

Symposium Mammographicum - 8-10 July 2018 - ACC Liverpool

Cheryl Cruwys, Breast Density Matters UK - Bursary Awardee

Upon arriving at the ACC venue, a member of the conference team offered to help, accompanying me to the exhibition hall, to the exact location for my poster presentation and assisted to mount my poster on the display.

The Welcome Reception on the first evening provided the ideal opportunity to meet/network and visit stands to schedule further discussions over the course of the event, prior to the start of the conference.

Choir

Congratulations to the Tenovus choir. A wonderful added extra to the conference, which throughout entertained delegates and certainly brought a smile to my face. I wish I could have spared more time to stand and listen.

Tour of Liverpool

My first visit to Liverpool, so I was delighted to have the opportunity to attend a tour of the town. The tour guide was pleasant and relayed the history of Liverpool perfectly.

Symposium

Introduction: I think I speak for the audience when I say that Dr Andy Cope, Being Brilliant, was a resounding hit at 9am on a Monday morning at the SympMamm conference. A totally unexpected energising presentation; amusing yet sympathetic with the audience's challenges working in the breast cancer world. An inspirational talk - one that made an impact and, myself included, question the search for 'happiness' and living life in the moment.

The line up of speakers at Symposium Mammographicum was excellent. A great deal of discussion about risk stratification and breast density (my focus) generated interest and debate. On a personal note, I was delighted that Breast Density Matters UK's work was highlighted in Kate Gower-Thomas' talk on the second day and I had the opportunity to contribute to the expert panel via the auditorium microphone.

Interest of Topics

As a non-medical delegate, I found the sessions to be educational, informative and at a scientific level suitable to all.

Venue

The conference venue, the ACC located in the Albert Dock, was conveniently placed. A short, pleasant walk from the Days Inn hotel in James Street. The conference centre was spacious, and ideal for such an event.

Organisation/ Staff

I was pleasantly surprised when I was approached by Zebby Rees and Sue Williams who had been assigned to 'look after' myself and other patient awardees. A very thoughtful and considerate initiative.

Profile Productions staff - as previously mentioned, were incredibly helpful and keen to assist when I had any questions.

Catering

As a vegetarian, I found the food at the conference creative and enjoyable.

Gala Dinner

This was my first experience of a Gala dinner at a breast cancer conference. A thoroughly enjoyable evening; a relaxed, amicable atmosphere, a super band supplying the entertainment - a real treat, with a theme; fun to have the chance to be able to dress up.

Exhibition and Posters

I was pleased to have the opportunity to network with all of the imaging organisations; Hologic, GE and Volpara are educational supporters of the DenseBreast-info.org coalition where I work as European Education Coordinator, along with Dr Nick Perry, UK Ambassador. I also met with Siemens and Fujifilm to make them aware of the USA/European initiative.

Networking

The dual purpose of attending the Symp Mamm conference was to take the opportunity to meet and, via my poster presentation, discuss breast density with speakers and delegates. I was delighted to meet Dr. Sarah Vinnicombe, Dr Kate Gower-Thomas, Prof. Thomas Helbich, Prof Fiona Gilbert, Prof. Andy Evans, Dr Anthony Maxwell, Miss Jenny Rusby, Dr Nisha Sharma, Mrs Claire Borrelli and Dr. Liz O'Flynn and Dr Michael Michell.

Thank you

The Symp Mamm conference proved to be an incredibly busy few days in Liverpool. From my viewpoint, my trip from France was totally worthwhile. As a voluntary organisation, I was absolutely delighted to have been able to attend. It goes without saying, I am enormously grateful to all of the Symp Mamm team and all involved for making this possible and for making me feel so very welcome. I would like to extend my sincere thanks.

Very best wishes, Cheryl