

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship Award – 45th Annual European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) Meeting, Rotterdam



The award of this bursary enabled me to attend the 45th ESDR meeting from the 9th – 12th September in Rotterdam, Europe's largest port city. Rotterdam is a vibrant city and host to over 170 different Nationalities. The venue of the meeting, the Postillion Convention Centre-WTC, was in the heart of the International business centre with the port, the museum quarter and shopping all within walking distance. Approximately 1000 delegates attended the meeting from all over the World. The weather was lovely with blue skies as seen in the photo I took during the lunch break. The meeting was a great opportunity to combine high quality scientific research whilst facilitating exchange of information between clinicians and scientists that helps the advancement of investigative dermatology.

Special interest groups and sister societies provided updates in different fields related to dermatology. The meeting was facilitated by an excellent mobile app that allowed you to navigate through the various lectures and customise your day based on the lectures you had a particular interest in. The meeting kicked off nice and leisurely at 10am, straight into dermatoendocrinology. The quality of the lectures was impressive and lecture topics were varied and ranged from cell therapy to gene editing, neurobiology of the skin to skin inflammation. I was spoilt for choice but focused my attention on lectures surrounding cell therapy as it is the special interest that I wanted to develop further. I am conducting a clinical trial using cell therapy and the lectures were invaluable in my understanding of mechanisms of action and greatly complemented the clinical trial. Taking inspiration from the talks, I was able to generate further ideas in my own research and build upon my current knowledge. Prof. McGrath attended the ESDR meeting and introduced me to many of his collaborators and colleagues in the Epidermolysis Bullosa world. "Rare disease Phenotypes and Genotypes" was an excellent session chaired by Prof. David Kelsell with talks from UK colleagues providing an update on databases for rare diseases and the clinical and genetic variability of keratodermas, finishing with a lecture on future perspectives. A high volume of posters meant that coffee breaks were spent reviewing rows and rows of posters.

This meeting enabled me to interact with International delegates and share and exchange information with them. It was a fantastic educational opportunity. I would like to thank the British Association of Dermatologists and the Dowling Club for the opportunity to attend this conference; it has been both informative and inspirational.

Ellie Rashid, Dermatology SpR/Clinical Research Fellow