

Name: Charlotte Spencer

Training Year: ST3, on an OOPR for PhD, Clinical Fellow

Institute: Francis Crick Institute, London, UK

Reason for attendance:

I have recently commenced my PhD, which is a histo-genomic correlation study in clear cell renal cell carcinoma. As such I wished to update myself on the current developments in kidney cancer. I also wished to meet more academic pathologists for discussing collaborations and career development.

Did the symposium meet expectations?

Yes. The talks were excellent, a good mix of updates from the WHO books and also some exciting developments in the world of research.

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

Yes, I learnt lots of new things and it helped clarify some of the more challenging aspects of diagnosis in kidney cancer (for instance the eosinophilic tumours). I also very much enjoyed hearing about the development of digital pathology workflows in Oxford and associated work in AI and pathology. These are highly relevant to me in my PhD (where I am using machine learning to approach the histological analysis) and are going to inform my ongoing research plans. They were also inspirational demonstrating the potential of digital pathology in clinical practice.

I will be recommending the symposium to my colleagues and am looking forward to the next one! My only comment is that an attractive bursary "prize" would be a copy of the WHO book!