

Brief: short review (a couple of paragraphs with your thoughts and experiences) from EHA for the UKMS website and newsletter.

At the beginning of June, I attended the European Haematology Association Congress in Stockholm Sweden, one of the largest haematology conferences in Europe. This was made possible due to the generosity of the UKMS travel bursary. Attendance included the opportunity to participate and present my own PhD work on epigenetic regulation in multiple myeloma (MM). I did this in the form of a poster, utilising my most up to date results, presenting to an international audience. This facilitated networking with other academics and industry partners, discussing my findings; suggesting a potential new therapeutic target for IMiD-resistant MM patients. Attending EHA via this funding enabled me to experience these conversations, allowing great early-career development.

Across the conference, I had the opportunity to attend many talks including updates in MM clinical trials and cutting-edge epigenetic research in multiple haematological malignancies, especially AML and ALL. The latter was particularly useful as it allowed me to assess the benefits of alternative ways to approach similar datasets that I can now apply to my own work. Attending these sessions outside my immediate research also helped me to gain a broader understanding of not only the current challenges in MM but also similar research in other haematological malignancies. One particular highlight was Saad Z Usmani's talk on how the progression-free survival has increased in high-risk MM from the addition of adding DARA in combination with VRd, as part of the Cepheus Trial.