BDIAP Bursary Report for the USCAP 112th Annual Meeting March 11-16th 2023, New Orleans

Name: Cian Ward

Training year: 2 (Ireland)

Institute/Organisation: Royal College of Physicians Ireland, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin

Why did you attend the USCAP 112th annual meeting? I believed having the opportunity to attend USCAP would be extremely beneficial from a training and professional development perspective. It represented an opportunity to hear from world experts on the cutting edge of current practice which I believed would be incredibly valuable as a trainee. I was also interested to learn about the future of pathology, from recent developments in molecular and digital pathology to the application of artificial intelligence. I am currently working on projects in breast and GU pathology and I was eager to have the opportunity to attend talks relevant to these projects.

Do you feel confident in your knowledge / understanding of pathology following attendance at the USCAP 112th annual meeting? I definitely feel more confident in my knowledge of pathology following attendance at USCAP. I was concerned initially that being relatively early on in my training that talks would be beyond the scope of a junior trainee. However, with the wide variety of activities to choose from, including short courses, long courses, slide sessions, as well as the on-demand access, I was able to pick out topics which were accessible for my level of training and prior experience. Having the opportunity to hear from world experts on the most recent developments on a broad range of topics has definitely enhanced my general understanding of pathology.

Highlight aspects of pathology that you have learnt from the USCAP 112th annual meeting which you were not aware of prior to the event? One area in particular which I was interested to learn more about was digital pathology and the application of artificial intelligence to routine practice. I attended a long course on next generation pathology and it was fascinating to get an insight into the most recent developments in artificial intelligence, digital and molecular pathology and the impact these areas will surely have on our day-to-day practice in the future. It was amazing to get a glimpse of what the future in pathology could look like as well as to hear about other institutions early experiences with the transition to digital pathology and application of artificial intelligence.

Are there any aspects of what you learnt during the USCAP 112th annual meeting that you would consider incorporating into your own practice? I attended short courses which were casebased and discussed common pitfalls in routine cases which I found extremely valuable for incorporating into my day-to-day practice. In particular, a short course discussing the common pitfalls in GI pathology was extremely engaging, practical and applicable to my daily practice as a trainee. I was also delighted to have the opportunity to attend talks relevant to my current research activities in breast and GU pathology. Hearing from experts in the field regarding the most recent developments in research and current best practice in these areas was incredibly valuable in facilitating a deeper understanding of the topics.

Did the USCAP 112th annual meeting meet your expectations? USCAP more than met my expectations. I thought the wide variety of talks available as short courses, long courses, slide sessions as well as the on-demand access ensured the content was accessible for all interests, levels of training and prior experience.

Finally, would you recommend the USCAP 112th **annual meeting to your colleagues?** I would absolutely recommend attending USCAP to my colleagues. Despite my initial concerns that the talks would be beyond my level of training, I was delighted that there was such a wide range of topics available that I was able to select out courses which were more accessible for my experience in Pathology to date. It was an incredible opportunity to hear from world experts on a wide range of topics as well as to meet other trainees from around the world and discuss our respective experiences and challenges with our training. I would like to thank the BDIAP for

providing me with the extremely generous travel bursary, as attending this conference would not have been possible without their assistance.