Dear Members,

Welcome to the fifth issue of the UK DermSoc Newsletter! 2015 has been a very successful year so far and we, the DermSoc National Committee, are very proud watching the progress of your individual societies, some of which is reflected in this newsletter.

In particular, it has been great to see your progress on Facebook and Twitter, which has been great for new interest. We urge all the existing DermSocs to also make social media pages, which no doubt will increase exposure and see more medical schools soon setting up their very own DermSocs.

Following the 7th Annual DermSchool, in Manchester on 6th July 2015, we will be saying goodbye to two of our current DermSoc National Committee Members, Dr Amiiee Vyas and Dr Fangyi Xie and welcoming the new team members in the Autumn. It has been a pleasure working with the current team and watch out for their names and faces as speakers at future Dermatology events!

This issue, we have updates from the 3rd National DermSoc Meeting, Spotlight features on Liverpool and Cardiff DermSocs, Revision sessions at Leeds and Birmingham as well as an informative discussion on the Shape of Training for Dermatology.

Join the official Facebook group at: http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/dermsocuk/
which aims to improve inter-university communication and promote discussion on upcoming Dermatology opportunities relevant to medical students.

DermSchool 2015

We look forward to seeing many of you at this year’s DermSchool event in Manchester and have enjoyed selecting your submissions for poster presentations on the DermSchool panel. Feel free to approach us, your DermSoc National Committee, with any queries about DermSoc, guidance relating to dermatology as a medical student and any suggestions for how we can better support you.

For those of you who were unable to sign up for this year’s event, keep a watchful eye on our newsletters and the BAD website for details for registration for next year’s event.
The 3rd National DermSoc Meeting


The event was a great success with places rapidly taken up and an ever growing reserve list with delegates travelling from as far as Scotland and Northern Ireland to attend.

Many thanks to all of the delegates and speakers who attended the meeting and to the British Association of Dermatologists for the venue and refreshments provided.

88% of delegates were medical students with the remainder being junior doctors. Only 24% of attenders were members of the British Association of Dermatologists. If you are interested, please see the BAD website for how to obtain Junior Membership.

Your feedback was overall very positive, with over 80% rating the organisation and venue as Excellent. All of the talks were extremely well received, in particular, Genitourinary Medicine and Dermatology (Dr Karen Gibbon,) Medical Dermatology (Dr Susan Burge,) and Psychodermatology (Dr Alia Ahmed).

Thank you to all those who provided constructive feedback to inform future DermSoc Events. We value your opinions and here are some of our favourites:

‘Organisation and pre-attendance was excellent. I was kept really well informed. I liked the e-mailing of the presentation and everything being sorted on the day. Excellent organisation was continued on the day. Content and speakers were of an excellent quality and variety. I thought the day was a good length (and quality). It was really worth travelling for. Thank you very much for listening to feedback from last year!’

‘The organisation and breadth of options available in dermatology was excellent to hear about. Perhaps more workshops /interaction sessions would be useful.’

Workshops and interactive sessions were the most common suggestion from all attenders and we hope to incorporate these at the next event.

Save the Date!
The next National DermSoc Day is being planned for 26th October 2015
Fundraising event soon to be announced
Watch this space for more information!
Spotlight: DermSoc Liverpool

DermSoc Liverpool is a student society at Liverpool Medical School that was set up in December 2013 to improve the dermatology teaching for Liverpool students.

There are currently 16 members on this year’s Committee. We organise monthly lectures on various dermatology topics from local dermatologists. We have also recently hosted a successful student revision event for medical students sitting their final examinations.

We are grateful to have a set of hardworking and cohesive Committee members to help run the first regional north west dermatology symposium which will create opportunities for students to participate in oral and poster presentations, as well have hear various talks on dermatology from leaders in their field.

We anticipate to organise a skin surgery/suturing skills workshop next academic year to promote the surgical side to this specialty. We also aim to raise funds for the British Skin Foundation and other skin cancer charities for the next Sun Awareness Week.

DermSoc Liverpool is more than willing to collaborate with all dermatology student societies.

Thank you,
Team DermSoc Liverpool

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Remember to update us at DermSoc National with your Facebook, twitter and e-mail details to facilitate collaboration of Dermsocs nationwide!

Revision at DermSoc Leeds

In April, the Leeds DermSoc held a revision session, covering common skin complaints.

The session included a lecture on their various presentations and management, followed by a quiz and a spot diagnosis slideshow. The session was run by Dr Kate London – a consultant dermatologist from Bradford who was fantastic with audience participation – this was not a session where you were safe from questioning! There was a great turn out for the event with many students commenting on its usefulness.

This was a simple event to organise with a fantastic student response. We suggest that this could be a good event for other DermSocs to host.

Natasha Lee, 5th Year Leeds DermSoc
dermsocleeds@gmail.com
Spotlight: DermSoc Cardiff

Cardiff Medical School Dermatology Society Welcome Evening talk was held on Tuesday 17th February 2015. This was the first ever Dermsoc event at Cardiff School of Medicine organised by Cliff Duah, a 5th year medical student, and a President/Founder of the society.

As outlined in our aims and objectives, the talk was to allow students with keen interest in Dermatology to build contacts and learn more about the field and in addition, provide medical students with a dermatology handbook from the British Association of Dermatologists.

The talk was informative and led by a number of renowned dermatologist in the UK, including Professor Alex Anstey (Dermatology Consultant at Bevan Local Health Board in Newport and Gwent in South Wales, and also a former honorary treasurer of the British Association of Dermatologists), Dr Richard Motley (Dermatology surgeon with special interest in Mohs Surgery), Dr Manju Kalavala (Pediatric Dermatologist), Dr John Ingram (Senior Lecturer) and Dr Jui Vyas (Senior lecturer).

The attendance was phenomenal with over 50 students attending from Year 1 to Year 5 in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The talk was informative, inspirational and more importantly, students were allowed plenty of time to ask questions. A lot of topics were discussed including Life as a Dermatologist, a career in Dermatology Surgery (Mohs Surgery), How to get a paper published and Evidence based Dermatology.

From the feedback we gathered at the end of the night, all attendees were satisfied with the event with 6 new members joining the Dermsoc society immediately after the event, increasing our membership to about 30 in our first year.

We were delighted to have raised £150 for a charity organization in Cardiff prior to the event. We hope to organise a similar event next year. Our vision is to bring together medical students interested in pursuing dermatology as a career, increase our understanding and learn more about the field. In terms of our strength, our society serves as a platform where students can build a network of contacts, and voice any concerns to the Medical School should they have any problems with the curriculum. Furthermore, our society is super friendly and welcoming.

Cliff Duah
Dermatology: The Shape of Training
Dr Fangyi Xie and Dr Ketaki Bhate

The Government introduced a Shape of Training Final Report in 2013\(^1\). This will have implications on many specialties, including Dermatology training.

The current Dermatology training pathway is 2 years of Foundation/ Academic Foundation Training, with 2 further years of Core Medical Training or Academic Clinical Fellowship before application for Dermatology Training at ST3 level. Dermatology Training lasts a minimum of four years, but with many people electing to do PhDs or to come out of programme to do clinical or teaching fellowships during training.

The Shape of Training report aims to identify the issues that will affect NHS care provision in the future, and proposes strategies to address these problems. There is recognition of an ageing population, patients with multiple comorbidities and a need for doctors who can provide general medical care. They proposed broad based training after the Foundation Programme, with the acquisition of general skills, which will likely cut down time in specialty training.

With regards to Dermatology as well as other specialties, there has been strong opposition and objection to the shortened length of training with existing dermatology trainees feeling that they are already pushed in achieving their curriculum competencies in the four year training period. There are concerns that they will not be adequately prepared for consultant roles in order to deliver a high standard of care to patients. This has recently been raised as a concern by the BMA\(^2\) on behalf of many trainee groups including National Dermatology Trainee Committee.

It is known that some general posts are struggling to be filled, whilst specialties like Dermatology are extremely competitive. More generalised teaching will fill some of these necessary but vacant posts. It will also give doctors more experience in general medicine, no doubt of value to dermatology doctors.

Currently no decision has been made as to whether this change will occur.

References


What are your views and how do you think this will affect you? Email us with your views: dermsocnational@gmail.com.
OSCE Revision at Birmingham DermSoc

In the first week of March the University of Birmingham DermSoc held an OSCE revision evening for 4th and 5th year medical students. It was held over two evenings and in total 250 students, including 50 students from Warwick, passed through the doors!

The revision session was set out as 8 doctor-led teaching stations, each lasting 15 minutes. The stations included describing skin lesions, examining an actor presenting with SLE and revision of eczema and psoriasis. Many thanks to the doctors who helped out over the two days and the DermSoc committee members who helped organise and run the evenings.

The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and we wish to repeat the event next year, perhaps increasing capacity and opening it up to more medical schools in the region.

The OSCE revision evenings come at the end of another successful year for Birmingham’s DermSoc, which included the creation of a skin and histology revision pack for freshers and a bakesale raising £120 for skin cancer research. We have plans for more exciting events next year!

Monty Lyman

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If you would like to feature in the next newsletter, send your articles, updates and photographs to

dermsocnational@gmail.com

For more information about Dermatology and the British Association of Dermatologists

www.bad.org.uk

Your National DermSoc UK Committee

It’s been an excellent 2 years building momentum on the DermSoc National Committee, organising events, this newsletter and kick-starting DermSocs around the country! It has been a joy seeing you evolve with all your independent endeavours and we have gained a wealth of experience along the way.

We look forward to seeing some familiar faces later on in our Dermatology careers and wish both Anna and Natasha, and the 2 new committee members all the best, to continue with the progress we have made so far!

We highly recommend this Committee to those pursuing a career in Dermatology. Junior BAD members will receive e-mails advertising the positions as they become available. Please note that all positions are currently filled.

Dr Amiee Vyas and Dr Fangyi Xie