

Maastricht Pathology 2018 Report

As a medical student interested in neuropathology, I intercalated during this year undertaking a Master of Research degree in Translational Medicine. I chose a year-long research project investigating the effect of the innate immune system on remyelination in multiple sclerosis. I began to look for conferences during the year to present some of my work and found one that suited me perfectly: Maastricht Pathology 2018. After being overjoyed that my abstract was submitted, I then received a very kind travel and accommodation bursary from the Pathological Society to help attend the conference.

There was a very high standard of talks throughout the four days of the conference, ranging from lung and renal to gastrointestinal and breast. There were also excellent talks from keynote speakers each day, my favourite being Professor Fleming's lecture on renal cancer classification. It was interesting to see how medical knowledge advances over decades with improvements in technology and understanding.

I presented my poster during Monday's session. It was a great experience to present my work to experts in the field of multiple sclerosis and to engage in discussion with them about interpretation of my work. I also met other medical students and trainee pathologists during the poster session and we presented our work to each other. I was impressed by the range of work that had been done by my colleagues.

The Undergraduate's Day was simply fantastic. The talks were interesting and dashed with a welcome sense of humour. I particularly enjoyed Dr Jacobs' talk on neuropathological imaging in Alzheimer's disease. I thoroughly enjoyed the forensic pathology workshop, complete with a 'hands-on' murder scene and multidisciplinary approach to solve the case. Our hard work was rewarded with a two-hour networking boat trip along the river Meuse. I had a brilliant time meeting people at various stages in their career and asking them about career paths and advice, whilst also being fed and watered in the beautiful sunshine! I would like to thank Dr Latten for his efforts organising a wonderful day.

Last but not least was the conference dinner. My first (and possibly only) dinner in a cave, it was a great way to experience one of the best sights in Maastricht. I dined with friends I had made during the conference and some senior pathology consultants who shared stories of their training days. The night was a lot of fun and some music helped the food go down!

I would like to sincerely thank The Pathological Society for the opportunity to present at Maastricht Pathology 2018 and for the kind bursary that helped make that possible. It is clear to me that the society, unlike others, has a genuine interest in encouraging undergraduates to consider a career in pathology and guiding trainees through that process. Indeed, it has encouraged me to think about pathology as a career path. I look forward to attending next year's conference in Leeds!

Sincerely,
Ger Mullan