**Pathological Society Travel and Conference Bursary**

***AMEE 2018, Basel, Switzerland***

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AMEE is a medical education society with members spanning 90 countries across the globe, who work in all aspects of medical education. The aim of AMEE, as stated on their website, is to promote international excellence in medical education in all stages of training from undergraduate level to continuing education as a qualified medical professional. AMEE conference attracts over 3000 delegates every year, making it the largest medical education conference in the world.

Interested in improving exposure for histopathologists, I conducted a small study with several colleagues in The Maidstone Hospital. This was entitled “Perceptions of Histopathology amongst Junior Doctors”. We explored the perceptions of Histopathology amongst junior doctors in non-pathological specialties across four hospital sites in Kent. We targeted various issues which centred around the role of the histopathologist, including specimen handling, post-mortem examination, the frozen section and the use of immunohistochemistry. The results shed some light on how trainees in other specialties understand histopathology as a career.

I wanted to engage with a wider audience when presenting my project, and AMEE 2018, taking place in Basel, Switzerland in August 2018, seemed like the perfect forum for this. We submitted our abstract, and a few months later we were delighted to be informed that it had been accepted for poster presentation.

In August, I travelled to Basel for the conference. When I first entered the conference centre in Basel, I was blown away. The event was enormous. Exhibitors and delegates had travelled from as far away as the United States, Japan and Australia. Exhibitors were presenting impressive pieces of technology to improve medical education, including highly realistic SIM models, simulated otoscopy and question databases. One company had even embedded real human tissue in resin to create perfect anatomical models!

The conference centre was huge, and had a number of talks and symposiums taking place in different rooms and halls at any one time. One very engaging session I attended focused on self-directed learning, during which one of the most popular talks was by Dr Viral Thakerar from Imperial College, focusing on the use of gamification in medical education. We discussed how this could improve medical student interest in a number of specialties, and it would be interesting to see how this could be applied to the pathological specialties.

One of the most entertaining and popular sessions in the conference was the “AMEE Fringe”, during which, speakers explored concepts in medical education through various forms of performance art, including comedy. This proved a very effective (and fun) way of getting educators to think laterally about their teaching.

On the final day of the conference, I presented my poster. The poster round was reasonably intense. We each had 5 minutes to present our posters to a group of around 20 people. Fortunately, my poster attracted interest as it was quite a niche topic, and it was well-received. Later, I received advice from numerous established medical educators from all over the world on how to carry the project forward.

I would like to thank the Pathological Society for their generous travel grant which enabled me to attend this conference. It was an energizing and inspirational experience, and I sincerely hope I have the opportunity to attend this event again in future years.