

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship Report - Winter 2019

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I am extremely grateful to the BAD for providing me with a BAD/DC Travel Fellowship in order to undertake an observership at Yale Dermatology Department.

St John's Institute of Dermatology has a longstanding link with Yale New Haven Hospital Dermatology Department which is affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine. Every 1-2 years Professor Jonathan Barker approves a St John's trainee to make the journey across the Pond to visit this prestigious department as a clinical observership. Yale is based in a small city called New Haven, which is between New York and Boston, and houses the world-renowned Ivy league university. The Yale Dermatology department has just under 40 dermatologists and dermatopathologists, including Jean Bolognia, who is world famous for her Textbook of Dermatology. Yale boasts the discovery of extra-corporeal photophoresis – an important treatment for cutaneous lymphoma and graft-versus host disease.

I was fortunate enough to undertake a 3-and-a-half-week clinical attachment from the 4th February 2019. This involved observing various adult and paediatric general and specialist clinics, both resident (trainee) led and attending (consultant) led. These included cutaneous lymphoma, ichthyosis, connective tissue, skin cancer, hair disorders, dermato-oncology, psoriasis, transplant dermatology, cosmetics, photophoresis and skin surgery/Mohs, as well as inpatient dermatology consults for a variety of subspecialties. I learnt a vast amount as an observer in those clinics, not only seeing fantastic clinical signs learning clinical dermatology, but also insight into new models for organising and running a clinic. I was fortunate enough to present at the departmental grand round also.

As someone with an interest in medical education I was keen to see how the residency programme was structured – especially given that dermatology specialist training is completed in only 3 years! Yale Dermatology is regarded as one of the best residency programmes in the US, and Yale trainees have scored highest nationally on the US Dermatology Board Exams for the last 3 years. The first thing that struck me is the 'welcome

package' that residents receive on commencing training. All new trainees are provided with a dermatoscope, a copy of Bologna's textbook and a generous study budget that can be used for any educational purpose, such as purchasing a new laptop. The average number of clinics per week was around 5, using either of two main clinic models. The first, occurring 1-2 times per week was seeing your own patients with the support of an Attending hovering in the corridor supervising multiple trainees and providing input into any/all cases as required: the attending model. These clinics were primarily for patients with lower insurance cover. The second, was the attending led clinics, where trainees shadow the attendings seeing patients with higher insurance cover. This is a fantastic opportunity to observe and learn from seniors, not just dermatology, but consultation style and managing a busy clinic. Furthermore, trainees have a whole day per week protected teaching with no clinical commitments, twice-weekly dermatopathology teaching, and teaching ward rounds. I was very impressed with structure and organisation of education for trainees, and this was reflected in the trainees' knowledge and skills.

As the BAD trainee representative, current medical education fellow in my department, and local lead registrar from August 2019, this placement has provided me with valuable insight into how another dermatology service and training programme operates, providing me with many ideas on how to improve our services and training. I will be presenting these insights at the St John's Institute of Dermatology grand round in April 2019.

Below: Photographs during my time at Yale



Myself (right), with Dr Aisha Sethi (left) Associate Professor of Dermatology and director of Yale Dermatology's Global Health Program, and Dr Jonathan Leventhal (middle), Associate Professor of Dermatology, Director of Onco-Dermatology, and Associate Director of the residency program.



Yale department of dermatopathology multi-header teaching microscope



Yale department of Dermatology Faculty and trainees



Harvey Cushing library at the Yale University School of Medicine