

The Paul Allan European Congress of Radiology Bursary – Scholarship Report

I would like to thank the Scottish Radiological Society (SRS) for awarding me the Paul Allan Travel Bursary to assist towards expenses for my trip to Vienna for this year's European Congress of Radiology (ECR), taking place from 27th February to 3rd March 2019.

The ECR is the largest medical imaging meeting in Europe, which attracts more than 20,000 delegates from all around the world. The sheer magnitude of the conference was way above my expectations. The congress is held at the Austria Centre Vienna, which boasts numerous halls and countless presentation rooms. Over the last years, due to a continuous increase in participation, the ECR started to occupy more and more buildings surrounding the congress centre, creating its very own ECR City.

This year's motto '**the bigger picture**' did not only relate to the congress poster celebrating the 25th ECR in Vienna and consisting of elements from the past 24 ECRs, but also to the ESR's vision that its annual meeting is more than just a radiology congress. It is the event where radiologists, radiographers, nuclear medicine physicians, medical physicists and professionals from related professions come together under one roof to discuss, explore, and present every aspect medical imaging has to offer.

Every year, the venue attracts renowned speakers from across the world, providing us with an array of options of different talks covering all subspecialties of Radiology. The ECR programme committee presented a programme that included every aspect of medical imaging, including the latest highlights and trends, but also basic training and refresher courses for professionals of all career stages. I attended many of the **refresher courses** and many of the **rising star programme sessions** as I felt that these were very educational and beneficial for my stage of training.

The **European Society of Radiology (ESR) App** was extremely useful in helping me plan and keep track of my sessions, by allowing me to bookmark sessions and set reminders. The App was also a very easy way to provide feedback and participate during interactive sessions.

One session I particularly enjoyed was the **interactive quiz** entitled 'A new look at the mediastinum'. The speakers and moderators for this session were Dr Jose Caceres and Dr Jose Vilar. Dr Caceres and Dr Vilar are magnificent teachers, their lectures repeatedly getting the highest scores in many courses and congresses, in particular the ECR, where the interactive lectures have become a classic and yet modern way of teaching.

My only disappointment during the congress was that the popular '**Hands-On**' workshops, such as the MRI of the Prostate workshops, were fully subscribed at the start of the congress, so I was unable to attend any of these sessions. I would strongly encourage anyone wanting to attend any of these workshops to book these well in advance of the congress.

On the other hand, despite not being able to attend in person all of the interesting educational lectures taking place at the congress, as many of these lectures were being held simultaneously, I was able to catch up with many courses on **ECR Online**, where more than 4000 lectures can be watched on demand. The ECR registration fee includes access to ECR Online.

I gave my oral presentation entitled '**Shear wave characteristics of non-breast cancer malignancies**' at the Breast Voice of EPOS session held on the 27th February 2019. My project demonstrated that a high proportion of metastatic lesions and sarcomas within the breast have high stiffness values on shear wave elastography (SWE), whereas other malignancies, especially lymphoma, have lower stiffness values on ultrasound. A possible reason could be that tumour-stromal interactions are less frequent in lymphoma, or that such interactions do not provoke production of clinically stiff collagen. ECR was an excellent forum at which to present my academic work and I received very good feedback from the moderator at the end of the session.

Vienna itself is an attractive, culturally diverse and vibrant city. It has a good, lively mix of cafes, galleries, shops and street markets, which has made my trip even more enjoyable. Every night in Vienna around 10, 000 music fans are treated to live classical music, something that is simply unheard of in any other city in the world. My colleagues and I had the opportunity to attend a classical concert at the magnificent Musikverein concert hall, as well as a more informal jazz concert.

Travelling around Vienna is very easy. *Wiener Linien* (Vienna Lines) is the company running most of the public transport network in the city. I would recommend getting a weekly ticket that allows you to use the city's network of underground, trains and buses, so as to discover all that Vienna has to offer.

Overall, the ECR was an unforgettable experience and a fantastic platform that allowed me to present my work to an international audience. I strongly encourage trainees across Scotland to strive to get their research presented at the ECR.

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