My name is Hanna Havriushenko, and I am a clinical geneticist working in Rivne, Ukraine.

In October 2026, I had the privilege of participating in the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) International Observership Programme for Young Geneticists. Through this programme, I completed a four-week placement at the Manchester Rare Conditions Centre in Manchester, UK, under the supervision of Professor Siddharth Banka.

As a clinical geneticist working across a broad range of conditions and subspecialties, rather than focusing on one particular area of genetics, I found this observership very enlighthening. It offered me an opportunity to gain insight into clinical genetics services within the NHS, observe multidisciplinary collaboration and learn from experienced professionals. I particularly valued discussing clinical cases, exchanging perspectives and seeing how clinical expertise, genomic technologies and multidisciplinary approaches come together in everyday practice.

I observed a wide range of clinics led by consultant clinical geneticists and genetic counsellors, covering dysmorphology, neurodevelopmental conditions, neurogenetics, NF1 and NF2, genetic dermatology, cancer genetics and metabolic conditions.

I also participated in departmental meetings, MDTs and seminars. Especially valuable were discussions with members of the Network of Excellence about their work introducing methylation analysis and RNA sequencing into diagnostic pathways.

Another highlight was attending the ESHG Dysmorphology and Syndromology Course on 14–16 October, which further enriched my learning experience.

Beyond the educational opportunities, what made this visitorship truly special was the welcoming and supportive atmosphere. I am sincerely grateful to Professor Banka, all the consultants, genetic counsellors and other team members who generously shared their knowledge, included me in their daily work and made me feel so welcome.

I am returning to Ukraine with new knowledge, fresh perspectives, valuable professional connections and renewed motivation to continue developing clinical genetics practice in my home country.

I would wholeheartedly recommend participating in the ESHG Observership Programme to young clinical geneticists wishing to broaden their experience and learn from an outstanding team.