Dear Members,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the UK DermSoc newsletter. Many thanks to all the DermSocs at medical schools across the country who helped make the 2015-2016 year such a successful one! In this edition we look at reports from DermSchool 2016 in Birmingham and the 5th DermSoc National Day in London. It includes reports from Cardiff and Liverpool DermSocs and contains information on upcoming events and fundraising for the 2016-2017 academic year.

If you are involved with or planning to set up a DermSoc at your medical school for the upcoming year, do get in contact with us at:

dermsocnational@gmail.com

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

The next edition of the newsletter is due in the autumn of 2016 and if you would like to write about your DermSoc activites please send any articles, updates and photographs to dermsocnational@gmail.com and we’ll try to incorporate them.

For more information about dermatology and The BAD please visit: http://www.bad.org.uk/healthcare-professionals/education/medical-students/dermsoc

Charity Fundraising: We plan to raise money as individual societies for British Skin Foundation this year. Details will be released on the FB page and via email.

The latest DermSoc National Day, in March 2016, was another great success! This day is a great chance to listen to useful talks from experienced dermatologists and an opportunity to network with like-minded students and doctors.

We had two very useful talks on the future of working in dermatology and getting into dermatology. These are subjects that are incredibly useful for aspiring dermatologists but this information is often hard for medical students to find. Dermatology is a competitive specialty but don’t let that put you off! It’s a constantly-evolving and rewarding specialty and attending days like these are both a way of showing and growing your interest.

One particular highlight was an inspirational talk from Dr Ian Coulson, reflecting on his fascinating career in medical dermatology. We had a wide variety of talks from eminent and knowledgeable speakers, including: dermatological epidemiology, dermatology in pregnancy, photodermatoses, drug eruptions and dermatologic surgery.

As well as lectures there was also time for workshops after lunch. All delegates chose from three options for the workshops: CV building, electives, and qualitative research.

Again the feedback was very positive, and we look forward to our next event…

SAVE THE DATE!

DermSoc National Day
Wednesday 26th October 2016
Willan House, London

The day will feature topics including how to get published, elective reports and there will be talks from world leaders in dermatological research.

Sign up will be released on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/dermsocuk/?fref=ts
On Monday the 4th of July I attended DermSchool, the national conference for students and junior doctors, at the ICC in Birmingham. Anna Ascott and I had the pleasure of giving a talk about the work of DermSoc national over the past year and celebrating the work of DermSocs at individual universities.

The day was a triumph, with a room full of students from across the country, an array of interesting posters and a timetable rammed full with fascinating talks! The morning mainly consisted of talks covering the basics of dermatology as well as a practical session, where delegates could get to grips with procedures including cryotherapy and punch biopsy.

The second part of the day focussed on current ‘hot topics’, giving us a glimpse into the future of dermatology. A memorable talk by Professor Nick Reynolds showed us how recent progress with the human genome and monoclonal antibodies is already transforming diagnosis of diseases such as psoriasis and eczema.

At the end of the day some of the delegates and speakers wound down and mingled at All Bar One on the other side of the canal. It was a fitting end to such an enjoyable conference!
As medical students often have limited exposure to dermatology, one of our aims at Liverpool DermSoc was to organise a high standard and exam orientated dermatology revision day aimed at students in 3rd and 4th years.

We started planning the day from September, thinking about how to make the day informative yet stimulating, and who I thought could help with the teaching. We picked some core subjects that should be covered, which included eczema, psoriasis, dermatological emergencies, skin cancers, systemic manifestations in dermatology, pemphigoid vs. pemphigus, diabetic dermatology, paediatric dermatology, surgical dermatology and a quiz including MCQs and SBAs.

I was fortunate enough to get a research project in a dermatology centre, and made friends with dermatology trainees, who were very keen to teach and were very good at teaching! Two of them were available for the day and were kind enough to present a subject. The other people who presented at the day were fifth year students, who knew what the exams questions were like, could offer buzzwords for diseases and reassure students on the types of questions that could be asked.

I publicised the revision day though my medical school academic rep via e-mails to students, as well as creating a Facebook event and sharing with the medical school society. Over a hundred people expressed an interest but I was still nervous that no one would show up on the day - thankfully 46 people attended! The written feedback that I received regarding the day was excellent, with students stating “Excellent day, please do again next year”, “Best revision day so far! So well organised and succinct”, and “Best dermatology teaching this year”. So all in all, it was worth it! It was challenging to organise by myself, and there were stressful moments, but students really appreciated it and I have raised £92 so far for the British Skin Foundation! I would highly recommend every DermSoc to organise a similar day for their medical school!
At Cardiff DermSoc’s first event, we were delighted to welcome Professor Andrew Finlay (CBE). Professor Andrew Finlay is a highly successful consultant dermatologist, who was the President of the British Association of Dermatologists from 2000 to 2001 and was appointed a CBE in 2010. He pioneered the development of Quality of Life measures in dermatology and created the distance-learning Diploma in Practical Dermatology. This was an extremely insightful and interactive event. Professor Finlay discussed the importance of communication as a dermatologist, especially when explaining how much of an ointment or cream to use. To alleviate the common problem of describing how much, he came up with a “treatment tip”. This states that one fingertip unit is half a gram. Half a gram is able to cover two handprints. A handprint is roughly 1% of body surface area. Using this method, it is easier to describe the amount required for the patient. Finally, the evening ended with a Scottish dance demonstration to describe the risk of antecubital fossa petechiae, which is common in Scottish Country dancers who use poor grip. This was a very enjoyable event and free pizza was also provided courtesy of MPS.

Our next event was “How to get published: the top secret guide for medical students”. This was presented by James Kilgour, a fourth year medical student and Vice President of DermSoc at Cardiff University. So far, James has eight publications in a range of journals including the Journal for the British Association of Dermatologists.

This event mainly addressed the mystery often surrounding the world of publishing and offered an overview of the process involved. James discussed the various avenues available for publishing success including letters to the editor, case reports, audits and even systematic reviews! The important process of ethical approval was also described which provided a real understanding of the stages involved in getting published. The event was a great success and offered an opportunity for pre-clinical years (i.e. first years) to engage with DermSoc.
Upcoming Events for the 2016-2017 Academic Year

**British Skin Foundation - Big Birthday Bake!**

If you are on the committee of your medical school’s DermSoc then we have something for you to get involved in!

In the upcoming autumn term every medical school DermSoc will get involved in holding bake sales to raise money for the British Skin Foundation. The society that raises the most money will win a prize!

More information to come at the beginning of September.

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**DermSoc National Day**

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Sign up will be released on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/dermsocuk/?fref=ts
A changing of the guard! Farewell to Anna and Natasha

This summer sees Medical Student Rep Anna Ascott and Junior Doctor Rep Natasha Lee. Over the last few years they have helped transform DermSoc into one of the largest and most active specialty societies in the country.

Applications are open until the end of July 2016 for junior members of the BAD. We look forward to welcoming the new members of the National Committee in August. For more information, please visit: http://www.bad.org.uk/healthcare-professionals/education/medical-students/dermschool-event/dermschool-sub-committee

DermSoc National Committee 2015-2016

From left to right: Siu Tsang (Academic Administrator), Anna Ascott, Natasha Lee, Bernard Ho and Monty Lyman