Name: Dr Lina Maria Carmona Echeverria

Training Year: ST2 Histopathology

Institute: Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust, Harlow, UK

Why did you want to attend this symposium?

I came to the UK to train as a Urological surgeon. I worked as a senior clinical fellow in London and Cambridge prior to embarking on a PhD. My research focused on prostate cancer biomarkers, and while I was investigating this, I became interested in understanding how I could "measure" the proportion of Gleason 4 with a blood or urine test. I started working with histopathologists and realized that this was the career for me. I am now in my second year of training, and I am enjoying it very much.

When I heard about this symposium through the BDIAP newsletter, I was very interested to see the program, the invited panelists, but mostly, the opportunity of meeting the experts, as well as seeing some of the colleagues I met while doing my PhD and straining as an ST1 in London. As a junior trainee, understanding complex histopathological concepts is daunting, but having them explained by experts in the field, and having the chance to review the recordings is a unique opportunity, and a valuable experience.

Do you feel more confident in your knowledge / understanding of urological pathology following attendance at the symposium?

Yes, although I must admit some of the concepts felt very complex for my level of training, having access to my notes, and recordings of the sessions has been extremely helpful. As I can work and study at my own pace. Having a surgical knowledge of the diseases presented here, it is interesting to see and understand concepts of the report that I would have previously ignored.

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

The controversies regarding some of the entities and why these are being removed from the WHO classification, like urothelial dysplasia. I was also interested to see how molecular classifications of urological pathologies are gaining importance. Prior to this meeting I thought the molecular classification was applied in gastrointestinal, breast and gynecological malignancies, and that molecular urological classification was in its early days. I also learnt how The WHO classification team meets and how the final report is made, and how much discussion is involved in including or removing entities, as well as compromising when not everyone agrees, and perhaps waiting for more evidence to commit to certain changes.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during symposium that you would consider incorporating into your own practice?

I very much enjoyed and learnt a lot from Dr Williamson's lecture on eosinophilic renal tumors, the algorithmic and very clear approach that he presented is something I am keen to try on my own practice. Currently, I am rotating in a district General Hospital, but once I have access to more complex and frequent urological histopathology specimens, I will use his approach.

Finally, would you recommend this symposium to your colleagues?

This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience as a trainee, I was very happy to meet uropathologists from all around the country, as well as meeting previous colleagues. I will definitely recommend this to other trainees, even if their main interest is not uropathology.

I wanted to thank you for this opportunity, I was very lucky to have met new colleagues. Dr Netto was very approachable and offered his contact details for a future visit to his department. I was able to meet colleagues from all around the world, and other trainees attending the event as bursary recipients. I was pleasantly surprised to see that this is a small, and welcoming specialty. I am looking forward to attending future meetings, thank you very much.