

BDIAP Annual Symposium on Urological Pathology

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I would like to firstly thank the BDIAP for the bursary and opportunity to attend the symposium.

I am a histopathology registrar and currently completing a PhD in digital pathology and AI, with a project focused on prostate cancer. The BDIAP Annual Symposium on Urological Pathology was an ideal opportunity for me to get up to date with the latest uropathology research and to refresh my clinical knowledge after a break in my histopathology training. The programme was varied and provided a lot of interesting content on a range of topics and the whole experience of attending exceeded my expectations.

Day one started with an engaging talk by Prof. Kristiansen on the reporting of prostate cancer in the 21st century. It was thought provoking to learn that there are 18 potential methods to determine the amount of prostate tumour within a biopsy! The discussions around variability in reporting different histological appearances of prostate carcinomas were interesting, along with acknowledging the variability of the Gleason Grading system. This was followed by three Urology research focused presentations by Professors Ahmed, Moore and Shaw, each of which added helpful context in terms of the latest thinking around screening, management, imaging and surgical techniques for men with prostate cancer.

In the second session of the day, a talk by Dr Varma on the areas where histopathology could manage resources better was intriguing and posed key questions for laboratories about how we become more efficient as demand for pathology resources continues to rise. Molecular pathology was the subject of the next presentation by Prof. Smith and included example cases where molecular pathology had helped to answer questions and gave sometimes surprising answers in difficult tumour cases.

After lunch, the talks and discussion moved to bladder cancer and included an interesting debate on the grading of bladder cancer with Prof. Comp  rat and Dr Varma. This highlighted the both the benefits and limitations of the grading and scoring systems we rely upon in pathology.

The day was rounded off with presentations on sex cord stromal tumours and high grade renal cell tumours, including the latest updates on subtypes. A common theme was the impact and change in thinking associated with molecular pathology in these areas. The networking reception was a good opportunity to meet others from both the UK and abroad.

Day two was focused on clinical cases and ranged through kidney, bladder, testicular and prostate pathologies. I found this hugely valuable to refresh my clinical knowledge and it highlighted areas for me to revisit in preparation for resuming clinical practice. The “spotlight on interesting cases” session particularly engaging and made me reflect on how this would change my practice. The questions and discussions around the cases were also engaging.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the BDIAP Annual Symposium on Urological Pathology and feel that my confidence in this area has grown as a result. I will be returning to clinical training in 2026 and will take the learning from this back into my training. The symposium was an excellent opportunity to achieve all of my aims and I am very thankful to the BDIAP for providing the funding to enable me to attend. I would definitely recommend both the Symposium and the bursary scheme to colleagues.