

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship – Winter 2016
25th EADV Congress, Vienna, Austria: 28 September-2 October 2016

Prativa Jayasekera

I arrived in Vienna the day before the conference to fit in some sightseeing and had a great time visiting the opera house and sampling some famous Sacher torte. I was very impressed at the organization of the meeting and the venue was definitely large enough to hold the thousands of dermatologists eager to learn about new advances in medical and surgical dermatology.

On the first few days I concentrated on medical dermatology and attended some excellent lectures on neutrophilic dermatoses and bullous disorders. The lunchtime food queues were huge so I took some time to view the E posters and learnt a few tips on how to manage and investigate scarring alopecia.

In the subsequent days I attended mainly surgical talks and was very impressed at the US speakers and particularly enjoyed the interactive sessions. For the last two days I concentrated on skin cancer and attended one whole day of lectures on melanoma. I found these lectures the most helpful as it was a good summary of current treatment options for melanoma and also information on genetic associations. The speakers presented the most up to date results for clinical trials and combination therapy and I found this particularly useful for my current practice. I also attended a superb lecture on lentigo maligna and furiously wrote pages of notes which I am now having trouble to read!

I found the plenary talks very interesting and particularly enjoyed the talk on vasculitis which I thought was a great overview and it really consolidated my current knowledge and understanding.

During the evenings I tried to do more sightseeing of Vienna and was amazed at how beautiful Vienna looked at night. I also was able to sample some authentic Austrian food consisting of goulash and dumplings and ate a fair amount of Austrian chocolates.

The last day was mainly cosmetic dermatology and here I refreshed my knowledge on botox and fillers. I also attended some interesting lectures on laser technology and learnt what laser is appropriate to treat what medical condition. Overall, I really enjoyed the conference and came away enthused and ready to put into practice everything I had learnt. I am already planning my trip to the winter EADV in Switzerland!