**Reflecting on the PathSoc Winter Meeting 2020**

**‘Molecular and Digital Pathology: The Future’**

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I am a fourth year medical student intercalating in molecular pathology at the University of Manchester, and chair-elect of the Pathological Society Undergraduate Subcommittee. I attended the 3rd joint meeting of the Pathological Society and the Royal Society of Medicine held in London on the 21st – 22nd January 2020, made possible thanks to support from the undergraduate travel and accommodation bursary.

I had the privilege of being invited to speak at this event on the subject of why I want to be a pathologist. This is something close to my heart and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to share my experiences and motivations with others. This talk formed part of a dedicated session focusing on education, with speakers giving insight into their career as medical educators and emphasising the essential role pathology has within the curriculum. It was encouraging to see their passion and enthusiasm, and enabled me to better appreciate the great efforts that go into shaping my experience of medical school.

As the event title suggests, this conference was complementary to my master’s degree in molecular pathology. Indeed, I had a digital pathology examination the following week and truly cannot think of a better way I could have studied for it! It was truly inspiring to learn about the current and future applications of pathology, and how this is informing clinical medicine all the time. Though these fields are quite specialised, the speakers were able to confidently convey information that was engaging and appropriate for people from a variety of backgrounds. I particularly enjoyed learning more about QuPath (digital slide analysis software) and how deep learning can facilitate high throughput biomarker discovery.

In the evening I attended the conference dinner at the Churchill War Rooms, and we able to privately view the museum beforehand. This was an incredible venue that created a great atmosphere around us. The welcome drinks and dinner were a brilliant opportunity to discuss the events of the day, including excellent student presentations and posters. Having an assortment of professionals in one place makes for truly interesting conversations, and I was happy to have met several medical students intending to pursue a career in pathology.

I gained a wealth of knowledge at this conference, and valuable experience that will assist me going forward in my medical career. I strongly encourage other medical students to attend: the PathSoc meetings really are suitable for everyone. Hope to see you at the next one!