

Dr. K.V.C. Wijegunaratna
Senior Registrar in Histopathology
Sri Lanka

I wish to express my most sincere gratitude to the Vladimir Totovic Foundation and the International Academy of Pathology (German Division) for their generous support in awarding me this prestigious bursary. This incredible opportunity enabled me to participate in the 15th International Junior Academy/Summer School of Pathology held in the beautiful city of Bordeaux, France, an experience that has been truly transformative for my professional development.

During this academic event, I had the privilege of presenting an interesting case study on a rare and diagnostically challenging breast tumor, which provided me with an excellent platform to share my findings and receive valuable feedback from esteemed experts in the field. The presentation experience significantly enhanced my confidence in academic communication and case discussion.

As a trainee in Histopathology who is on the verge of transitioning to independent reporting, I found every aspect of the summer school to be exceptionally informative and practically relevant. The comprehensive sessions on soft tissue pathology of the gynecological tract have substantially deepened my understanding of this complex subspecialty. Furthermore, the expert-led discussions on problematic areas in breast pathology have clarified many diagnostic dilemmas I had encountered in my practice.

While I have considerable hands-on experience in genitourinary (GU) pathology specimen dissection, I was particularly inspired by Dr. Chandra's lecture, which offered novel perspectives and refined techniques that I plan to incorporate into my routine practice. The sessions exploring the integration of artificial intelligence in pathology and the latest technological advancements in our field were eye-opening and have equipped me with forward-looking knowledge that will undoubtedly benefit my future career trajectory.

Beyond the academic curriculum, the summer school provided an invaluable opportunity for international networking and knowledge exchange. I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with

fellow trainees and consultants from diverse healthcare systems worldwide, sharing our unique experiences, challenges, and best practices in pathology. These interactions have broadened my professional perspective and fostered meaningful connections that I hope to maintain throughout my career.

The cultural program, including the guided tour of Bordeaux's historic landmarks and the exquisite wine-tasting experience, added a wonderful dimension to the event, allowing us to appreciate France's rich heritage while building camaraderie among participants. These moments of cultural immersion made the entire experience even more memorable.

Once again, I extend my deepest appreciation to the Vladimir Totovic Foundation and the International Academy of Pathology (German Division) for their generous support. This bursary has not only facilitated my participation in this world-class educational event but has also significantly contributed to my growth as a pathologist. I am committed to applying the knowledge and skills gained from this experience to enhance diagnostic pathology services in my home country and to share these learnings with my colleagues.

With utmost gratitude,

Dr. K.V.C. Wijegunaratna