

Report from the International Myeloma Society Annual Meeting 2026 (Glasgow, Scotland)

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I would like to thank the UK Myeloma Society for awarding me a travel bursary and providing me with the opportunity to attend my first International Myeloma Society (IMS) Annual Meeting. It was a fantastic opportunity to present work that I have been involved in as part of my research technician role on the UKMRA RADAR trial within the Multiple Myeloma Laboratory at the UCL Cancer Institute, headed by Professor Kwee Yong.

I was fortunate to be selected to present a poster entitled *'Marrow immune features are most informative of sustained MRD negative responses in newly diagnosed standard risk TE patients: findings from the UKMRA RADAR study'*. This poster brought together and showcased much of the work I have contributed to over the past five years on the RADAR trial. I believe this work is particularly important as it helps to characterise the role of the immune microenvironment in maintaining a sustained MRD-negative response.

The work presented was highly collaborative and brought together multiple disciplines, including immune profiling, computational modelling, machine learning approaches and clinical data, including baseline cytogenetic information. This study builds upon and expands on previous work presented by Dipal Mehta at the 2024 IMS Annual Meeting in Brazil. The poster was very well received and generated some interesting discussions. It also provided a valuable opportunity to meet collaborators whom I had worked with for several years but had previously only met virtually via Teams.

Having worked on the RADAR trial since its opening in 2021, it was particularly rewarding to see the outcomes of several years of hard work presented at an international conference. It was also a valuable experience to discuss the research with experts in the field and gain new perspectives on the findings.

This poster was one of several pieces of work from the UKMRA RADAR trial presented at the meeting, highlighting the breadth of research being undertaken as part of this collaborative study. With IMS being held in Glasgow this year, it provided a unique opportunity for many members of our laboratory and the wider RADAR team to attend the meeting together. This was particularly special as despite working closely on the trial and its associated projects, many members of the team had not previously had the opportunity to meet or discuss our work in person. Being able to attend the conference together allowed us to share and discuss the different aspects of the RADAR programme, support each other's presentations and posters, and appreciate how the individual projects contribute to the wider aims of the study. It was a valuable reminder of the collaborative effort behind the trial and the breadth of expertise that has contributed to its success.

There were many highly interesting and informative sessions throughout the meeting. One of my personal highlights was the oral abstract presented by Dr David Avigan, entitled '*Single-Cell Antigen: TCR Mapping Reveals Tumour-Specific Effector T-Cell Responses in Multiple Myeloma*'. This work demonstrated that deep clinical response following HCT was associated with expansion of effector T-cell clonotypes, and that integrating TCR analysis with antigen discovery enabled the identification of tumour-reactive clonotypes and their functional states. I found this particularly interesting as it closely aligns with our work on the RADAR trial and the wider research interests of our laboratory, particularly in understanding the relationship between the immune microenvironment and clinical response.

Overall, attending the IMS Annual Meeting was an incredibly valuable experience. It allowed me to learn from leading researchers in the field, gain a broader understanding of current developments in multiple myeloma research, and meet many of the people whose work contributes to advancing our understanding and treatment of the disease. As a research technician and part-time PhD student, attending my first major international conference was a particularly meaningful milestone in my research career.

I am extremely grateful to the UK Myeloma Society for supporting my attendance through the travel bursary and for giving me the opportunity to present our work, represent our research group, and engage with the wider myeloma research community.