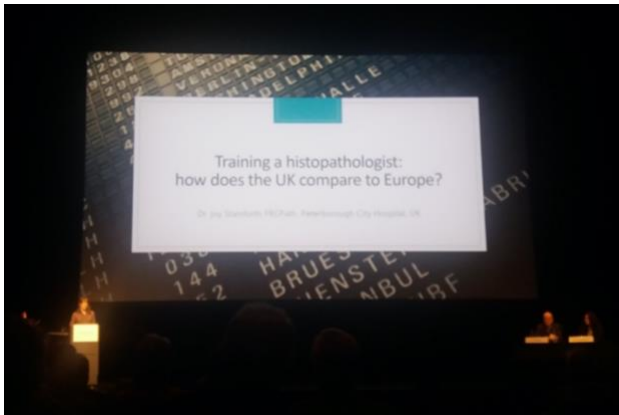


**Joy Staniforth, ST5 Histopathology, Peterborough City Hospital**  
**BDIAP Travel Bursary Report**  
**4th Joint Annual Meeting 2019 - Swiss and Austrian Societies of Pathology /**  
**1st Joint Annual Meeting of the Swiss Societies of Pathology and Cytology**  
**7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Lucerne**

I attended the above IAP branch English-language international meeting with the extremely kind support of the BDIAP travel bursary, to present my research on comparative Histopathology training in the UK vs. Europe.



*Getting started with my presentation*

I submitted my abstract in the hope of gaining an e-poster presentation, a 2-minute oral presentation with electronic slides. I was delighted to instead be awarded one of five 10-minute oral presentation slots on the opening day of the meeting. During the meeting, delegates were extremely friendly and were interested in talking to me as a UK trainee and gaining my perspective.

The remainder of the programme for the meeting comprised a wide array of topics:

- A half-day postgraduate course for residents in training: digital slides of interesting cases were circulated prior to the meeting, then presented and discussed in a warm and relaxed atmosphere
- Updates in GI, breast and gynaecological pathology, including some of the new WHO classifications, molecular pathology, and breast and GI slide seminars
- Cytology sessions: cervical cytology, including the screening programme itself, and workshops on gynaecological, pancreatic, urinary and thyroid cytology
- Lung cancer and digital pathology
- Molecular pathology updates, including advances now being applied in Europe and liquid biopsies.

I found the sessions engaging and insightful, gaining knowledge not only of the topics themselves but of European clinical practice and training. Some structures are different but challenges are not dissimilar to those we face in the UK, including ensuring we stay afloat with advances as well as how to equip our trainees with skills to thrive in a rapidly changing field.

The content tied in very well with the findings of my project, and I received offers of collaboration to extend my work which I intend to take up.



*My closing summary slide*



*Mountain views from the streets*

The meeting is run in a different city each year, and Lucerne was the venue for the 2019 event. Outside of the sessions, events were put on to allow delegates to socialise and enjoy the city. These included evening snacks and drinks after the sessions finished for the day, a “Pathology run” along the shores of Lake Lucerne (which I was not feeling athletic enough to attend but enjoyed hearing about!), a tour of the KKL concert hall attached to the conference venue, and of course the conference dinner.

In conclusion, I can thoroughly recommend the Swiss and Austrian Societies of Pathology joint conferences to all UK trainees as an opportunity to explore histopathology slightly further afield and gain further insights into the speciality, as well as making contacts for collaboration.

Thank you very much again to the BDIAP for the travel bursary. This covered my conference registration fee as well as up to £500 for other incurred expenses and was extremely easy to apply for.



*Lakeside views from the conference hall*