

BDIAP MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY AND APPROACH TO CUT-UP STUDY DAYS

About me

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Why I applied for the study days

I am at the beginning of the intensive 3 year NHS Scientist Training Programme. My competency requirements include cancer genomics, specialist histopathology, immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology, non-malignant and malignant dissection. I have a lot to learn within the next few years and the BDIAP molecular pathology and approach to cut-up study days covered many of the aspects Included in my STP modules. Being able to learn so much across 2 days was very appealing as my training programme can be very busy with rotations. There is a limited training budget so the generosity of the BDIAP allowed me to attend and experience these invaluable days.

Molecular Pathology

Although I have been involved in the preparation of samples sent away for molecular testing, it is only within the last year I have begun to learn what happens beyond this. I arrived at the study day with basic knowledge and left knowing information about specific tests. I am appreciative of the importance of high quality samples with an accurate tumour % given and the impact this has on the molecular tests.

It was interesting to hear about how rapidly this field is advancing, with regular updates to guidance and regulations. The study day guided me through complex genomic data and made it easier to understand. The talks and case studies from the different specialties helped me to understand the meaning of the tests and results and will help me to apply it to samples back in my own lab and my STP molecular module.

Approach to Cut-Up

During my training I will be dissecting non-malignant and malignant specimens and will need to cover all of the specialties; the study day had fantastic talks that covered all of these. The diagrams, macro photos and

images shown to us really helped shape my understanding of the dissection procedure for different specimens and made the talks very engaging.

Different centres use slightly different techniques and I am grateful to be aware of these for when I learn my hospital's procedures. Being reminded that when faced with a complex specimen, to remember and apply the basics has made me feel more confident for when I am faced with these.

Highly recommend

I highly recommend the study days to anybody involved with or interested in molecular pathology and/or cut-up; I have gained so much knowledge that I can apply. Both days exceeded my expectations and have helped me with my journey to becoming a Clinical Scientist.

Thank you very much to the BDIAP for their generosity in gifting me the bursary; I very much look forward to attending future events.