

AMP ANNUAL MEETING 2019: POST MEETING REPORT

I first learned about AMP when my director asked me to become a member and submit an abstract to the 2019 annual meeting. I did not imagine back then the thrilling experience that would unfold, and I am certain that more is yet to come.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the Association for Molecular Pathology for being chosen as a recipient of the technologist travel award. It was the first time I had the chance to attend an international professional event; an eye-opening and enriching experience that otherwise would not have been possible.

Attending this meeting proved to be a very constructive experience as it helped me gain a sense of perspective into the field of molecular pathology as the individual pieces of information relating to diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic approaches in various molecular pathology disciplines from hematopathology, infectious diseases, inherited diseases, infectious diseases, and bioinformatics integrate to ultimately serve the advancement of innovative technologies and guarantee equal and affordable access to healthcare.

The topics discussed during this year's meeting were especially relevant to my professional expertise, as they highlighted the extent of NGS and liquid biopsies being implemented into diagnostics. Most of the sessions and talks illustrated the potentials offered by these approaches to determine the genomic profile of patients with cancer, monitor treatment responses and quantify minimal residual disease, and assess the emergence of therapy resistance.

I particularly enjoyed the thought-provoking workshop sessions about variant interpretation during the meeting and the cases presented during the interactive discussions as part of the Molecular Pathology Outreach course. This exchange was beneficial and dynamic as it touched on practical examples and interesting scenarios prompting an unusual and unique investigation to decipher the observations. I recall a particular case of ovarian cancer that was presented during the MPOC where the discussion between the group members completely reversed the original assessment of the findings.

I also had the chance to present a poster entitled "Validation of a Novel Multiplex Assay for the Detection of 30 Fusion Genes in Leukemia Patients". Discussing my work with other technologists, faculty members, and company representatives was very constructive as I received invaluable feedback, and exchanged new ideas, and perspectives to refine my skills.

I gained valuable knowledge and insight that I can implement into my daily activities and can help me broaden and advance my skills.

Thank you once again for this unique opportunity. I hope to meet you all again next year!

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