

**REPORT ON BAD/DC SAS TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP - SUMMER 2016
EADV VIENNA CONGRESS 28TH SEPTEMBER-2ND OCTOBER 2016**

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I attended the above Congress after being awarded a Travel Fellowship from the BAD this year. Having never attended an International Dermatology conference before, this was an excellent opportunity to get a flavour for such events and benchmark the educational content with that available in the UK. I must say that I achieved both aims and was very pleased to confirm the very high level of Dermatology education and research going on in the UK!

I attended the conference for the whole duration. This being the biggest EADV Congress so far (over 11,000 delegates) and also their 25th Anniversary, we were lucky to get treated to fantastic music and film on the opening day and an address by the President. I did find the Congress full of interesting parallel sessions that I wanted to attend, and often sampled talks from different sessions at the same time to get more out of it. I particularly enjoyed the Skin cancer and Melanoma symposia and the Dermoscopy session on the first day. I was also pleased to see the fantastic contribution made by my fellow Spanish colleagues on the field of Melanoma, mostly from my very own city of Barcelona. I did find comparing management of different skin conditions in different countries very enlightening, mainly due to availability and expertise not being clearly accessible in Eastern European countries.

I enjoyed the sessions on Autoinflammatory syndromes and Allergy and urticaria. The first had contributions from German and Italian groups and it was amazing to see how much research and new knowledge has been gained in a short period of time. The second had prominent speakers from the UK and it was good to see them comparing very favourably with other contributors. I suspect their native language being English made them a bit more relaxed during the presentations!

With the biologics being the big players in Pharma these days, there were lots of sessions and parallel symposia in psoriasis in particular, and also on conditions that may become new indications for biologic therapies (hidradenitis suppurativa, urticarial, neutrophilic dermatoses, etc.). It was a good forum to find out about new interesting therapies in development and the latest research for treating conditions such as eczema. It is encouraging to see so many new agents in development which will hopefully be available for our patients in the near future (NICE permitting, of course).

I also enjoyed the exhibition, particularly the small European companies that offer products not currently available in the UK. I discovered a new sunscreen from ISDIN that has an added active ingredient to treat AKs at the same time. There has been a recent article regarding this on the BMJ, and although the company don't currently market their products in the UK I strongly encouraged them to do so!

It was also good to be able to catch up professionally and socially with UK colleagues, especially in the wonderful background of Vienna. I even had some time for sightseeing and to sample the local culture and gastronomy, courtesy of AbbVie who sponsored my travel and accommodation.

In summary, I thoroughly enjoyed the Congress and the city and found it very useful for my medical education and to improve patient care in my own practice. Thanks BAD for a fantastic opportunity!