



Project: Small-bowel Capsule Endoscopy in the Young Anaemic Patient

'I am very honoured by this award as it will help me further my research in a field which is interesting to me because it is relatively young and still growing; therefore there are many opportunities for further developments and many areas to explore. This is exciting as I hope, through my research, to help improve care not only for individual patients but to provide information which will benefit the management of groups of patients as a whole.'

Dr Yung is currently a Foundation Year 1 doctor working in General Medicine at Victoria Hospital Kirkcaldy, Fife.

'Gastrointestinal (GI) blood loss is an important cause of iron deficiency anaemia (IDA), which is a relatively common condition,' says Dr Yung. 'Sinister causes of GI blood loss include malignancy, coeliac disease and inflammatory bowel disease, and small-bowel capsule endoscopy (SBCE) is invaluable to visualise the small-bowel to diagnose or exclude these conditions.'

'Younger patients with anaemia appear more likely to have serious medical problems but there remains a lack of data in this area. This study aims to investigate the rate of diagnosis of SBCE in young patients and whether SBCE affects outcomes. We also hope to investigate any correlation between the diagnoses reached and other patient data such as various biochemistry tests, aspects of patient history and/or presentation.'

'This study will look at data on SBCE cases over the past three years at high volume centres across Europe. We hope the information collected will help identify patients who should be considered earlier for SBCE. We also hope to develop a score to predict the probability of serious medical problems in young anaemic patients so as to help advise on the priority of performing SBCE.'

'This project is important to me personally as it builds on an area I have been working on since an undergraduate. I was drawn to clinical research because I hope that the results from my work can benefit whole cohorts of patients instead of just the individuals I treat. Specific to this project, it is still difficult to track down the cause of anaemia although it is such a common and widespread condition, and the associations are many and varied; this scope for both breadth and depth is what I find fascinating about gastrointestinal conditions.'

Dr Yung's supervisor Dr A Koulaouzides states:

'Diana is very efficient and aspires to follow an academic career. Since her medical school years she has been involved with and published on capsule endoscopy. I would be happy to have her as a clinical and research colleague in my lab and her input with this project is essential.'