

Dr V. M. Rathbone
Cell Signalling Laboratory
5th Floor, UCL Cancer Institute
72 Huntley Street
Fitzrovia
London
WC1E 6AG

31st of July 2019

Dear the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Meeting Report: Leeds Pathology 2019, the 12th Joint Meeting of the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology and the Pathological Society of Great Britain & Ireland.

Many thanks for offering me the opportunity to attend the Leeds Pathology conference which took place on the 2nd to the 4th of July 2019 in Harrogate. Having started my clinical PhD (jointly funded by the Pathological Society and Jean Shanks Foundation) I am very grateful that a travel grant is available to provide financial support for conference attendance, as study leave etc is not accessible when trainees are out of programme.

I attended the conference over the 3 days as well as the preceding National Academic Trainees Network Meeting (NATNM). This pre-meeting is a great way to meet trainees from other parts of the country and get some peer-to-peer support and advice. Following this I attended the main conference. The first day I went to the gynaecology pathology symposium and the whole genomes symposium. There were many excellent talks on subjects relevant to my research interests. In particular the talks on hereditary cancer syndromes, such as lynch were very informative and gave a good overview of these syndromes and how to approach them in clinical practice. For the whole genomes symposium I particularly enjoyed the talk from a bio-informatician as it gave a different perspective on molecular pathology research and also covered practical information on how data can be analysed. I felt this was really helpful for me and made the world of bioinformatics a bit more approachable.

The welcome reception in the evening was a great opportunity to network and was in a lovely setting in the Sun Pavilion. The mayor of Harrogate attended and it was great to find out more about the area and history, as well as talking about pathology!

The next 2 days I attended a variety of talks, I particularly enjoyed the oral plenary presentations, as they are often presented by trainees, and I find this makes the talk really relatable. It is also highly motivating to see the great work that can be achieved at a relatively junior level. The Oakley lecture was also a highlight, not only because of the excellent content but also because it is inspiring to see a senior colleague who has a successful integrated academic and clinical career.

In summary attending the Leeds Pathology Conference was a valuable experience. Having recently started my PhD I found the meeting an excellent way to reconnect with clinical pathology orientated research as well as finding the basic science research very engaging. I am grateful to the Pathological Society for supporting my attendance and I am looking forward to future meetings!



Dr Victoria Rathbone
Clinical PhD Student