

IBD Interest Group Meeting – Crystal Towers, Cape Town

A now established highlight on the academic calendar, the IBD¹ interest group, hosted by the Gastro Foundation and kindly funded by Cipla, Janssen, Medtronic and Takeda took place in Cape Town during the month of September. A diverse array of speakers succinctly brought together important aspects of both the medical and surgical management of complex IBD patients, dealing with problems that we as gastroenterologists lead our patients through daily.

From strategies aimed at improving our patient's access to life changing biological therapy, to answering difficult questions about 'dysfunctioning' and problem pouches, the diversity of the topics meant that everyone in the audience got their academic fix. Local experts, namely Dr. Epstein, Dr. Watermeyer and Dr. Boutall enjoyed the company of our international guest, Prof. Tim Rockall who together offered an excellent platform from which these key issues could be discussed. The presentation of two locally managed IBD patients further enhanced the academic interest where fellows in Gastroenterology delved into the complexities of cutaneous manifestations of Crohn's disease and the phenotype of primary sclerosing cholangitis - ulcerative colitis.

A newfound partnership between the Foundation and UEGW² meant that for the first time our audience could now partake in world expert lead video presentations. Expectations leading into this were far exceeded by Dr. Severine Vermiere's presentation where the best new treatment options for acute colitis beyond anti-TNFs³ was elegantly unpacked.

All in all it was another successful IBD interest group meeting once again demonstrating that together we as specialists can meet, discuss and learn from each other to ensure that we provide the best possible care for the patients we serve.

1. IBD: Inflammatory Bowel Disease
2. UEGW: United European Gastroenterology Week
3. Anti-TNF: Anti- Tumor Necrosis Factor