

BAD Teledermatology Fellowship - Summer 2019

Teledermatology report: Dr Angela Alani

I am very grateful to the BAD, the Teledermatology subcommittee who have kindly awarded me this travel fellowship to attend the 24th World Congress of Dermatology in Milan, June 2019. This World Congress provides a unique opportunity for dermatologists around the world to come together every 4 years to share their clinical experiences and scientific advances on both a professional and personal level especially in the evolving field of Teledermatology.



Venue of the World Congress of Dermatology
Mico Milano, Milan, Italy

This was my first time at this congress, and I was very excited to see such a rich mix of medical advances in dermatology ranging from clinical practice to research, technology and innovation. The programme was well organised and catered for the full spectrum of dermatological sub-specialties. Delegates benefitted from regular email and WCD 2019 app updates providing information on meeting news, symposium highlights and breaking research. Given my interest in skin cancer, surgery, dermoscopy and teledermatology, I focussed my attention on these sessions and attended pre-booked courses. I learnt a great deal during this congress and felt inspired over the course of the five days.

In particular I really enjoyed the Teledermatology session with talks by various specialists from across the globe including New Zealand, United States, Russia, Austria, Spain and closer to home the United Kingdom. These talks were very engaging and allowed me a glimpse into the future of dermatology with Dr Philipp Tschandi speaking about Artificial Intelligence for Teledermatology. Artificial Intelligence is an evolving new area in lesion analysis and recognition using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for the early recognition of skin cancer and early detection of fast-growing melanomas. Dr Amanda Oakley also presented her New Zealand experience of Teledermoscopy eTriage as part of Waikato virtual lesion clinic with

over 10,000 patient visits, their current e-Triage provides outstanding high quality, accurate diagnoses while reducing waiting times and costs to the Waikato District Health Board. This service is now also catering for a “Suspected Skin Cancer (SSC) eTriage” which commenced in July 2017 with a specific template that GPs are asked to complete to get advice about a lesion. During March 2019 the SSC eTriage service was audited and the majority of lesions referred were benign (61%), melanoma (10%) and SCC/ BCC (18%). The speed of response was remarkable as 95% of GPs got a response within 2 working days of making the referral.

While Dr Carrie Kovarik presented her experience of global teledermatology and the use of telepathology in developing world such as Botswana with inadequate resources. Her talk was inspiring and gave the audience some practical tips for implementing a teledermatology initiative. From the United Kingdom, Dr Saul Halpern presented an interesting talk on “The Age of Mobile Teledermatology is here; is it safe and are we all doing it” highlighting systematic reviews of mobile phone- based teledermatology and the development of the UK national guidelines on the use of mobile photographic devices in dermatology as a supplement to Quality Standards for Teledermatology providing the practicing dermatologist guidance on the benefits and risks of using mobile devices, data protection and confidentiality issues and informed patient consent.



Dr Saul Halpern presenting his talk on “The Age of Mobile Teledermatology is here; Is it safe and are we all doing it?”

Chair Amanda Oakley, Co-Chairs Alexey Sergeev and David Ramirez Moreno

The congress was held in one of the largest conference facilities in Europe holding in excess of 16,000+ delegates over the five days. Some of the talks were so popular, overflow rooms were created to ensure that you could tune in to all sessions. Despite the large volume of crowds, the catering staff were able to accommodate with a selection of Italian food favourites.

During any free evenings I may have had I would explore Milan's historical sites; such as, the Piazza del Duomo, Sforza Castle and La Scalla with fellow colleagues who were also attending the conference. After the last lecture on Saturday, I managed to quickly visit Como and travel to Brunate by way of the funicular in order to see the breath-taking scenery of Lake Como. The great weather and general cheerfulness of Milan's locals throughout the week contributed towards making this a worthwhile experience and one which I would recommend for anyone attending the next World Congress of Dermatology.



Dr Angela Alani,
World Congress Dermatology 2019