

October 27, 2008

Dear Members of the ICPI Board,

Thank you so much for selecting me for the ICPI Trainee Travel Award. I used the funding to attend the ASCP Annual Meeting October 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland. At the Meeting, I attended a variety of educational sessions from interpreting abnormal peripheral blood smears to new concepts in gastrointestinal biopsies to basics of laboratory management. I had the opportunity to meet residents and practicing pathologists from around the U.S. I had lunch one day with a small town private practice pathologist who told me about how the profession enabled her to work part-time while being single mother; while the next day, I talked to an academic GI pathologist about the challenges of research. It was encouraging meeting senior residents who were finding fellowship positions and learning about what they did to prepare for that challenge. I shared a room with two other residents from my program so we were able to afford staying onsite for easy access to the sessions. We also enjoyed the local fare—crab cakes and garlic boiled crab—at an eatery on the pier. It was an all-around great trip. After finding that the position was open, I am now applying for the ASCP Resident Liaison position for my residency program. I look forward to being active in ASCP and getting others involved my residency training and beyond. I have already had dialogues with both residents and attendings at my institution about the new things I learned. Thank you again for helping make this trip possible.

With sincere appreciation,

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