

BAD/DC TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP REPORT - WINTER 2017

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I was awarded the BAD/DC Travel Fellowship to attend the 26th EADV Congress which was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 13-17 September 2017. This was not only my first time attending the EADV congress, but also my first visit to the beautiful city of Geneva. It was a great opportunity to meet with dermatologists from several continents and indeed proved an enjoyable experience.

Prof Griffiths and Prof Nijstin along with Dr Roider presented excellent research work on skin ageing along with lifestyle and physiological factors associated with facial wrinkling in men and women. Various treatment options were discussed with several interesting take home messages.

I attended a session on paediatric dermatology where Dr Weibel, paediatric dermatologist from Switzerland, gave an overview of rheumatology in paediatric patients highlighting the key presenting features and management of dermatomyositis and lupus in children. This lecture taught me several points as I had not come across either of these conditions much during my training.

One of my favourite sessions was 'clinical cases from around Europe'. This covered rare diagnoses such as LEOPARD syndrome, metastatic Crohn's disease in paediatric patients, Ferguson-Smith syndrome, presentation of fungal infections in immunocompromised patients, treating orofacial granulomatosis in a 12 year old child with intravenous pulsed corticosteroid therapy and chloroquine, and a rare case of lymphomatoid papulosis type E. This was very informative as it covered topics I may have only previously come across during preparation for the dermatology specialty certificate exam and may not have encountered in clinical practice.

I have a keen interest in the use of LASER in dermatology. On the final day of the congress I attended talks by inspiring speakers (Professor Badawi and Dr Laubach) in the field of LASER and energy based devices. It was interesting to hear about aspects of laser safety particularly the harmful effects of plume as well as the various medical and cosmetic indications for using LASER. Dr Avram from Boston who has a background in law provided an overview of LASER litigation highlighting the main reasons why patients complain after a LASER procedure. The importance of using clinical end point as a measure of effect was reinforced.

I am very grateful to the BAD for rewarding me with this travel fellowship. This was a memorable learning experience and an excellent opportunity to meet and learn from experts in dermatology across the world.

