prior to the day.

There were several areas that were new to me. The use of FISH for 12p gain/amplification in testicular tumours was of particular interest as this would have helped in recent case I had reported. Another example is the updated NICE guideline recommending universal MMR testing in newly diagnosed endometrial carcinoma which I was unaware of before the meeting. There are several more examples I could give and my notes from the day were extensive.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the molecular pathology study day that you would consider incorporating into your own practice?

I will be far more proactive in suggesting areas where sending work away for further molecular work might be helpful. I will also be performing MMR testing in a larger range of situations than I have before (such as in endometrial cancer).

Did the study day meet your expectations?

The study day met and exceeded my expectations in terms of showing a good overview of the range of areas where molecular pathology is being used in routine practice and in emerging areas where molecular pathology is being used.

Finally, would you recommend this study day to your colleagues?

Yes I would fully recommend trainees and consultants attend this study day as an excellent way to develop understanding of molecular pathology and highlight areas where it is a useful adjunct or diagnostically essential.

Cut-up study day bursary report

Name: Daniel Allsop

Training year: ST3

Why did you want to go on this study day?

I have previously attended the cut up day when I was in ST1 and found the day helpful, but a little overwhelming. I felt attending the day again after I had more experience would help me get more out of the day and help improve my approach to cut up. I am also intending to take FRCPATH part 2 soon and wanted to attend the session on the macro station which I missed out on before.

Do you feel more confident in your ability to cut up most specimens following attendance at the study day?

The day has helped build my confidence across a range of specimens. The value of the day to me was the range of areas that were covered and the different approaches shown. There were some areas I was familiar with where the session reinforced my current approaches or showed me a new way and several specimens were covered that I have no personal experience with.

Highlight aspects of cut up that you have learnt from the study day which you were not aware of prior to the day.

The session on how to cut up a Whipple's specimen was exceptionally useful as this is not a specimen type that I have access to in my normal training and was a source of concern should it come up in the FRCPATH part 2 exam. The head and neck session was also useful for the same reason and included some excellent pictures that helped me understand the anatomy and key margins.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the cut up study day that you would consider incorporating into your own practice or have already incorporated into practice?

I found the skin session helped clarify some of the more basic concepts of skin cut up. In particular I have changed the number of pieces of tissue I put in a block and the way I approach punch excisions. The breast session showed an approach to inking wide local breast excisions which I found intuitive and simple. My current department has a strict protocol for breast specimens so this is not something I can do currently, but I will consider it in the future.

Did the study day meet your expectations?

The day met my expectations and covered a good range of complex specimens with excellent pictures and clear explanations of the concepts.

Finally, would you recommend it to your colleagues?

I would fully recommend this day to my colleagues both junior and senior. I feel it is very useful to see how other people/departments approach familiar specimens as this can highlight new approaches and reinforce good practice.