

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship - Winter 2019

World Congress of Dermatology, Milan, June 2019

Padma Mohandas

To have an oral presentation at the World Congress of Dermatology, was a highlight of this year, and of my Dermatology career so far. I was thrilled to be informed that my abstract had been accepted late last year, after months of hard work and support from my Consultant supervisor's Dr Jane Ravenscroft and Dr Anthony Bewley. The talk covered the ethical aspects of managing children with Dermatitis Artefacta, a rather challenging condition that we sometimes encounter in our Paediatric Dermatology clinics. This presentation was well received and had positive feedback from attendees. I must also extend my gratitude to Dr Daniel Sokol, Medical Ethicist who provided me with interesting insights into approaching such complex clinical scenarios.



Oral presentation: Ethical Perspectives of Dermatitis Artefacta in Childhood WCD Milan 2019

There were many fascinating talks which were held in parallel over the five days, so picking which ones to attend was not easy. The WCD featured many events on the first day such as the Opening Ceremony, featuring a splendid orchestra amongst other talented acts. There were over 15 000 delegates from around the world to hear from international experts in the field of Dermatology.

Prof Griffiths gave us a flavour of how Dermatology was now at the forefront of disease management with the advent of personalised medicine. Targeting treatments to the individual "a bespoke" approach, a nod to the exquisite tailoring of the Milanese. There was also a

pertinent message from Dr Claire Fuller on the importance of collaborative work with our international colleagues to improve dermatology care in health poor settings. Listening to experts like Prof Dlova from South Africa and her approach to dealing with skin disease in people with darker skin types was very informative. As we work in an increasingly multicultural society, it is important to draw from those who have greater expertise in this area, to help us with our own patients. The skin of colour society (SOCS) was mentioned as a patient and clinician resource to promote awareness in dermatology.

Other snippets from this jam-packed event were, the use of non-invasive techniques such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the early and accurate diagnosis of conditions like melanoma. It was emphasised that the application of such technology would be interpreted and led by trained Dermatologists. Targeted therapies and cutting-edge immunotherapies for advanced skin tumours which have proven to increase life expectancy were also discussed.

We heard the term “urbanisation of the skin” and “pre-jeuvination” with the emphasis on proactive skin care. The plenary lectures offered different angles on skin health. The importance of maintaining a healthy (gut and skin) microbiome by Dr S Eyerich and Dr Paul Redmond’s entertaining overview on the changing face of the workforce were particularly memorable.

I am very grateful for the BAD/DC Travel Fellowship, as it has not only allowed me to present my work at an international event, but also has given me an opportunity to meet Dermatologists from around the globe and experience what they have to offer in this vibrant and incredibly diverse speciality.