Dear Members,

Welcome to our second issue of the UK DermSoc Newsletter. It has been a very productive year for UK DermSoc and this would not have been possible without the contribution of your individual societies.

We have had lots of new interest in setting up DermSocs and hope to see all the remaining medical schools soon follow the trend.

This issue we have updates from the 2nd Annual National DermSoc Meeting, our fundraising event in aid of the British Skin Foundation and from this year’s DermSchool event in Glasgow as well as spotlight features on elective placement and of some of your very own DermSocs!

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2nd Annual National DermSoc Meeting


The majority of our attendees rated the meeting as extremely useful and excellent in terms of venue, organisation and programme. We thank you very much for your support and will take on board your comments for further success at future events.

Many thanks also to our Dermatologist colleagues, especially Dr Haque-Hussein, Dr Bhate for their contributions to the event.

Your Feedback:
‘really interactive, lots of good ideas from other societies’
‘liked the discussion at the end and the support that DermSocs are provided’
DermSoc National Cake Sale

The British Skin Foundation’s Sun Awareness Week took place from the 5th-11th May 2014.

Thank you and congratulations to all the DermSocs that took the time to bake delicious treats for our Cake Sales in aid of this very worthy cause as part of the BSF’s ‘IT TAKES 7’ Skin Cancer Campaign.

We made a grand total of £369.78 - not bad for our first event! And with your continued support, we hope to surpass this figure at future fundraising events. With 100,000 new cases of skin cancer diagnosed annually, it is the commonest cancer affecting the UK and all donations from our events will go directly to fund vital research into finding a cure.

Keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming events and how to get involved!

DermSoc Glasgow hosted a particularly successful bake sale during this year’s sun awareness week:
Several of our members utilised their best “bake-off” skills creating a fantastic assortment of treats to sell. Unfortunately, it wasn’t the best of days on campus weatherwise, but together we battled the rain to raise £125 for the British Skin Foundation. In addition to our cake sale we also used our stand on campus to provide educational leaflets and posters to raise awareness of skin cancers amongst the student population.

DermSchool Glasgow 2014

The 30th June 2014 saw the 6th annual DermSchool at the SECC Glasgow. It was great to see so many of you there and put faces to the names that have been emailing us. We are also pleased to have generated more interest from you all since the event.

We hope you found the day useful and are keen to hear about your experiences and feedback to inform future DermSchools and what you would like us to include in future talks.

If you did not attend this year, look out for details of next year’s event!
Spotlight: Dermatology Elective

A snapshot of an elective undertaken by Dr Fangyi Xie at New York Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University, New York, NY, USA and Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD, USA

I chose to split my elective in half to experience two different hospitals, cities and specialities. I decided to do both Dermatology, and Plastic Surgery which works closely with Dermatology. The elective started off at a fast pace with Plastics in New York. Daily ward rounds started at 6.30am, which meant that interns had to pre-round at 5.30am, and they were rarely out before 7pm. Several evenings I stayed past 10pm, and one evening past midnight. In spite of their hours, the doctors were friendly and keen to teach and they taught me how to suture and do hand ties, and I was able to scrub in for theatre.

I saw a vast range of cases, breast reconstruction, head and neck reconstruction, a huge variety of flap surgeries and paediatric cases. One of my most memorable experiences was watching a 15 hour plastic case of an 8 year old girl with hypertelorism who was having very invasive craniofacial surgery. As well as theatre, I also was able to observe clinics in both Upper East Side and Morningside Heights, with a very contrasting patient population. I also attended weekly teaching for residents, journal club and meetings; and presented a case to the whole team.

New York need to say is a brilliant place to live in, there is so much to see and do! As the placement was very busy, I compromised on sleep and packed my weekends full of activities, and also gave myself another week to explore the city. Leave yourself enough time to enjoy all the sights and the food.

After New York, I decided to venture further south to the world renowned John Hopkins hospital for Dermatology. Everyone here was so friendly, and went out of their way to make me welcome. Mostly clinic based, I clerked patients alone and then discussed the management with the consultant. They were all so keen on teaching and I got to see some rare skin conditions and even operate a laser on a colleague. The rest of the placement involved consults with the team to see inpatients, attending grand rounds, and daily resident teaching at 7am.

Baltimore was a contrast to New York, but I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. It’s notoriety for crime, is compensated by beautiful areas with character, a wonderful harbour and some of the best crabs to be eaten.

Overall, the experience was thoroughly rewarding, and it was a summer I will never forget. The fees for an American elective are expensive, but the teaching and the enthusiasm you will encounter is worth it.
It has been a busy year so far for the DermSoc Committee and we have been very impressed to see how active all of the National DermSocs have been.

Test Your Knowledge

**Q:** A 65 year old lady presents with an itchy, excoriated, scaly and lichenified plaque on her left calf. The dermatologist diagnoses lichen simplex chronicus. Which of the following areas is another common place for this condition to occur:

1. Sole of foot
2. Toes
3. Ear
4. Wrist
5. Scalp

**A:** 4 wrist

Lichen simplex is a condition which occurs in both men and women but is more frequently seen in men. A stimulus such as an insect bite or a patch of eczema causes the skin to become itchy and scratching leads to thickening of the skin and the initiation of the itch-scratch cycle which is often difficult to break. Treatment involves topical corticosteroids under occlusion and behavioural change.

Upcoming Events

We are planning a second national fundraising event for Autumn/Winter 2014 and another National DermSoc Day is also in the pipeline. More details to be announced soon!

For our forthcoming newsletters, please send in any articles or updates about your DermSoc events, electives and dermatology endeavours, including photographs to dermsoc@hotmail.co.uk.

For more information about dermatology and The BAD please visit: http://www.bad.org.uk/site/616/default.aspx.