**Travel and Conference Bursary 2013 to Attend the 7th European Renal Pathology Course in Amsterdam May 22nd – 24th 2013.**

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The 7th European Renal Pathology Course was held at the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The course is organised by Prof. Sandrine Florquin and Dr. Joris J. Roelofs and is supported by the European Renal Association and the European Dialysis and Transplant Association. Whilst the majority of the people attending are European, nephrologists and pathologists from throughout the world participate in the course. The entire course is in English.

The course content excludes renal transplant pathology but is otherwise a comprehensive overview of renal disease. The principal educational benefit stems from its unique combination of histopathology, clinical nephrology and laboratory research. The consequence of this is that the course is equally useful for clinical nephrologists and histopathologists as both benefit from the broad overview of renal pathology and its consequences.

The level of teaching is aimed at general pathologists who wish to reacquaint themselves with renal pathology. It is equally useful for trainee pathologists and trainee and consultant nephrologists.

All of the course delegates are issued with a laptop computer on the first morning. The course begins with an anonymous quiz of histopathological images in order to determine a baseline level of knowledge.

The teaching is in a rational format that usually begins with a lecture detailing the clinical aspects of a particular syndrome. This is delivered by clinical nephrologists, many of whom are guest lecturers from throughout Europe and who are esteemed experts in the their field. The clinical lecture is then followed by a histolopathology lecture that details the patterns associated with the previously discussed syndrome. Expert renal pathologists, who discuss standard textbook cases, as well as atypical cases based on personal experience, deliver this.

The histopathology teaching is enhanced by the use of virtual slides that can be accessed by the delegates using their laptops. At this stage active participation and discussion by the attendees is encouraged. This participatory aspect of the course was particularly educational as it brought together opinions and techniques from the geographically and nationally disparate group of delegates.

The clinical teaching on renal disease was complemented by lectures by clinician scientists and laboratory scientists which covered the fine detail of the mechanisms of disease as well as the future direction of research based on this understanding at a molecular and cellular level.

The course included a comprehensive handbook, which contained all of the lectures and supplementary notes. In addition, attendees had one year worth of on-line access to the virtual slide teaching material. This on-line resource also contained the ppt files of the lectures and links to key publications relating to each of the topics covered.

The course ended with a repeat of the opening virtual slide quiz in order to measure the benefit derived over the three days of teaching. All of the attendees showed a marked improvement in their scores.

The European Renal Pathology Course is a well run and comprehensive symposium on non-transplant renal pathology. The course is exceptionally well organized and makes good use of various teaching modalities. The atmosphere is friendly and informal with plenty of opportunities to mingle with attendees and lecturers. The teaching is delivered with enthusiasm and expert insight.

Overall I would recommend it to general pathologists who have renal commitment in their workload as well as consultants and trainees who see themselves subspecializing in renal pathology in the future.