

I would like to thank the British Association of Dermatologists for supporting my visit to the Dermatology Department at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), one of the best hospitals in the United States. My two-week visit at the Department (31 March – 11 April 2014) has proven to be a worthwhile experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have learnt a lot from it.

With an interest in medical dermatology, I had set out to attend various specialised medical dermatology clinics including connective tissue disease, bullous disease, wound, vitiligo, graft-versus-host disease and hair clinics. I had a busy schedule starting at 7am daily attending the residents' teaching followed by a full day clinic. I particularly enjoyed the connective tissue disease clinics in which I had the opportunity to see and discuss various interesting cases including cutaneous vasculitis, lupus, scleroderma, eosinophilic fasciitis, morphea, dermatomyositis, and morphea. In particular, I have learnt about the management of lupus using a combination of systemic treatments such as adding methotrexate, thalidomide, mycophenolate mofetil, dapsone or a retinoid drug to hydroxychloroquine for the severe and recalcitrant cases. I have also learnt about the use of intravenous immunoglobulin for severe dermatomyositis. In the bullous clinics, I had the opportunity to see several cases of pemphigus vulgaris, which responded rapidly to rituximab and intravenous immunoglobulin. I was excited to learn that there are effective treatments available for patients who are debilitated by this severe blistering condition.

In the graft-versus-host disease clinic, I was excited to see a few cases of chronic graft-versus-host disease and have learnt to recognise the signs of this condition. In addition, I also had the opportunity to discuss the differences in disease morphology, onset and treatment options for acute and chronic graft-versus-host diseases.

The highlight of the visit for me was the opportunity to attend the Department's Grand Round during which several complex cases were discussed followed by a lecture by Dr Stephanie Liu on chemotherapy related toxicities. During this lecture, she illustrated several interesting cases. In particular, she discussed the

manifestations and treatments for toxic erythema (hand-foot skin reaction) associated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors, scleroderma-like cutaneous changes associated with the use of taxanes, and EGFR-I associated eruptions. I was excited to learn about these conditions as they are new entities that I have not come across so far.

The visit has also provided me an insight into the training of dermatology in the United States, and in an outstanding department that is affiliated with the Harvard Medical School. I also had good opportunities to network and exchange my learning experiences with the trainees and dermatologists there.

Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and am grateful for the support given by the British Association of Dermatologists for this. I have managed to fulfil my learning needs and have gained some useful practical tips, which I will certainly incorporate in my future practice.