



SETTING UP A DERMATOLOGY SOCIETY AT YOUR MEDICAL SCHOOL

Why Dermatology?

Skin problems are very common making up a large proportion of GP consultations and outpatient work as well as having a significant impact on physical and psycho-social well-being. As a medical student, it is important to improve our knowledge of dermatological disease in order to manage these patients effectively.

What are the aims of a Dermatology Society?

Having a Dermatology Society at your medical school can help to:

- Promote awareness of the importance of dermatology in the medical curriculum thereby increasing exposure during training
- Allow those with a keen interest in dermatology to build contacts and learn more about a career in the field
- Raise public awareness of preventable disease such as melanoma

What can the society do?

To help you learn dermatology in an enjoyable way, here are a few examples of what the society can organise:

- Lectures on common topics in dermatology
- Case presentations and Journal Club – you could organise this with the help of a registrar or consultant of a hospital in your region
- Presentations of elective experiences
- Career talks
- Fundraising – such as sponsored walks or runs, or cake sales

How to set up one?

The easiest way to go about this is to set up the society under your medical student union or your medical student society. You can call the society *DermSoc* and can affiliate yourself with the BAD Student Group. Contact your student union or medical student society representative to learn about local procedures for setting up a society. After gaining their support, you can start recruiting a committee and members by advertising around your medical school either by newsletter or by email. If you have many people interested on committee position, you may wish to hold a vote so that people are elected fairly. If you need help, each university will have Dermatology registrar who you can contact to help with any logistical difficulties you may have. The website will be updated with contacts shortly.

For further advice, contact the BAD Student Section at dermsoc@hotmail.co.uk. We will try our best to help you with your queries.

How to keep in touch?

Once the society is set up, email us your committee list and plans for the year. Bi-annual meetings with all representatives will be held to provide an opportunity to network with other societies and to exchange ideas.