

Dr Paul Reddy
1st Year SHO, St Vincent's Hospital Dublin

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to travel to London and attend the BDIAP molecular pathology study day at the impressive Royal College of Obstetricians. Upon arrival, I was greeted warmly by those at registration before being kindly directed to the generous serving of tea, coffee and morning pastries laid out for us to indulge ourselves. This welcome set the tone for a lovely day ahead, and I was eager to get started and learn from the presentations and discussions that were to come.

The first speaker was by Dr David Moore who spoke to us about "Molecular Pathology for the Generalist," where he provided us with an overview of molecular pathology. The lecture was the perfect start to the day as it was so clear and stressed complex points so simply. My major take home message was how next-generation sequencing can and should be used to aid diagnosis and not only as a predictive testing tool.

Following on from this Dr Matt Evans spoke about quality control in molecular pathology. The lecture was so well presented. I particularly enjoyed the use of English literature to illustrate common molecular anomalies. Some of the key learning points I took from the lecture included the importance tumour tissue selection at cut-up, something at the early stage in my career I do a lot of, in order to ensure a high neoplastic cell percentage is obtained for molecular testing. When a low tumour cell sample is used for testing one should interpret negative results with caution. Dr Evans stressed the importance of knowing what assays are in use in our respective labs and what they test for and that a better understanding of these assays will give us a better understanding of our results.

Dr. Pillay's talk was of particular interest to me as this is an area I am not often exposed to. Moreover, sarcoma has been using molecular pathology for years, and it gave good insight as to how quickly molecular pathology can take off in one subspecialty.

I know molecular pathology will play a major role in my career going forward. Each speaker stressed the important role of the histopathologist in molecular pathology, to ensure the correct test is done for the correct patient and to ensure there is clinical molecular pathological correlation between the test performed and the patient being tested.

This study day was an incredibly enjoyable experience and I would strongly recommend my colleagues to attend in the future and I would like to thank the BDIAP for the bursary that facilitated my attendance.