

BDIAP Bursary Recipient Report – 2025 Joint IAP Meeting

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Job role/Training year: ST2 Histopathology Resident

Institution: Health Education Yorkshire and Humber

Current Placement: Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Meeting attended: Ghent Pathology 2025, ICC Ghent on 24-26 June

Why did you want to go to the Joint Meeting?

I was encouraged to attend this conference by my supervising consultant, Dr Kirsty Lloyd, following an intriguing case that we assisted in managing with other specialties in our region. There were numerous aspects of diagnosis from a histopathology perspective which were unusual, making it worthy of sharing with the wider pathology professional community.

Having attended previous BDIAP training events and finding them to be very informative, I was confident that attending this meeting even as a delegate would advance my understanding of the wider aspects of working in the field of pathology and enhance my experience as a trainee, as well as enable me to meet with other open-minded professionals keen to share their clinical or academic experiences. Furthermore, thanks to the generous bursary grant, I was able to present a poster face-to-face at an international pathology conference for the first time.

Do you feel more confident in your clinical practice following attendance at the Joint Meeting?

Overall, I do feel somewhat more confident in my clinical practice. This is because:

- I noted the vast depth and breadth of knowledge that was highlighted for each subspecialty, including the incorporation of molecular testing in routine diagnostic work.
- The sessions provided valuable insights to enhance my diagnostic and reporting skills.
- The attendance helped me address some knowledge gaps I had not been aware of and thus helped with specific areas of pathology-related work.
- It was useful to interact with the trade stall personnel during our breaks and learn more about the automated processes and material advances that will enable greater efficiency in laboratory practices, thereby leading to higher turnover of specimen processing.

Highlight aspects of what you have learnt from the Joint Meeting which you were not aware of prior to the day.

As someone in the earlier stages of training, I benefited from attending the international lecture given by Professor Mina Komuta, who provided an excellent practical approach to diagnosing primary liver cancers and highlighted the different morphological appearances between hepatocellular carcinoma caused by different aetiologies.

The trainee symposiums on breast and gynaecological pathology were also helpful in improving my confidence in diagnosing the subtypes of breast epithelial lesions. Similarly, I would feel more confident in distinguishing between endometrial, ovarian or mesenchymal tumours of the female genital tract.

The breakout sessions were a great chance to explore the exhibition stands to observe the posters which showcased a variety of ways that different pathologists had innovated in their respective fields. It also proved useful to engage with various companies on their latest developments, including advances in software, antibodies and PCR techniques.

Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during the Joint Meeting that you would consider incorporating into your own practice or have already incorporated into practice?

I found the talk on histological subtyping of colorectal cancer particularly insightful—it gave a glimpse into the new classifications to be introduced in the upcoming edition of the WHO Digestive System Tumours. The session on the role of lymph nodes in colorectal cancer, which reinforced some of my current perceptions for future practice.

Working on different subspecialties of histopathology can feel daunting, especially when rotating through their work over a timespan of a few weeks. It was somewhat reassuring to see that even leading experts find certain areas challenging, which helped me appreciate that my own difficulties may not be that unique after all, and proved that regular reflection and constructive and collaborative support from colleagues at all levels encouraged expertise and innovation.

The sessions covered a broad spectrum of topics in histopathology, offering seasoned as well as fresh perspectives into both established practices and emerging developments. It provided an excellent opportunity to learn about current trends and collaborative research in diagnostic pathology.

Did the Joint Meeting meet your expectations?

The conference offered an impressive range of high calibre, engaging and informative lectures and symposiums that were pitched to pathologists at varying levels of experience. In addition to the academic sessions, the conference included well-planned social and cultural activities that added great value to the overall experience.

I found the Ghent conference to be a good opportunity to update myself on changes to Pathology practice in general, to understand some of the diagnostic processes employed by other departments as well as their challenges. The oral free paper talks highlighted the indication to be more prepared as there are further advances in computational and digital pathology.

Social highlights were a boat tour through the scenic canals of Ghent, which offered a relaxing and picturesque view of the city's architecture and natural beauty, and the conference dinner was a memorable event that encouraged informal interaction and networking among participants. I also appreciated chatting about the trajectory of postgraduate training with Dr Matthew Clarke, who has consistently displayed exemplary leadership as meetings secretary and is always generous with his time.

Attendance and presentation of a poster at this conference have truly marked a positive and significant milestone in my career.

Finally, would you recommend it to your colleagues?

I would absolutely recommend attendance to future conferences organised by BDIAP.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology (BDIAP), the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Belgian Society of Pathology for organising the conference in such a beautiful and historic part of the world.