**Report on Attending the Pathological Society Summer Meeting June 2013**

 I am extremely grateful for the support of the Pathological Society in attending the Summer Scientific meeting in Edinburgh. I really valued the opportunity to present some of the research work I have done during the course of my pathology training. My presentation was delivered to a crowded room which highlighted the interest in research within the pathological community and generated some really interesting questions which have stimulated further ideas for research projects in the future. This was excellent experience of presenting research in a conference setting and holding it up to external scrutiny, something which will hopefully be of value to me in my future career. Being able to talk to other trainee pathologists and consultants involved with research was very encouraging and opened my eyes as to the support available for research and the encouragement to continue to be involved with pathological research.

 In addition to the scientific sessions there were further sessions on research directly relevant to diagnostic histopathology. This juxtaposition of science and sessions on histopathological diagnostic skills was important as it showed the meeting to be truly translational highlighting that pathological research should always bear in mind the final implication for the patient. This also had an important educational role for me and I have learnt many tips that will hold me in good stead for future reporting as well as in preparing for the upcoming FRCPath examination.

The plenary sessions were also very stimulating, highlighting the translational relevance of subjects as diverse as imaging of histiocytes and statistical analysis of methods of systemic random sampling and its relevance to pathology practice. In one of these presentations was the recommendation to read “on growth and form” a book which has further influenced my interest in the relationship between genotype and phenotype and the importance of tissue structure.

The setting in Edinburgh was fantastic with a very well equipped conference centre and excellent facilities with opportunity to explore the ancient city of Edinburgh as well. This setting also provided the backdrop for the social events organised as part of the meeting. These were useful, allowing me to meet other pathologists from other parts of the UK involved with research, including other trainees. From this meeting an email address list was set up to be able to disseminate information useful for trainees interested in research.

The meeting also enabled me to recognise the relationship between histopathology and industry both meeting people involved with utilising histopathology skills in industry as well as recognising the value and issues involved with technological advances in fields such as image analysis and digital pathology that will only become more pertinent over time. The number of companies providing digital pathology services certainly triggered some interesting discussion amongst my colleagues.

I greatly enjoyed this meeting and it was a valuable experience for my future career. I look forward to attending many more in the future.

By Guy Betts