Julie Johnstone,
The Pathological Society,
150 Minories,
London
EC3N 1LS

15th of January 2018

Dear Julie,

RE:

Pathological Society Equipment grant application: 01 October 2016

Grant Reference No: EG 2016 10 02

Project/Application Description: Digital pathology image analysis using the Visiopharm software Package

I would like to thank the Society for its support and awarding us £10,000 for developing our digital pathology service in Oxford. As mentioned in our application, the funds from this grant were intended to support training in image analysis with the Visiopharm VIS platform. The funds were used in several ways to do this. Firstly, a range of video conferencing and audio equipment were purchased which now allows users to make remote shared desktop contact with the Visiopharm training division and enables online interactive training as well as ad hoc problem-solving and IT support. Secondly, the funds were used to purchase a renewed software licence with upgraded support package from Visiopharm. This included an initial three day intensive onsite face-to-face training course for a number of key academics, PhD students and clinicians using the platform locally. This also included a new on-going support package, with remote weekly training and help sessions (for which our new audio equipment is vital in supporting). There is also a further intensive follow-up course included which will probably take place later this year.

The support that PathSoc has given us has contributed to the ambition in Oxford to develop digital pathology services and to launch an image analysis platform that local researchers can use. The Oxford Digital Pathology Working Group has acquired funds from various sources to develop a network of collaborators and software platforms for digital pathology in Oxford and PathSoc has now contributed significantly to this process. To my knowledge, the VIS platform so far has been used by pathologists,

PhD students (including a Jean Shanks Fellow), MSc and undergraduate students, software engineers and postdoctoral researchers in an array of different projects that required objective image analysis of human and animal model tissues. Examples of where an impact has been made include a large histo-morphometric study of breast cancer specimens in collaboration with Nottingham (the findings of which are shortly to be published in Breast Cancer Research), a postdoctoral project aimed at identifying approaches to image analysis in examining multi-spectral immunofluorescence images as part of the Oxford BRC digital pathology subtheme, and a PhD project characterising infiltrating immune cells in the hypoxic tumour environment.

Once again, we would like to thank you and the Society for supporting us with this equipment grant scheme.

Best wishes,

Dr Richard Colling
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