

## **AAD Scholarship Report – Winter 2017**

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When I arrived at the Orange County Convention Centre in Orlando, the heat struck me straightaway, how different to the weather back in the UK! The convention centre itself was a huge building, perfect to accommodate thousands of dermatologists eager to learn about the latest advances in medical and surgical dermatology.

For the few days, I concentrated on attending the medical dermatology talks. I particularly enjoyed talks on neutrophilic and eosinophilic dermatoses. Here the speakers gave algorithms for the audience to remember the differential diagnoses with each of the disorders. Another talk which I found very interesting was on vasculitis. As a clinician, vasculitis can be quite daunting, however I felt the speaker gave an excellent summary of the different type of vasculitides. After this talk I felt equipped to be able to manage all types of vasculitis competently and look forward to putting my knowledge into practice.

Another talk which stood out from the rest was Giuseppe Argenziano's lectures on dermoscopy. He delivered pearls regarding diagnosing melanoma and basal cell carcinoma with dermoscopy. He showed multiple dermoscopic photographs of various lesions and asked the audience for their opinion. I found this very useful and enjoyed putting his tips into practice. Dermoscopy is an important adjunct to clinical examination in skin cancer work and it was useful for me to hear what the other delegates' opinions were of the dermoscopic pictures which were shown.

Another talk which I felt was very good was on 'disorders of pigmentation'. The speaker gave a comprehensive review on the different causes of pigmentation which was extremely helpful and will be useful when I review patients with difficult pigmentary disorders in clinic.

For the last few days I attended the surgical themed talks as this is pertinent to my job role. I attended a number of sessions on 'how would you reconstruct this defect'. Here, an expert panel took it in turns to show surgical defects and give options for reconstruction. I found these sessions very beneficial because it was useful to see how the American Mohs surgeons differ from the UK surgeons. I also was interested in their Mohs practice and what tumours they feel is appropriate for Mohs surgery. The reconstruction sessions I found particularly helpful were on periocular reconstruction and also how to reconstruct lip defects.

After five days of a fantastic conference I was ready to explore Orlando and what better way to do this than visit Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure. The rollercoasters were very scary but a must do when visiting the theme park! The AAD 2017 conference was a brilliant educational experience, the quality of the lectures and speakers was very high and I enjoyed this learning opportunity immensely. I am now planning my next AAD meeting in 2018!