

A report on attending the BTS congress

It was an honour for me to attend the BTS congress, which was held in Birmingham from April 17-19th, 2023.

Prof Brian Lake, President of the BTS, inaugurated the conference and welcomed all attendees to join the discussions over the next three days of what proved to be a very engaging conference. The plenary lecture was delivered by Dr. Todd Gouin on the toxicological aspects of nano- and micro-plastic particles, a very current and enlightening topic and an excellent opening to the congress itself. Over the next three days there were a wide range of symposia delivered covering a broad array of topics and areas of interest to the toxicological community, all of which were very engaging and thought provoking. The rest breaks were excellent opportunities for interaction with researchers and colleagues and for participants to visit posters. I was very grateful to receive feedback on my poster by academic researcher and experts during this conference. In relation to these breaks, I would like to offer my thanks to the organisers for their consideration of my situation as I fasted during our religious month of Ramadan, it was greatly appreciated.

The symposia which I found most interesting and pertinent to my own PhD research studies was symposia 3, the clinical toxicology workshop, which was hosted by the BTS Clinical & Human Toxicology Speciality Section and the British Pharmacology Society. In this symposia, Dr Laurence Gray presented an interesting introduction to the field of clinical toxicology, and Dr Mark Miller delivered a lecture entitled "Environmental pollution and cardiovascular disease: why is it all up in the air?" on environmental pollution and cardiovascular illness. In particular I found Dr Miller's research intriguing, showing that diesel exhaust particles have several negative impacts on the heart via various pathways such as inflammation and oxidative stress, with a necessity for strategies to mitigate these harmful effects. This topic I found very supportive of my own research which is focused on understanding the mechanisms responsible for the delayed presentation of drug-induced cardiotoxicity and pharmaceutical strategies to mitigate these clinical effects.

Additionally, the Frank Sullivan Award and Early-Career Prize Lecture delivered by Dr Emirali on the topic of 'characterisation of morphological and molecular changes in macrophages following exposure to brake wear particles' was also very interesting. Her research has produced interesting data that highlighted iron homeostasis and antioxidant activity as adaptive mechanisms to brake wear exposure in macrophages. It was exciting to see these mechanisms discussed, as these are also relevant to my research focused on the cardiotoxicity of anthracyclines

Award of a BTS travel bursary allowed me to be a part of the excellent community at BTS Annual Congress 2023, which is highly beneficial to my research career. I was able to interact with various academics and industrial partners who work on a similar field to my research and gained useful insights which will shape my research in the future. I am grateful to the British Toxicology Society for providing me with this opportunity and to my supervisor, Dr Jason Gill for his generous support and guidance with my studies to date.