

BDIAP Lower GI Symposium 2023 report

Name: Nesa Samuel Karunadhas

Post: Stand-alone Senior House Officer

Institute/ Organisation: University Hospital Waterford, Republic of Ireland

I wish to thank the BDIAP for granting me the bursary to participate in the BDIAP Lower GI symposium held at 10 Union Street, London, on November 10 and 11. This experience has significantly contributed to my ongoing professional development. It provided a platform to engage with esteemed experts in the field, gaining insights into the latest advancements in Lower GI pathology. The opportunity to attend such onsite conferences is invaluable for trainees, enabling me to broaden my understanding of emerging methodologies in diagnosing and reporting lower GI-related ailments. Obtaining this bursary holds substantial value in enhancing my CV as I prepare to pursue training positions in Histopathology.

The conference significantly contributed to my readiness for the FRCPath Part 1 examination and facilitated a profound expansion of my knowledge base. Each speaker at the conference demonstrated exceptional expertise, surpassing my expectations. Specifically, I found the updates on Bowel Cancer Screening and the advancements in Artificial Intelligence utilised by endoscopists to distinguish between various types of polyps to be highly informative. Prof Nagtegaal's presentation on the Controversies in Colorectal Cancer (CRC) was particularly noteworthy. In the most recent TNM8 classification, there has been a modification in the definition of anal cancer. According to this update, tumours located in the perianal skin, specifically within 5 centimetres of the anal margin, are now categorized as anal canal carcinoma.

The discussion on Appendiceal Mucinous Neoplasms served as a crucial reminder to maintain vigilance regarding these occurrences. Furthermore, the insights shared regarding updates in neuroendocrine neoplasms in the lower GI tract, compared to previous WHO guidelines and the utilisation of diverse immunohistochemical markers to refine differentials, proved immensely beneficial. Accessing knowledge from world-renowned experts on a diverse array of recent developments significantly enriched my comprehension of pathology.

All participants were provided with cases with digital slides in advance, and the submitted responses were subsequently discussed during the event. The case presentations offered an exceptional learning platform for both junior and senior trainees, featuring a plethora of intriguing and uncommon cases.

The conference provided an exceptional opportunity for networking among numerous GI pathologists and trainees. This interaction facilitated a deeper understanding of histopathology training in the UK while offering valuable insights into global pathology practices.

The symposium was a resounding success, and I found the entire experience immensely fulfilling. I have enthusiastically recommended the BDIAP to my colleagues, urging them to apply for bursaries. To those reading this, I strongly encourage you to sign up; the experience is truly worthwhile.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the BDIAP for their exceedingly generous travel bursary. Without their support, attending this conference would have been unfeasible. This opportunity has significantly contributed to my career progression in the field of histopathology.



Figure 1 View of London



Figure 2 London Skyline



Figure 4 RCOG Building

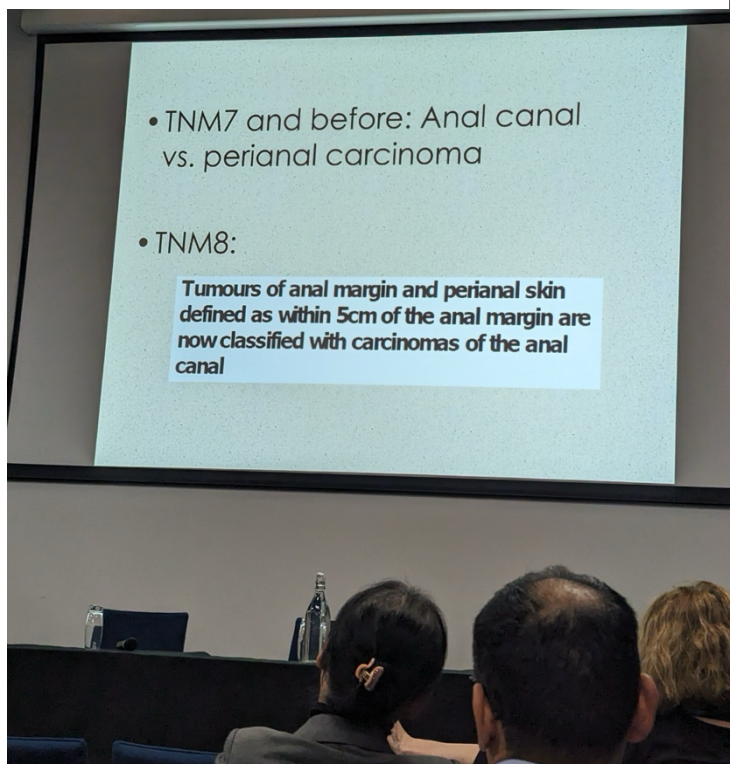


Figure 3 TNM 8 Updates