

## **Report on Attending Leeds Pathology 2019, 2-4 July 2019**

During my training in Histopathology, I have had a number of opportunities to carry out research, audits and service improvement exercises, which I have presented locally in the setting of departmental meetings or multidisciplinary planning meetings. This has given me insights into the value of this kind of work at a local level. Following my ST4 year I was fortunate to be able to spend a year in an Out-of-Programme Experience as a deanery-funded Clinical Leadership Fellow; I carried out a project to explore the benefits of digital pathology for regional networking for specialist tertiary centre multidisciplinary team meetings. I was able to present this work at a leadership conference and to our local cancer alliance meeting, but I recognised that my work could have a greater impact if presented to an audience of my colleagues in Histopathology.

I was, therefore, extremely grateful for the support of the Pathological Society to enable me to attend Leeds Pathology 2019 where I was able to present both my work in digital pathology and an earlier audit into the characteristics of symptomatic breast core biopsies classified as B3 lesions. The meeting enabled me to understand the wider context of research and audit work. For example, I had the opportunity to present and discuss my work in symptomatic B3 breast core biopsies with Dr Deb from Derby who later that day presented a session on B3 lesions from the NHS Breast Screening Programme. As a setting for continued professional development, therefore, the conference was excellent. It reinforced to me the view that the practice of Histopathology is collaborative and involves discussion and debate to synthesise the best available evidence and understanding in order to reach a consensus for the benefit of our patients.

The symposia had a great mix of interesting and illustrative cases, clinical presentations and sessions focused on advances in molecular pathology and digital pathology. I could clearly see how the latest techniques could be translated into clinical practice through this combination of the diagnostic histopathology sessions and the varied and engaging scientific programme. A particular highlight for me, as an enthusiast for digital pathology, was the presentation on “Touchable Pathology” by Dr Laszlo Igali.

From the plenary sessions and auditorium lectures, it was inspiring to see the different journeys that a career in pathology can offer. The lectures provided a fascinating insight into the future direction of the profession as our understanding of cancer biology and molecular pathology develops and the 100000 Genomes Project begins to have its impacts.

Aside from the professional development benefits of attending the conference, I shouldn't overlook the social aspects of the meeting. I was able to catch up with consultants from other departments who have played an instrumental role in my training development, former trainees from within my deanery who have recently taken up consultant posts, and even other trainees with whom I had attended medical school several years ago. I therefore greatly enjoyed all aspects of this meeting. I look forward to attending many more during my future career and would wholeheartedly encourage other trainees to attend meetings of the Pathological Society and submit work for presentation.

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