

AAD Registration Scholarship

American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida

3 – 7 March 2016

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This is the second American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) conference I had the pleasure of attending, having first attended the conference held in San Francisco, California in 2014. Being privy to how the conference is run jam-packed, whereby multiple sessions, all highly informative and enticing to the attendees, run simultaneously, I made sure I was well-prepared this second time round. I downloaded the AAD mobile app in advance of the meeting, scrutinised the programme and strategically marked out sessions of interest to ensure I made full use of the educational opportunities presented.

Jet-lag was in my favour as I reported bright and early for the first (of many) focus session that sparked my interest: neutrophilic dermatoses: an update. This was followed by the ticketed course on Advanced Dermoscopy, which was complimentary as part of the registration scholarship. This was a comprehensive, one-day course led by experts who covered the use of dermoscopy in the diagnosis of skin tumours, from common to rare, as well as discussing in-depth common dermoscopic pitfalls. With new-found confidence in my dermoscopy skills, I promptly invested in a new personal dermatoscope, available at a lower than retail price at the exhibition stands.

My second day at the conference was dedicated to drug therapies in dermatology, as I attended sessions on the 'Advanced use of systemic therapies', learning about the use of rituximab, thalidomide and anti-TNF alpha drugs in complex dermatoses; 'New emerging therapies', which provided a whistle-stop tour of new treatments available for common dermatological conditions, including acne, psoriasis, infections of the skin and non-melanoma skin cancer; and the use of 'Biologic therapy in dermatology beyond psoriasis'. Subsequent days at the conference was a mix of surgical talks, sessions on hair and pigmentary disorders, contact dermatitis and aesthetic procedures.

The last day of the conference, which I will highly recommend colleagues attend in future AAD meetings, was a very helpful summary of talks from keynote speakers of the conference and covered a wide-range of contemporary medical, surgical, diagnostic and therapeutic topics.

The AAD conference was not just about work, as it also provided the opportunity for me to socialise with my fellow UK trainees. We bonded over our common battle with the food portion sizes and made post-conference visits to Kennedy Space Centre and the wonderful theme parks Orlando has to offer.

I am very grateful for opportunity to attend this meeting, which has been facilitated by the generous scholarship granted to me by the BAD and AAD. I have no doubt I will be returning to USA for future AAD meetings.