

**American Academy of Dermatology Meeting - Washington D.C.  
1-5<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Dr Angela Alani  
ST6 dermatology trainee, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee



The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) is one of the largest organizations of dermatologists in the world. Founded in 1938, the AAD is comprised of over 19,000 dermatologists in the United States, Canada and from various other countries around the world. With this in mind, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the British Association of Dermatologists for granting me the wonderful opportunity of attending such a prestigious conference hosted by leading experts in the field of dermatology.

The experience was very enjoyable and I learnt a great deal over the course of the five day event. Due to my interest in skin cancer, surgery and dermoscopy, my scholarship availed me the opportunity to attend ticketed sessions in “skin cancer, surgery and cosmetics” updates. I also attended focussed sessions on dermoscopy, dermatologic surgery, therapeutic advances and tough medical dermatology cases. I found these forums and discussion groups very informative and full of clinical pearls that will be useful in my daily clinical practice.

The annual meeting was well organised and attendees benefitted from regular email and mobile app updates that provided (i) an express delegate registration process, (ii) meeting news, (iii) exhibit information, and (iv) symposia programme highlights. I found the AAD mobile app to be very helpful in organising my conference schedule, especially when I realised

that a number of the focussed sessions were running concurrently to each other. However, I learnt that there were online handouts and a video library of some of these important sessions available for review which were very helpful. The online session handouts were useful as I used these to recap on important learning points for learning reflections. All the sessions were engaging and practically useful, giving me an insight into a variety of approaches to medical, surgery, dermatopathology, paediatric and inflammatory dermatological diseases across the globe.

The venue for the AAD meeting was the Walter E. Washington Convention Center at Mount Vernon Square which was more than large enough to hold the 18,000+ attendees. Despite this large volume of people, it was still possible to see familiar faces in the crowds who had journeyed from as far as Ireland, Malta and the United Kingdom to be there. To complement the pre-discussed range of impressive sessions, the international scholarship reception was hosted at the Marriott Marquis hotel, where successful scholarship applicants were made to feel welcome with a dinner and drinks reception hosted by the AAD president Dr Suzanne Olbrich.

Asides from the above, during a couple of the free afternoons available there was also the opportunity to experience Washington's great tourist attractions such as Capitol Hill, Lincoln memorial and the White House to name a few. I also took the chance to visit a number of great museums such as the National Museum of African American History and the Museum of American History which were very impressive. Although the weather may have been cold, it was still easy to find a cosy café or restaurant with that friendly American service.

I would like to thank the British Association of Dermatologists and the American Academy of Dermatology for supporting my application to attend this prestigious meeting. Apart from being a busy five days, I really enjoyed my experience and will definitely make plans to attend future AAD meetings.



**International Scholarship dinner and drinks reception**