

# Bryan Warren School of Pathology Report Nov. 2014

The British Division of the International Academy of Pathology

*Dr Paul Cane & Dr Michael Bakker*

The 8th course in the BD-IAP supported lecture series members of the Bryan Warren School of Pathology was held in Sarajevo on November 5-7th 2014 at the University of Sarajevo. The meeting was attended by approximately 30 delegates, mainly trainees and interested specialists. The topic for this series was "Lung and mediastinal pathology".



*Bryan Warren School of Pathology delegates 2014.*

Paul Cane (Guy's & St. Thom-

as' NHS Foundation Trust) and I (Maasstad Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands) were honoured to be asked to provide the lectures and workshops. Our hosts, Dr. Semir Vranić and Dr. Faruk Skenderi were the local organisers and made sure everything ran smoothly.

Despite non-direct flights (either through Vienna or Frankfurt) our trip was smooth, leaving ample time to reach the hotel which was located just 5 minutes' walk from the hospital. The short taxi drive from the international airport provided the first impression of the Balkan country which still, 20 years on, shows the scars of the Bosnian war with numerous buildings pock-marked by bullet holes and damaged by shelling. Nevertheless, there is an upbeat feeling to the town with a lot of new building going on. People were friendly and helpful, a great benefit as the slavic language is incomprehensible.

After settling-in our hotel Semir kindly took us on an evening walk through the town with obligatory stops at the site of the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in 1914. The integration of various ethnic and religious populations is striking as mosques and churches stand side by side and Christian and Islamic cemeteries with simple white headstones are next to each other. After savouring the local cuisine we retired to prepare for the course.

The course was divided into lectures and slide seminars, although the distinction was intentionally blurred for some topics. Five half-day sessions were devoted to (1) lung neoplasia, (2) mediastinal pathology, (3) less common lung tumours, (4) non-neoplastic lung and (5) lymphoproliferative disorders and pleural disease. The Erasmus MC in Rotterdam kindly provided support by scanning and hosting a large number of cases which were available to study in advance of the course.

After a brief introduction by Semir, Paul took care of the first session on lung neoplasia and broke the ice with a highly interactive introductory lecture on lung anatomy. The students did not need much encouragement to participate and were happy to interact. After covering the ever expanding topic of lung adenocarcinoma, including the changing concepts of adenocarcinoma in situ (previously bronchoalveolar carcinoma) and a brief coffee break, Paul continued with other non-small cell carcinomas and rounded off the morning session with a slide seminar.

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The afternoon session of the first day was programmed for mediastinal pathology in which both thymic tumours and other mediastinal tumours (germ cell neoplasm, lymphoproliferative disorders and soft tissue tumours) was covered. The history of thymoma typing formed the basis to speak about thymoma diagnosis and classification which was brought into practice in the final session of the day, the slide seminar.



In the evening the course dinner was organized in a former army barracks, now put to good use as a restaurant serving local specialties. A feast was laid on and almost all students were present. Cultural differences were obvious as smoking is very common in the Balkan and the restaurant soon brought back memories of times past when smoking in public places was common.

The second day of the course was divided in a morning session on neuroendocrine lung tumour, specimen handling and biomarker testing and an afternoon session on non-neoplastic lung. Once again Paul started-off the morning session, which included a very useful short video "how I handle lung resections" and provided a good interlude between lectures. The attendees proved critical with good questions resulting in a useful discussion. The lecture hall was very comfortable but strangely contained an inconspicuous but considerable number of ornamental owls, the meaning of which remained mysterious. After lunch the course continued with non-neoplastic pulmonary disease, including a session on pediatric lung disorders. After discussing "radiology of interstitial lung disease for pathologists" and covering the various entities of interstitial lung disease the second day was brought to a close with an interactive slide seminar.

The final morning session was shared by Paul and myself with Paul covering lymphoproliferative disease and mesothelioma. After the final slide session the course was closed and goodbyes were exchanged between students and faculty. Numerous "selfies" were made to serve as a memory of a good course, as the group photo was taken outside the faculty building. Before dropping us off at the airport Semir drove us to a couple of viewpoints on the outskirts of town for a final view of the town laid out in between the hills.

We look back on a a very good course. The balance of lectures and slide seminars proved very effective and proved ideal to involve the participants in active discussion. The course material was collected by Faruk and was made available through the website, included extended access to the scanned slides.



<http://www.bosnianpathology.org/bwsp-2014>