

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship - Winter 2019

24th World Congress of Dermatology, Milan, Italy: 10-15 June 2019

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I was privileged to receive a grant from the BAD to attend the World Congress of Dermatology in June 2019. Before I travelled to the congress I had heard it referred to as the 'olympics' of dermatology and I now understand why. Like the olympics it happens every four years and is held in a different host city on each occasion. The congress had an opening and closing ceremony that was reminiscent of the olympics and those on the podiums were leading champions of dermatology, the best each country had to offer.

There was a truly global presence with participants from across the world that spanned clinicians, academics, industry and sponsors. The scale of the congress was mind blowing, with sessions running from 7 am until 7.30 pm over the week, 200 sessions to choose from and 12,000 delegates to interact with.

I found it a mammoth task to decide which sessions to attend. I aimed to go to a wide variety of sessions whilst focusing on medical dermatology, the subspecialty I am most interest in. I got to see heroes of the inflammatory world speak, including Emma Guttman, Jonathan Barker and Alan Irvine. I learnt about novel developments in this field that include small molecules for psoriasis, new topical treatments for atopic eczema and pipeline biologics for vitiligo. I also used the time to approach parts of the dermatology curriculum that are harder to access in the UK, such as wound care and genitourinary medicine.



Me and my e-poster

The theme of the congress was 'a new era for global dermatology'. The congress fulfilled this theme, as the sessions reflected the global audience and embraced challenges in dermatology throughout world. Many of these themes receive less attention in the UK, so I tried to immerse myself in sessions that I would otherwise not find closer to home. I spent a

morning in a migrant health seminar, listening to the dermatoses, epidemiology and challenges found in this population. I attended a plenary session on generational theory and how it will impact our workplace. I spent an afternoon in a Dermatology Art seminar, which discussed the merits of art appreciation and visual literacy to the dermatologist.

The world congress was a memorable and educational week and I would encourage BAD members to go to the next world congress in Singapore in 2023. I would like to thank the BAD for the grant that helped me to attend the congress.