

Name: Stefan Rusu

Training year: fourth year

*Why did you want to attend this symposium?*

I wanted to participate to the symposium because one of my main interests is gastrointestinal pathology. As a fourth-year trainee, I had the opportunity to see almost all fields of Pathology, but GI pathology remains one of my favorites. Moreover, during the past years I have participated to several events/ courses/ symposium organized by BDIAP for trainees and consultants and they always fulfilled my expectations.

*Did the symposium meet your expectations?*

The chosen subjects of the symposium were clearly communicated, in line with the day-to-day practice and provided useful information, as well as underlying major pitfalls of each pathology.

All the speakers were highly prepared, and the presentations were very clear, straight to the point. I discovered new entities and for sure it broadened my horizons. As always, the organization was flawless.

*Do you feel more confident in your knowledge/ understanding of upper GI pathology following attendance at the symposium?*

There are several concepts that are clearer after the symposium. I am not sure I gained more confidence, but I can certainly affirm that I got more awareness towards the daily practice. After attending the symposium I feel that I can ask myself the correct questions before signing a report.

However, as a trainee pathologist, I don't have yet enough experience, and there is a lot to study. But participating at this kind of meetings provides you the right motivation to continue studying and to get better every day.

*Highlight aspects of upper GI pathology that you have learnt from the symposium which you were not aware of prior to the day.*

First of all, I appreciated that the presentations were, somehow, centered on the difficulties a pathologist has to face each day when analyzing the slides. I have learnt that even for cases which seem to be clear-cut, it may be pitfalls and that the clinical history is highly important. The case presentation session on Saturday was a gold mine, because I saw some cases that maybe I will never see and also because some apparently "clear-cut cases" were mimickers. For instance, I have never seen such a CMV positive gastritis in my practice up-to-date.

Concerning the lectures, all of them were interesting, but I appreciated the most the one on esophagitis, gastritis and gastric polyps maybe because we have this type of specimens and difficulties each day.

*Are there any aspects of what you have learnt during symposium that you would consider incorporating into your own practice?*

All the provided information should be included in the current practice. However, I will look more attentively on pathogens because they can mimic malignant pathology. Moreover, the slides will be an useful help in my practice.

What I have also learnt is that you don't have to go too fast on diagnoses and also that you can refer your difficult cases to experts which will be more than helpful to help you, underlying the spirit of community of the Pathology field.

*Finally, would you recommend the symposium to your colleagues?*

I would recommend it, especially to my trainee colleagues and young consultants. We are still in a learning phase, so each symposium/course will