

As a urology trainee who has recently embarked on a research fellowship, attending the Molecular and Cellular Biology of Cancer Course 2007, at the University of Birmingham, was a fascinating introduction to translational research. Having had only a brief prior experience of research, this course provided the fundamentals of molecular and cellular biology of cancer along with insight into rapidly advancing translational research from all around the UK.

The course was spread over 5 days and transitioned smoothly from molecular basis to clinical application of research. Most days included a clinical pathological conference which made the research contents more clinically relevant and allowed audience participation and engaged topical discussions.

CONTENTS

The course layout was as follows:

Day1	Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer Invasion and Metastasis
Day 2	Cell Cycle, DNA Damage, Cellular Survival and Cancer
Day 3	Viruses and Cancer
Day 4	Stem Cells and Cancer
Day 5	Molecular End Points – Application of Molecular Biology to Clinical trials

The William Withering lecture, clinico-pathological conferences, mini symposiums and short seminars.

FACILITIES

The MCBC course was held at the Post Graduate Development Centre, University of Birmingham, Medical School. Lectures were given by internationally renowned scientists and clinicians, all experts in their relevant field. Seminars were held in the main lecture theatre with ample seating for candidates with excellent audio-visual facilities. Each candidate was provided with a course folder containing relevant handouts for the individual lectures. There were also ample opportunities to put forward any questions to individual lecturers formally and informally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This course has allowed me to better understand the fundamentals underpinning molecular and cellular research along with the current strategies being employed nationwide in the fight against cancer.

I would like to thank Prostate Matters International for giving me the opportunity to attend an extremely useful and interesting course. I would strongly recommend anyone embarking on or interested in molecular/cellular cancer research to attend this course.

Vishal R. Bhardwaj
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