

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship - Winter 2018

The 76th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology in Sunny San Diego

by Livia Soriano, Dermatology Registrar, South Wales Deanery

The 76th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) held in sunny San Diego, California, USA, from the 16th to 20th of February 2018 was a superb 5-day educational experience I will never forget. There were 18,800 attendees from all over the world. It was amazing to note from the program that there were hundreds of expert speakers mostly American, but many international, including seasoned clinicians and academic researchers. It was so difficult to choose from the 350 educational sessions offered because many of them ran as parallel sessions.

As a dermatology registrar, the sessions I chose to attend were those relevant to the diseases more commonly seen in NHS dermatology clinics such as:

Contact Dermatitis. A rise in the incidence of contact dermatitis to cyanoacrylate glue is likely due to the recent worldwide popularity of false eyelashes and lash extensions.

Atopic Dermatitis. Crisaborole, the first PDE-4 inhibitor for atopic dermatitis, showed dramatic improvement in patients' quality of life in phase 3 trials, with no apparent limit in its duration of use.

Psoriasis. Biologics such as Brodalumab, Secukinumab, and Ixekizumab have the strongest 5-year data for use, and Certuzilumab pegol is the only biologic known to be safe in pregnancy.

Alopecia. Novel treatments include JAK inhibitors and injections of platelet-rich plasma were promising for alopecia in clinical trials.

Dermoscopy. Benign and malignant signs may occur together within a single tumour. Dermoscopedia (<https://dermoscopedia.org>) is a valuable dermoscopy resource maintained by the International Dermoscopic Society.

Dermatologic surgery. There is a wide range of single and multiple staged repair options for difficult surgical defects. Topical silicone gel has been shown to speed healing for superficial incisions compared with petrolatum-based ointments and has lower incidences of contact dermatitis compared with topical antibiotics with no difference in post-operative infection rates.

'How to Create an Unforgettably Positive Patient Experience' was an interactive session that delivered important advice on how to improve patient satisfaction in daily practice and how to build morale and productivity within the clinical team.

The research paper I submitted to the AAD, made available for viewing in the Poster Exhibit Center was entitled **'Extramammary Paget's Disease in Men and Women: Multidisciplinary teams are better for management of a rare but important disease'** by Soriano LF, Ekeowa-Anderson A, Gkini MA, Bewley A and Gibbon K. My fellow trainees also presented their research papers at the AAD: Jonathan Kentley on **'The Burden of Cutaneous Disease in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients with Skin of Colour'**, Stela Ziaj on **'Widespread Elastosis Perferans Sepinginosa secondary to Tiopronin'** and Jason Thomson on **'A case od (A)ESOP Syndrome'**.

Finally, I would like to thank the British Association of Dermatologists and the Dowling Club for giving me the opportunity to attend the 76th AAD Annual Convention through the BAD/DC Travel Fellowship which covered part of my expenses. This 5-day conference enriched my training experience by increasing my knowledge and confidence in performing my duties as a Dermatology registrar.



Myself and Dr Laura Hui (Trainee from Singapore) outside the meeting rooms, waiting for the dermoscopy session

Myself and Dr Stela Ziaj (Dermatology Registrar in South Wales) outside the meeting rooms

