

BURSARY REPORT on attending the 18th Symposium Mammographicum

ACC Liverpool 3-5 July 2016

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I would like to thank the Organising Committee and Trustees for the opportunity to attend the Symposium Mammographicum in July 2016 at the Liverpool ACC.

From the outset the conference looked great. With 25 vendors showing the latest technologies and developments relating to the field breast imaging, as well as opportunities to discuss education development's with providers offering further knowledge in the areas of breast imaging . To hear the Tenovus Choir was a real treat. Their voices were wonderful and laid an excellent platform for the conference.

The poster display was very informative and wide ranging in the topics that were covered. With 91 different posters being displayed, it was great to have the opportunity to learn about what topics from the UK and around the world people are researching. It was a great snap shot into what current issues and improvements are engaging people at the moment and what the future of breast imaging might hold.

The Symposium dinner was a very enjoyable event. I had the opportunity to chat to a Radiologist from Switzerland and a physicist from the England. It was great to see some of the other sides of breast imaging and talk about the different ways things are done other parts of the world. The venue and band for the evening were also great fun.

From the talks at the conference itself I feel I learnt a great deal. It was an excellent reminder on how there are different ways of achieving the same goals in looking after women's health. I enjoyed the refresher I had on the UK's breast screening program (having experienced this first hand working in Breast Screen Scotland for a year some time ago) and learning about the greater opportunities that are in place in the UK for career advancement that are not possible as things stand in Australia.

Some of the talks that stood out the most to me were:

- Breast Density – I was reminded how important this is in being able to identify breast cancers. The talks and vendors speaking about new and improved ways of measuring breast density and how to better understand this risk were very interesting as well.
- Association of Breast Clinicians and the Consultant Radiographer– these are not roles we have in Australia, it was lovely to hear how wide ranging these roles are and how there are many more people involved in the breast screening path ways in the UK.

- Word of mouth mammography e-network (women) hub – It was very interesting to see the new ways we are able to engage women with their health.
- Breast cancer screening: risks if you do risks if you don't – a great overview of the current benefits and pitfalls that any breast screen program has to deal with.
- Preoperative role of contrast enhanced mammography (CESEM) in breast cancer – it was very exciting to see another option to find and localise lesions within the breast.

I found the whole program informative and would recommend this conference to anyone that works within the breast imaging or women's health fields.

I have already given my talk on the symposium at our quarterly education meeting. I covered my highlights from the symposium and the benefits I gained by attending this great event. This meeting (which is attended by mammographers from all around Victoria) was well attended and the mammographers were very interested in my feedback on the conference. A few expressed an interest in attending the symposium in the future. I have also had discussions within our department with Radiologists and Nurse's that work within the breast screen program about some of the topics covered by the symposium.

I found it very encouraging that my first week back at work I was able to have a discussion with a breast screen client about the benefits and pitfalls of the breast screening program. It was a lovely feeling to be able to speak on the subject knowing I had the most accurate and up to date information at my disposal.

I am very grateful that I was awarded a bursary to attend the Symposium Mammographicum. I believe it has greatly increased my knowledge in this field and has reinvigorated my passion for mammography and the breast screen program.

I would like to Mr Andrew Tillbrook for his help and encouragement with the application process.

This has been a great experience and I hope to attend the symposium again at some stage in the future.

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