

My name is Susannah Staunton, and I am a first year Histopathology trainee in Ireland. I attended the BDIAP Approach to Cut-Up and Molecular Pathology study days this month with the financial help of a BDIAP bursary. I was delighted to take a trip to London and was very glad the study days were in person this year. As a beginner not yet at the exam stage of my training, it was also an excellent reason to take some study leave and have a break from the lab.

The cut-up study day was my primary interest in attending these study days. Cut-up is a major part of our job as trainees and efficiency is so important. I was at the right stage of training to benefit from this study day, having encountered many of the main specimens but before bad habits have set in! There were expert speakers from all of the subspecialty areas giving an overview of cut-up of all of the major specimens. The speakers were all very sensible and the key messages were all about being practical and efficient. I have been thinking of their advice every time I've done cut-up since and have even been quoting them to my colleagues.

The molecular pathology study day again had expert speakers from the various subspecialty areas giving an overview of molecular pathology in their specialty. There was a lot of new information to process but to get a "whistle-stop tour" of the uses of molecular pathology in current practice was very useful. I now feel I have a much broader understanding of the topic. I expect that more senior trainees would benefit from this study day in a different way.

I'd highly recommend attending these BDIAP study days to future trainees and would particularly recommend applying for the BDIAP bursaries.



The venue was the beautiful Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists building.