

## **USCAP 114<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING 2025 – ‘See the Light’ Boston, Massachusetts**

Name: Dr Blessing Obasi

Training year: 2<sup>nd</sup> (Ireland)

Institute/Organisation: Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI), St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

Why did you want to attend the USCAP annual meeting?

USCAP is a world-renowned conference that my supervising consultants recommended I attend. So, I put it on my list of conferences to attend as a senior trainee with a bit more experience under my belt. To my surprise, my aspirations were actualised much earlier than I anticipated when my abstract was accepted, and I was also offered the BDIAP bursary. Double blessings! The meeting then became a “feather in the cap” moment for me as a junior trainee. I knew it would be a brilliant opportunity to listen to experts and get the latest updates on the future of pathology as a whole.

Do you feel more confident in your knowledge / understanding of pathology following attendance at the USCAP annual meeting?

Yes, I did feel more confident in my understanding of pathology following the meeting. There were so many courses to attend and a lot of options on offer, so I tailored my experience to my level and interests. I chose trainee focused events and courses such as histology bootcamps and ‘day in sign-out’ courses. They were super beneficial and invaluable. I also attended the ‘pathologists as leaders’ talk and it was quite enlightening. The talk highlighted the importance of building leadership skills for pathologists as we move up into more senior roles.

Highlight aspects of pathology that you have learnt from the USCAP annual meeting which you were not aware of prior to the event. Very useful and practical tips were given during the bootcamp/Day in sign-out sessions. These courses focused on everyday cases and practical tips to tackle cases that most pathologists feel uncertain about. My specialty interests are GI and pulmonary pathology; I went to specialty specific talks that gave useful tips and information that I have incorporated in my daily practice going forward.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the USCAP annual meeting that you would consider incorporating into your own practice?

Definitely. For example, interpreting and incorporating molecular pathology reporting into our daily practice. Step-by-step approaches to challenging diagnoses.

Did the USCAP annual meeting meet your expectations? It met and exceeded my expectations! It was bigger than I imagined, and it was amazing to see so many pathologists under one roof. Ample opportunities for networking and learning.

Finally, would you recommend the USCAP annual meeting to your colleagues? Absolutely! I would definitely recommend the meeting and also the BDIAP bursary to fund the attendance. The bursary went a long way in helping with achieving such a monumental milestone. I would highly recommend the meeting for all trainees to experience at least once during their training. I aim to go again at some point in the near future!

## SOME PICTURES FROM USCAP25, BOSTON

