UK Derm Soc Newsletter

Dear Members,

We are this year's UK DermSoc Representatives and our role is to promote and advise DermSoc groups nationally.

There are currently sixteen DermSocs in operation around the country and we hope to have more active societies running over the coming year.

News

We will be holding our first ever National DermSoc meeting for all enthusiastic individuals already involved, or interested in becoming involved with their university DermSocs.

This meeting will be held on the 8th November from 10am-3pm at the home of the British Association of Dermatologists—Willan House.

The day will feature:

◊ **Introduction from the UK representatives and a Q&A session**
◊ **Discussion of current and future plans of the societies**
◊ **Fundraising opportunities: including a charity talk by Dr Rachael Morris-Jones**
◊ **Educational lecture from a guest speaker of The British Association of Dermatologists**
◊ **Careers talk and advice session**
◊ **Coffee Break, Free Lunch by the BAD and social**

This will be a great opportunity for you to meet other like-minded individuals, become involved in establishing and running a UK DermSoc, share new ideas and developments with other DermSocs across the country, as well as further your own pursuit of Dermatology through networking, lectures, and careers advice.

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**Special points of Interest**

- DermSchool
- The New Facebook Group
- Our November meeting
- Fundraising
- Further Events
- Opportunities and Interests

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We have recently set up an official Facebook group at http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/dermsocuk/ which aims to improve inter-university communication and promote discussion on upcoming Dermatology opportunities and information relevant to medical students. Sign up for discussions with your peers and up-to-date information on upcoming events.
DermSoc at UEA is in its 3rd year of existence and with over 50 active members is one of the most lively DermSocs in the country. Highlights of their activities this year included the ever-popular annual Dermatology Quiz and Pizza Event with over 60 people vying for a prize and a slice of pizza! Questions were set by a local dermatology consultant and prizes included undergraduate dermatology textbooks. All members this year had a brilliant opportunity to challenge their essay writing skills and research further in a particular area of Dermatology. Local dermatology consultants have been running an annual essay prize, the subject of which this year was “Ageing Skin” offering £100 for the winning prize. Previous winners have had their work published which is an invaluable gem for any potential dermatology applicant! Other activities this year included talks on “Skin Malignancy” with a Q+A session at the end about careers in Dermatology given by Dr Nick Levell and a talk on “Paediatric Dermatology” by Dr Millington and dermatology specialist nurse Rachel Clegg. These were both well-attended and enjoyed by those who went.

A new initiative for 2012 was setting up Dermatology sign-up clinics with the dermatology department at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital. Clinicians at the trust have always shown great support and interest in the events of UEA DermSoc. Unfortunately the uptake for these clinics has been lower than expected but plans to run the scheme next year exist and hopefully interest will increase further to more awareness and promotion of the event.

Imperial College London DermSoc

‘ICSM Derm Soc’ is one of the longest-running DermSocs in the UK and has continued to engage with students and promote the field of Dermatology at Imperial College London.

Highlights from this year included a ‘Dermatology Crash Course for Finals Revision Evening’ attended by almost all of the final years in preparation for their final medical school exams. We also organised a Dermatology Careers Session with an invaluable insight into the changing role of dermatologists from Dr Catherine Borysiewicz of St Mary’s Hospital. Finally we would like to commend Soudheh Mashayekhi who ran a 10k run to raise money for The British Skin Foundation as part of our fundraising movement, as well as Richard Barlow riding for The Xeroderma Pigmentosum Charity, later this year.

UEA (Norwich) DermSoc

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Annual Review of UK DermSocs

With so many DermSocs, here are just some highlights from three of the most active societies.

(Please feel free to email us if you want us to include any updates from your Society).
It has been an exciting year for junior skin enthusiasts in Oxford, with a new DermSoc now up and running!

The ethos of our society is in line with the national BAD DermSoc founding principles of developing skills, knowledge and passion for dermatology amongst medical students and junior doctors. In addition to this, in Oxford we aim to develop and foster good relationships not only between fledgling dermatologists, but also those with interests in allied specialties. We have a large cohort of GP trainees that attend, as well as those interested in plastic surgery, core medicine, and paediatrics. We hope that this approach will truly ingrain dermatology within all branches of clinical practice.

We are lucky to have a very supportive department, who volunteer their time to speak at meetings, and have also had input from Specialist Nurses and local GPwSIs. So far we have had talks on ‘The approach to the dermatological patient’, ‘Medical Dermatology’, ‘Memorable Cases’, ‘A Career in Dermatology’ and practical sessions on cryotherapy and emollient use. Feedback collected from members has been overwhelmingly positive, and indicates what topics our members would find helpful in the future.

Our future plans for the society are gathering pace! Our next planned session has a surgical flavour with talks on dermoscopy and a practical suturing session. We are also developing the opportunity for members to become involved in meaningful projects and audits within the dermatology department.

We are looking forward to building on these newly established foundations over the coming year, and inspiring enthusiasm for all things skin!

If you would like more information on how to set up a Dermatology Society at your medical school, please email derm-soc@hotmail.co.uk or visit the web page: http://www.bad.org.uk//site/616/default.aspx

Also we’d love to include more about your activities- so don’t forget to send any articles, or additions to our email address and we’ll incorporate it into the next addition of the Newsletter.

DermSchool 2012 Debrief

We would like to draw your attention to the 4th Annual DermSchool Conference, that was held on 2nd July at the ICC Birmingham.

Students and Foundation Year Doctors had the opportunity to learn some of the techniques involved in the field, develop their interests with lectures by esteemed specialists, as well as present their research in Poster presentations. If you missed the opportunity to attend this year, keep your eyes peeled for future announcements from us regarding next years’ registration!

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DermSoc Meeting Address:

British Association of Dermatologists
Willan House
4 Fitzroy Square
London
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