

## **Catriona Maybury, St John's Institute of Dermatology**

### **Clinical dermatology elective at Yale University, Connecticut, USA**

#### **BAD/DC Travel Fellowship Winter 2018**

I am grateful to the BAD and Professors Michael Giradi (Yale) and Jonathan Barker (KCL) who facilitated a 3-week clinical elective for me to Yale in April 2018.

When I arrived in New York, there was snow on the ground and I stepped off the subway into an anti-gun crime rally. After making it through the crowds to Penn Station, I caught the train to Yale. Yale University is a short train journey from New York in New Haven, a college city on the Connecticut coast.

Professor Giradi and his PA Kacie Carlson organised a varied timetable of clinics for me to attend as well as the resident academic day each Wednesday. Clinics included general (Dr Levy), paediatrics (Dr Antaya), pigmented lesions (Dr Bologna), CTCL (Profs Giradi and Edelson), transplant dermatology (Dr Colegio), Mohs (Dr Suozzi) and Onco-dermatology (Dr Leventhal). The department was universally welcoming and friendly to me.

The two things that impressed me the most were the very high standard of clinical teaching and the efficiency of their outpatient clinics! Academic days for the residents start with grand rounds in the morning followed by a mixture of dermatopathology teaching, lectures and teaching ward rounds. Highlights from the academic teaching included a grand round discussion on the paintings of Peter Parker, a medical missionary to China (<https://library.medicine.yale.edu/find/peter-parker>), Dr Christensen teaching us nail biopsy techniques on cadavers and all sessions delivered by Dr Bologna who put preparation, energy (and wit) into her clinical teaching and grand rounds.

All outpatient clinics I attended ran to time. The physician assistants were capable of a variety of tasks (assisting biopsies, shuttling patients in and out of clinic rooms, helping to organise follow ups). They all seemed to work very hard to keep the whole operation running smoothly.

Yale dermatology department also possess excellent IT (<https://www.epic.com/>). Doctors could use their mobile phones to take photos via an app that meant the picture appeared in the patient's health records on screen instantly, scripts went directly from the electronic records to pharmacy etc. In the residents' clinics the ratio of attendings (consultants) to residents was higher than in the UK meaning less time spent waiting for a review.

My elective was such a valuable educational experience and I met some fantastic American dermatologists! I would encourage other dermatology registrars to organise an elective during their training if they have the opportunity. We hope that a resident from Yale will make the return journey to St John's...!



Dr Bologna performing a biopsy on a patient in her clinic. Every clinic room has a computer with EPIC access and full equipment for a skin biopsy.

