

Thursday, 9 March 2023

Sarah Page, ST4.

BDIAP bursary report.

I am an ST4 in histopathology, currently training in Wessex deanery but undertaking an out-of-programme year. On my return to training in September I plan to take the FRCPATH part 2 examination and I thought that the Molecular pathology and Cut-up study days would be excellent revision opportunities. I am extremely grateful to BDIAP for awarding me a bursary to attend both days.

Early in my training I had previously attained a diploma in Genomic Medicine at Birmingham University as part of the 100,000 genome project. This sparked my interest in this area of pathology early on in my career. However, due to childcare breaks and COVID-19 disruption I soon realised that the knowledge that I had gained was out-dated in this rapidly evolving specialty. My confidence in my cut-up ability is also low for the same reasons. So my ambition by attending these study days was to be revisit my previous knowledge and gain further insight into the latest developments and guidelines current in molecular pathology that I will face in my daily practice on my return to training.

The knowledge that I gained was invaluable and has given me confidence and understanding for my return to work and in preparation for the FRCPATH Part 2 exam. I will be aware of the molecular investigations in the different specialties appropriate for specific cases and how to interpret the results, as well as what might be imminently on the horizon. I particularly learned a lot from the upper GI talk as an area I have not been greatly exposed to yet in my training.

The approach to cut up day was something I was particularly eager to attend as it is an area that I have lost greatest confidence in due to the breaks in my training. Being based in a district general hospital for the past 5 years, during COVID and in which not all specialties were offered has left me with gaps of knowledge that I felt I needed to address before returning to a specialist centre. I found the talks were very informative and they exceeding my expectations. They more than addressed the gaps in my knowledge and they have made me feel more confident. By giving me a systematic approach to individual specialities but also the tools to stay calm and

form a logical approach to any difficult specimen such that I might be presented in the Part 2 exam or as a consultant.

In summary, I am very grateful for the bursary to attend both study days and my ambitions for attending have been far exceeded. I feel much greater confidence to return to work to perform my daily duties and I feel more prepared to attempt the FRCPATH Part 2 examination. I would recommend these courses to any of my fellow trainees at any stage in training. I also feel I will benefit from the updates beyond my training that the Molecular day offers.