

## British Association of Dermatologists and Dowling Club Travel Fellowship Summer 2018, Dr Elizabeth Poyner

I am grateful to the British Association of Dermatologists and Dowling Club for a summer 2018 travel fellowship, to visit the research group of Dr Emmanuella Guenova and to attend the EORTC Cutaneous Lymphoma Task Force (CLTF) Group Meeting.

I started my trip by visiting Dr Emmanuella Guenova's group at the University of Zurich. Dr Guenova is an eminent Dermatologist who has a clinical and research interest in Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma (CTCL). In the morning, I had the chance to observe the format of the Cutaneous Lymphoma clinic and attend the dermatology department's daily lunch time educational meeting. It was interesting to observe the similarities and differences in the organisation of the lymphoma clinics, between the UK and Switzerland. In the afternoon I was able to visit Dr Guenova's research laboratory and meet her research group. I was kindly invited to attend and present at their lab meeting, and thoroughly enjoyed discussing CTCL research with her group. I am grateful to Dr Guenova for the opportunity to visit her research group, and the warm reception I received.



Zurich is a charming city, with tram filled streets and a picturesque setting next to Lake Zurich. I fortunately had the opportunity the next day to explore the old town with its impressive architecture and enjoyed a sunny walk along the river Limmat to the edge of Lake Zurich, with snow-capped mountains just visible in the distance.

I then travelled to St Gallen in eastern Switzerland, using the notably reliable Swiss trains, to attend the EORTC CLTF meeting. The EORTC CLTF meeting is a friendly conference attracting specialists in cutaneous lymphoma not just from Europe, but also from around the world. The meeting is across three days and has sessions covering biological insights, quality of life, histopathology, treatment and clinical cases.

The keynote speaker on the first day was Prof Irving Weissman from Stanford. Prof Weissman, who has over 800 publications, with over 80 in the journals Cell, Nature and Science, gave a brilliant guest lecture on normal and neoplastic stem cells. The highlight of the second day was the guest lecture from Prof Rachel Clark from Harvard Medical School. She gave an inspiring talk on patient driven insights into the biology of CTCL.

The friendly nature of the CLTF meeting was reflected in the congress dinner held at the Michelin two-star Hotel Einstein, with a very original and entertaining after dinner entertainment. On the final day the guest lecture was given by Prof Günter Burg and Prof Helmut Kerl, who were both instrumental in founding the EORTC CLTF. There was just time after the meeting finished, to visit the baroque Abbey of St Gallen and the renowned abbey library, both within the UNESCO world heritage abbey precinct.



I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Dr Guenova's group in Zurich and attending the EORTC CLTF meeting in St Gallen, and am extremely grateful to the British Association of Dermatologists and Dowling Club for their support in being able to do this.