

## BDIAP Bursary Report for the USCAP 112th Annual Meeting

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**Why did you attend the USCAP 112th annual meeting?** Attending USCAP is akin to a pilgrimage for a pathology trainee from Europe. It is viewed as the pinnacle of histopathology conferences worldwide and by far the greatest gathering of pathologists annually. To be able to attend, and in particular, to represent the BDIAP was a deep privilege for me personally. I was also very proud to present a poster highlighting my research in word counts in histopathology reports both past and present, to my fellow delegates.

**Do you feel confident in your knowledge / understanding of pathology following attendance at the USCAP 112th annual meeting?**

I would go as far as to say that USCAP has fundamentally changed how I view pathology. The sheer amount of detailed short and long courses, interactive microscopy sessions and specialty meetings meant that each event was packed full of world-leading pathologists in their respective fields. The love and passion each had for their subspecialty was palpable and inspired me to soak up as much of their experience and reasoning as possible so I could bring it back home to my day-to-day practice.

**Highlight aspects of pathology that you have learnt from the USCAP 112th annual meeting which you were not aware of prior to the event?**

I attended three short courses in the subspecialties of hepatopathology, renal pathology and breast pathology as I thought these would be particularly relevant for my upcoming professional examinations. As I learned from these courses, it is the approach each pathologist has to a case which makes the diagnosis easy and straight-forward or difficult and time-consuming. What I learned most from my courses was how to develop a systematic approach for a medical liver biopsy or a difficult borderline breast core for example. Recognise the fundamental pathology on the slide and allow the diagnostic picture to reveal itself to you as opposed to shoehorning it into a certain disease/condition. Take your time over a difficult case and don't rush it. I left each course with whole A4 sheets full of notes and tips that would have taken years to acquire on my own, and a renewed wonderment for how incredible my job really is.

**Are there any aspects of what you learnt during the USCAP 112th annual meeting that you would consider incorporating into your own practice?**

The true answer is, everything! USCAP just re-iterated what my consultant trainers had been saying to me all along: fundamentals, fundamentals, fundamentals. Once you have a solid command of the basic pathology for each organ system, you can build your diagnosis on a strong foundation and not miss any important diagnostic features. My courses were an accelerated version of this concept. For example, my hepatopathology course gave me the "medical liver toolkit" which I can use for any case I see in my hospital and I have used it each time I've looked at a medical liver biopsy since then. My breast course gave me a whole catalogue of breast pathology images and explanations straight from the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Texas. This resource has been invaluable for both my study and my practice, and one which I would never have gotten if it weren't for USCAP.

## Did the USCAP 112th annual meeting meet your expectations?

Given the popularity and reputation that USCAP has among my consultant and trainee colleagues, I had lofty expectations for a life-changing experience! I'm delighted to report that it was everything I had expected and more again.

Previous delegates had always spoken of feeling inspired once they returned from the USCAP meeting and I completely agree with that sentiment. The proximity and access I had to world-leading subspecialists, the trainee presentations and competitions, the cutting edge laboratory and diagnostic technology presented by the different vendors and even meeting the ever-famous Dr. Nat Pernick of PathologyOutlines.com.

USCAP had it all and lived up to every expectation I could have had. In my view, USCAP retains its reputation as a pilgrimage for all European pathology trainees and I was thrilled to see so much European representation in the trainee presentation categories. It was an immensely enjoyable conference. I would recommend it to anyone interested in pathology and I hope to attend USCAP again in the future.