

## **2015 BAD/DC Travel Fellowship Report - World Congress of Dermatology Dr Alana Durack, ST4 Cambridge**

Vancouver was the perfect host to the 11,561 delegates who attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Dermatology. The weather remained glorious throughout and if anybody needed a break from the tightly packed schedule, the convention centre, situated on Vancouver's picturesque waterfront, offered spectacular views across the harbor to the mountains and Stanley Park.

The Congress kicked off early in the mornings with a daily 'Global Celebration Forum' at 7am and continued until 7pm each day. The BAD hosted a 'Best of British' meeting on the inaugural day, which truly lived up to its title. Many familiar names from Dermatology in the UK gave an update on their areas of expertise and the session was well attended, by not only UK delegates but by many international colleagues as well.

The 6-day programme was jam-packed with forums, lectures, symposiums and courses. Deciding how to spend my time was a difficult. While there are so many to choose from, I have focused on some of the sessions that I found most thought provoking:

The Paediatric symposium, "Advances over the last 5 years" covered some interesting topics such as congenital and acquired Blaschko-linear dermatoses and the relevance of aquagenic wrinkling in paediatric dermatology. The treatment of infantile haemangiomas was covered in a comprehensive session chaired by experts from France (Christine Léauté-Labrèze), Canada and the USA, giving a clear view on diagnosis, differentials and up-to-date practical considerations with regard to propranolol treatment.

Human Papilloma Virus infection and its role in non-melanoma skin cancer was a popular topic at the Congress and was discussed in detail with inclusion of a strong field of speakers from the UK. Overall the experts offered insight into the presentations and management of HPV in immunocompromised individuals and the clinical benefits and limitations of current HPV vaccines.

I was also particularly interested in the lectures on actinic keratosis and its treatment, particularly the use of Daylight PDT. This appears to be a very patient-friendly and effective approach to managing mild actinic keratosis. Most importantly sunny weather is not a pre-requisite!

My presentation was on the final day of the congress, and while many had been out the night before, the attendees kindly rose from their beds before 8am to join the session on 'Surgical and Procedural Dermatology'. It was a fantastic opportunity and privilege to present our work to an international audience. The remainder of my last day was spent on a hired bike, enjoying the beauty of Stanley Park and Granville Island before leaving Vancouver and its incredible scenery behind.

I would like to thank the British Association of Dermatologists and the Dowling Club for the very generous travel fellowship to attend the World Congress of Dermatology. It has been a hugely educational opportunity and given me great inspiration for my future career.