

# BDIAP Upper GI Symposium 2022 Report

**Name:** Dilek Taze (she/her)

**Training year:** ST3

I'd like to start by expressing my gratitude to the BDIAP for awarding me a bursary to attend the UGI symposium in London. Since the pandemic began, most of the educational opportunities have moved onto a digital format, and whilst this is very welcome; there is no denying the many benefits of being in a conference room with so many like-minded individuals.

I was keen to attend this symposium for a number of reasons, the most pressing being my desire to listen to and learn from world leading experts in their respective fields. I am currently in the process of preparing for the FRCPath Part 2 examination and this symposium has helped me acquire depth of knowledge in common yet relatively challenging entities. A good example of this would be Dr Marnix Jansen's talk on the common pitfalls in the assessment of dysplasia in Barrett's oesophagus. I was very impressed with the 3D reconstructive modelling of Barrett's oesophagus, and how this can help pathologists visualise and subsequently understand how the dysplastic process evolves through the biopsy.

It is impossible for me to single out a speaker for being exceptional as they all surpassed my expectations. I was very impressed with each speaker's ability to explain concepts in an easy to understand manner, and justify the reasoning behind their diagnosis for complicated cases. Dr Chella van der Post provided a very clear approach to examination of gastritis which has helped me feel more confident in my approach to these specimens. Professor Marco Novelli's talk on the differentials for cellular infiltration in gastric biopsies was incredibly informative and I don't think I will ever forget metastatic lobular breast carcinoma as being on that list! Another highlight from the UGI symposium was the slide seminar. I was able to review the cases beforehand and submit my answers prior to the symposium. I found this exercise very useful for my learning (although slightly gutted that I only noticed 2 out of the 8 pathologies on Professor Neil Shepherd's slide!)

It was an incredibly refreshing experience to be able to attend this symposium and network with pathologists at all stages of training. I especially enjoyed speaking to trainee pathologists from the Netherlands and hear their experiences of what training in pathology is like, and what the future looks like for our speciality.

I would like to thank the BDIAP once again for organising this fantastic event especially after 2 years of covid related disruptions. It was a real success and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I have already started to recommend this symposium to my colleagues, and for those who are reading this and hesitant to sign up – do it, you will not regret it!