

BSG Undergraduate Elective by Kwan Ching (Mars) Lee

Kwan Ching (Mars) Lee got insight into Japan's cutting-edge technology in gastroenterology at Juntendo University.

I have rotated four weeks in Juntendo university in three departments – general medicine, coloproctological surgery and gastroenterology. General medicine allows me to have an insight look through common presenting diseases e.g. abdominal pain, GORD; but also allow me to further understand Japanese healthcare system.

In comparison to UK medicine, Japanese medicine has an emphasis using different investigative modalities to reach a diagnosis. The use of MRI and CT scan is widely common, which although may not be the most cost-effective way, aids in reaching a more definitive diagnosis.



Juntendo university incorporates high-tech robotics especially in Da-Vinci surgery, which is eye-opening for me as I have not witnessed this in my placement before. Finally, I have spent two weeks in gastroenterology, which is the most rewarding department I have found. I have witnessed the use of faecal biome transplantation, which is currently used as a clinical trial in Juntendo university.

My four weeks elective in gastroenterology at Juntendo university has allowed me to appreciate Japan's cutting-edge technology and the epidemiological difference in diseases. Firstly, a screening programme was developed due to high incidence of oesophageal cancer in Japan.



Furthermore, Juntendo university has developed an AI system to determine the malignant potential of polyps during OGD. During my shadowing in Juntendo, I have observed the use of an AI model during OGD, where close-up pictures of polyps are taken and analysed through an AI detector, to determine whether a polyp should be extracted due to its malignancy potential.

Overall, this placement has been an eye-opening experience to understand the difference of gastroenterology in Japan and the UK. All in all, this experience undoubtedly prepare myself for the next steps of my career, and further consolidate my interest towards gastroenterology.

Kwan Ching (Mars) Lee