

2026 Banff Pathology Course Program with Objectives

Overall Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, participants will be equipped to:

- Apply contemporary diagnostic criteria and classification systems to neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases of the gastrointestinal tract.
- Recognize morphologic patterns and key diagnostic pitfalls in upper and lower GI pathology.
- Integrate immunohistochemical and molecular findings into the diagnosis and classification of gastrointestinal neoplasia.
- Distinguish benign, premalignant, and malignant GI lesions with direct implications for patient management and surveillance.
- Correlate histopathologic findings with clinical and endoscopic context to support multidisciplinary care.
- Apply standardized terminology and reporting approaches for gastrointestinal tumors and precursor conditions.
- Incorporate expert perspectives and case-based insights into routine diagnostic practice.

Thursday, September 10, 2026	
0630-0800	Registration
0700-0800	Full Breakfast
0800-0815	Introductory Remarks & Welcome
0815-0915	Session 1: Dr. Gregory Lauwers Dysplasia In Barrett's Esophagus: Pathologic Pitfalls and Utility Of p53 Immunohistochemistry By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to:

	• Apply the histologic framework for diagnosing Barrett's esophagus and grading dysplasia, distinguishing indefinite for dysplasia, low-grade dysplasia, and high-grade dysplasia — with emphasis on common pitfalls. • Recognize the potential role of p53 IHC as an adjunct biomarker, recognizing the spectrum of aberrant p53 expression— and its diagnostic and prognostic implications.
0915-1015	Session 2: Drs. Paul Belletrutti and Konstantin Koro State of the Art in Minimally Invasive GI Tissue Resection By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Describe and compare endoscopic techniques for the treatment of luminal GI neoplasia, namely Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR) and Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) techniques • Interpret the importance of key pathologic reporting parameters in treatment algorithms for superficial GI neoplasms • Identify and implement the recommendations for handling endoscopically resected specimens
1015-1030	Break
1030-1130	Session 3: Dr. John Hart Colonic Polyps and Serrated Lesions By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Gain confidence in diagnosing serrated and non-serrated colorectal polyps • Interpret their pathogenesis, clinical/endoscopic features, and current terminology • Learn to apply ancillary tests when appropriate
1130-1230	Session 4: Dr. Becky Phillips Overview of Updates to the GI WHO, 6th Edition By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Summarize the major structural/conceptual changes introduced in the upcoming WHO 6th edition classification of GI tumours.

	Recognize newly introduced or reclassified gastrointestinal tumor entities and their clinical/pathologic significance.
1230-1330	Lunch Break
1330-1430	Session 5: Dr. Gregory Lauwers The Gastric Polyp Parade: Sorting the Innocent From The Insidious – One Bump At A Time! By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: - Classify the major categories of gastric polyps — based on their morphology, endoscopic features, and underlying pathogenetic context. - Evaluate criteria to distinguish benign, incidental polyps from those carrying neoplastic risk, integrating clinicopathologic and syndromic associations - Formulate management recommendations for polyps commonly encountered based on detection of dysplasia and indications for sampling of background mucosa.
1430-1630	Session 6: Resident Case Presentations (4 x 30 min) By the end of this session, participants should be able to: - Recognize the key morphologic features of selected challenging cases in gastrointestinal pathology - Identify common diagnostic pitfalls and relevant differential diagnoses - Distinguish between entities with overlapping morphologic features using clinical and pathologic findings - Select and interpret appropriate ancillary studies to support accurate diagnosis in challenging cases
1730	Wine & Cheese Reception
Friday, September 11, 2026	
0630-0800	Registration
0700-0800	Full Breakfast

0800-0815	Introductory Remarks & Welcome
0815-0915	Session 1: Dr. Gregory Lauwers Upper GI Inflammatory Disease: A Case-Based Review Focusing On Iatrogenic and Non-Infectious Etiologies By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Recognize the histologic signatures of the major infectious, inflammatory, and iatrogenic conditions • Identify the pathologic footprint of iatrogenic injury, recognizing that clinical and pharmacologic history is an indispensable adjunct to morphologic interpretation. • Construct clinically actionable differential diagnoses, applying a pattern-based approach to efficiently narrow the differential diagnosis, identify when ancillary studies or clinical correlation are required, and communicate findings in an informative manner.
0915-1015	Session 2: Dr. Rish Pai Challenges and Updates in Colorectal Cancer, Including Staging and Assessment of Malignant Polyps – Part 1 By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Identify the pitfalls in the biopsy diagnosis of colorectal cancer • Formulate comprehensive reports for malignant polyps • Recognize the persistent challenges in colorectal cancer staging
1015-1030	Break
1030-1130	Session 3: Dr. Rish Pai Challenges and Updates in Colorectal Cancer, Including Staging and Assessment of Malignant Polyps – Part 2 By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Identify the pitfalls in the biopsy diagnosis of colorectal cancer • Formulate comprehensive reports for malignant polyps • Recognize the persistent challenges in colorectal cancer staging
1130-1230	Session 4: Dr. Peter Dromparis Common Cholecystic Conundrums

	By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • To identify the common incidental non-neoplastic findings at cholecystectomy and understand their significance • To review and highlight challenges in characterization of incidental (flat) gallbladder neoplasia and adenocarcinoma • To introduce the WHO 6th edition classification system for mass-forming (tumoral) intracholecystic neoplasms
1230-1400	Lunch Break
1230-1400	ASLP Annual Meeting (Unaccredited activity)
1400-1500	Session 5: Dr. John Hart Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Associated Dysplasia By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Identify the pathologic features of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) • Develop an approach to reporting IBD specimens • Discuss the morphologic spectrum of dysplasia in IBD
1500-1600	Session 6: Various Speakers Interactive Case Presentations and Diagnostic Conundrums By the end of this session, participants will be able to: • Discuss the case clinical presentation and the usual approach for such presentation. • Explore the diagnostics pertinent to the case • Outline the management options and the most recent guidelines and recommendations
Saturday, September 12, 2026	
0630-0800	Registration
0700-0800	Full Breakfast
0800-0815	Introductory Remarks & Welcome

0815-0915	Session 1: Dr. Parham Minoo Triage In The Gut: When To Work Up and When To Refer – A Practical Approach To Hematopathology Challenges In Daily GI Biopsies By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Apply a practical, morphology-based triage approach to lymphoid aggregates in gastrointestinal biopsies, and recognize key diagnostic pitfalls and scenarios that warrant additional investigation or referral to hematopathology. • Select and interpret appropriate immunohistochemical panels for the evaluation of gastrointestinal lymphoid proliferations in a stepwise and resource-conscious manner. • Develop a practical approach to increased mast cells in gastrointestinal biopsies, including indications for quantification, appropriate ancillary testing, appropriate responses to clinical requests, and when to consider systemic mastocytosis.
0915-1015	Session 2: Dr. Rish Pai Appendiceal Neoplasms By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Identify mimics of appendiceal neoplasia • Differentiate between the current terminology and classification of appendiceal neoplasms • Recognize the key features that guide management in disseminated appendiceal neoplasia
1015-1030	Break
1030-1130	Session 3: Dr. John Hart Non-IBD Associated Conditions of Colon By the end of this lecture, participants should be able to: • Classify non-IBD inflammatory conditions of the colon and rectum • Develop a morphologic approach to colitis with review of differentials • Discuss common medication-related forms of colitis
1130-1230	Session 4: Drs. Cheryl Mather and Justin Bateman Molecular Pathology and Biomarkers in Gastrointestinal Pathology

	By the end of this session, participants should be able to: • Confidently apply MMR/MSI testing to everyday pathology practice. • Identify the role of KRAS/NRAS and BRAF testing in colorectal cancer. • Describe the biomarkers currently performed for upper GI tract carcinomas in Alberta. • Interpret which biomarkers require reflex ordering in Alberta and when to order them. • Be aware of new and emerging biomarkers for GI and Pancreaticobiliary carcinomas.
1230	Closing Remarks