

Symposium Mammographicum



19th Symposium Mammographicum **ACC Liverpool, July 2018**

Report by:

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In 2016, before starting my new adventure in the Middle East, I attended the 18th Symposium Mammographicum and said to myself “What a great opportunity to learn about new topics and techniques, to know different people from all over the Breast Units in the UK and to share different experiences. I will definitely come back for the next one.”

With that in mind but because of lack of funding to attend I came across the Bursary Scheme offered by the Trustees and was able to attend this year’s Symposium.

So, before I start my report, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Organising Committee and the Trustees of the Symposium Mammographicum for allowing me to attend the amazing conference that took place in Liverpool in July this year.

This year’s program was once again very well organised and brought to my attention the focus on patient experience.

On the first day of the conference I’ve attended the Hologic Sponsor’s Symposium, with great information about Tomosynthesis and the Prospects Trial.

The second day had a great start with Dr. Andy Cope incredible talk. Our job is not always easy, but I truly love it and I just don’t see myself doing anything else. I will continue to focus on how to keep happy at work, to keep my team happy and to make sure my ladies have an amazing experience when they come for their appointments.

The AI sessions were very interesting and showed us that it could help.

The human machine algorithm will probably help the already limited number of film readers but in my opinion, we can’t leave the decision with AI. To me this will work as long as the film readers have the final word. Both options presented by Dr. Hugh Harvey could eventually work and would help.

The VAS technology presented by Dr. Martin Fergie could mean that in the future, we might be able to offer personalised screening and predict the risk of Breast Cancer, with dense breasts being one of the major risks.

With a lot of sessions to choose, I’ve decided to attend parallel section 2A – Managing Harm.

Having followed Prof. Andy Evans work for the last few years, his presentation was for sure one not to miss. The false positives caused by the recall rates result in physical and psychologic harm and the number of benign biopsies should be reduced with the introduction of Shear Wave Ultrasound. Changing the recall rates is not an easy task and the use of technology in the future aims to maximise detection of small invasive cancers.

Working in a place where Breast Screening starts at 40, the age extension trial update was very interesting to hear. The overdiagnosis of Breast Cancer is something to keep in mind.

The guidelines of B3 lesions was a very good presentation and it's good to know that these guidelines will be followed by every center in the UK. VAB is not wide available in the UAE but is maybe something good to bring to the attention to the Department of Health and their Breast Screening Program.

Parallel session 3B was a great reminder of PGMI and high-quality mammographic images. Dr. Claire Mercer presentation will help me in my current unit, when new female Radiographers join the team and/or a refreshing session is needed. Training Radiographers with less experience in Mammography is not easy but with the correct guidance in positioning and compression we will be able to produce the best images possible keeping the ladies comfortable.

Ms. Dawn presentation about her experience in Ghana was an eye opening. Although my experience both in the UK and the UAE allows me to work and meet people from different countries and backgrounds, we have all the services and technology available. It's incredible how a simple breast examination can be so difficult when resources are not there. Patient education and Breast Cancer awareness is also very important

The Law session will make me continue to ask for ladies' consent. Specially in this country where everything can be turned into a court case. It's good to know what to do to keep our practice and ourselves safe and on the right side of the law.

The conference dinner was a great opportunity to meet the other awarded guests and to exchange experiences, it was great fun.

The last day started with Ms. Liz own experience and what it is on the other side. Her feedback will make me a better caring professional and will guide me to provide the best patient experience possible.

Proffered papers 6A brought the fast MRI study that has been done by my previous colleagues in Bristol and it's good to see that Mammography film readers might be able to help MRI readers, in the future.

It's good to know that the Breast Screening Program is still effective in preventing death from Breast Cancer and that also has a protective effect that last longer in older women.

Interesting session about localisation of lesions by the Association of Breast Surgeons and which way is more effective and safer for the patients.

Finally, session 8A with personalised screening, risk predictors and the use of different techniques to improve detection of Breast Cancer is certainly the way forward and offering different kinds of imaging tests will make a difference. It's not going to be an easy task, but it would benefit more people.

The information I was able to collect from this year's Symposium will allow me and my team to continue the great effort of providing the best care possible to every single lady that comes across us. The Breast Screening Program of Abu Dhabi Department of Health is completely different from what I have experienced before. It starts earlier and happens every two years.

In order to keep ourselves up to date in terms of technology and what is happening in the Mammographic world, the Symposium Mammographicum is, without a doubt, one of the best education forums to attend.

Once again, my sincere gratitude to everybody that made the 19th Symposium Mammographicum possible. I will definitely come back in two years.