

## **AAD Registration Scholarship – American Academy of Dermatology 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington DC.**

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I was extremely grateful to have been selected to receive a scholarship to attend the American Academy of Dermatologists (AAD) meeting in Washington, D.C. in March 2016. This was my first trip to Washington, D.C. and I was excited to visit the political capital of the US. On my arrival there were sub-zero temperatures with snow, but thankfully the weather improved throughout my stay.

The Arrival Dinner was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world, which took place on the Thursday night. The conference itself kicked off the next day with a packed schedule of lectures. The biggest problem was trying to decide which lectures to attend. The lectures commenced between 7 and 8am, so on this occasion, suffering from jet lag was not such a problem.

I was able to attend talks on a wide variety of topics. I attended medical dermatology talks on the auto-inflammatory disorders, the differential diagnoses of blistering conditions, an update on morphea and a discussion of differentiating vasculitis vs coagulopathies based on clinical findings. There were several memorable paediatric talks including discussions of café-au-lait macules and associated disorders, epidermal naevi, primary immunodeficiencies and paediatric emergencies. I was also able to attend several symposia including one on dermatology in patients with pigmented skin and another on vulval disorders, whilst on the last day there were also talks on new developments in dermatology. The talks were of a fantastic quality, given by leaders in their fields and were applicable to everyday practice.

The fellowship also allowed me to attend a paid postgraduate session and I elected to attend the advanced dermoscopy day. This was a full day with a wide variety of lectures, which included talks on the dermoscopic findings in lentigo maligna, acral melanoma, spitz naevi and nail melanoma as well as a discussion on the utility of confocal microscopy in practice. This has helped me to consolidate previous learning on dermoscopy and will help me to apply it not just to pigmented lesions but also in a variety of other settings, such as the evaluation of hair loss, nail abnormalities and even inflammatory skin disease.

During the conference I was given the opportunity to present a case report of carcinoma telangiectoides and a review of rare presentations of lung malignancy to the skin at the Gross and Microscopic meeting. I also had a poster presentation accepted for the meeting, which was a case report and review of epidermal naevi syndromes.

Despite the busy days, I was also able to see some of the sights of Washington including the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and the White House, as well as see some of the Museums. Washington is a beautiful city, with tree lined low-rise streets, which are different to other cities in the US, such as New York. This trip has given me many memorable experiences and I am thankful for the opportunity to attend.