WHAT ABOUT A CAREER IN DERMATOLOGY?

What is Dermatology?
Dermatology is the study and treatment of hair, skin and nail disorders in children and adults. Skin disease affects 50% of the population at any one time, and constitutes the commonest reason for patients to present to their GP. It is a diverse and exciting career choice with the opportunity to sub-specialise in medical, surgical, paediatric, allergic, oncological, pathological, genital or psychiatric aspects among many others. Dermatology lends itself to high-quality teaching, training and academic research.

Nature of the Work
Dermatology is one of the most varied physicianly specialties, seeing all age groups with all types of skin disorders: inflammatory, genetic, occupational and malignant. This allows for a breadth of subspecialty training such as in contact dermatitis, surgery, lasers, paediatrics, photobiology, psychodermatology, genital dermatology and skin oncology, to name but a few.

Opportunities in Academic Dermatology
Dermatology lends itself perfectly to an academic career with research initiatives translating into real clinical practice. Opportunities to get involved include:
- The BAD THESIS course
- UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network
- BAD/NIHR funded research taster fellowships
- UK TREND

What can I do to increase my chances?
- Gain clinical exposure
- Attend meetings and courses (e.g. DermSchool)
- Complete audits or research projects
- Write publications

Approach consultants in your local department for more advice.