

BDIAP Symposium on Lower GI Pathology, 2023

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I was interested in attending this symposium on lower GI pathology because the symposium covered 'hot topics' covered by leaders in the GI pathology field. I am preparing for the FRCPath part 2 in spring 2024 and learning about the most up to date classifications, often presented by authors of the RCPATH datasets was an invaluable and memorable experience.

I was very pleased that the symposium met my expectations over the two days. The speakers covered their topics of interest with very good precision and detail through excellent presentations and case discussions. I personally found the cases very interesting, unique, and thought provoking – I was very impressed with the selection!

I feel more confident now in my understanding of several Lower GI topics, especially with regards to: endoscopists use of Kudo crypt descriptions, mucinous neoplasms of the appendix, neuroendocrine neoplasms of the GI tract, and anal neoplasia.

I did not know previously that the bowel cancer screening program was considering a 'resect and discard' approach to clinically benign polyps. This raised interesting questions with regards to audit and future public health implications for me.

The 'Drug induced colitis' presentation was very useful to me as a trainee for clarifying the ideas and helping me to structure a pattern-based approach to these biopsies. This had always been a challenging area for me previously.

Dr Newton Wong's presentation on anal neoplasia was very educational and covered entities I had not encountered before, such as primary perianal adenocarcinoma, and anal gland adenocarcinoma.

Prof Norman Carr's case of LAMN colonizing endometriosis was a particular highlight of the symposium for me, as I had not considered the possibility of this lesion before.

Previously I had not known about all the different morphologies possible in IBD-related dysplasia. Going forward, I will definitely be more alert to the different possible presentations of IBD related dysplasia and incorporate this into my practice.

It was very useful to compare the features and IHC characteristics of perianal BCC vs basaloid SCC vs small cell NEC in the perianal site, and I will apply this to my future practice.

Overall, I would definitely recommend this symposium to my colleagues. I feel up to date in a number of lower GI topics now and feel I have absorbed some of the enthusiasm and knowledge of the excellent speakers.

In the past I have also previously attended the BDIAP Cut-up day/molecular day, and also highly recommend these to my colleagues for their high educational value. I thank the committee and the BDIAP membership for their generous support through this bursary as I would not have been able to attend this event otherwise.