

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship Award – American Academy of Dermatology 73rd Annual Meeting in San Francisco

I am extremely grateful to the BAD and the Dowling Club for awarding me a travel grant that allowed me to attend the American Academy of Dermatologists annual meeting in San Francisco in March 2014.

The meeting, attended by over 15,000 dermatologists from over the world has been recommended as an absolute must to attend by many of my consultants throughout my training. It was with great excitement that I planned my trip to one of America's most culturally rich and vibrant places. It was clear from the outset, looking at the meeting programme that it was going to be a busy five days with lectures and workshops scheduled from 7am until 5pm.

Assisted by hideous jetlag I was in 7am lectures clutching a Venti Starbucks and a notepad. This proved to be a good investment of my efforts, as topics were varied and extremely relevant – updates on rosacea, melanoma diagnosis, vasculitidies and eczema. The quality of the lectures was outstanding, and the speakers were able to hold the attention of a large audience for two solid hours when most people were still in bed hitting the snooze button.

I found it a valuable experience presenting my research to an international audience. Five minute slots made it important to focus on the key message of the work without losing the audience's attention. The presentations I attended were all of high quality, with medical students, residents and senior researchers all having the opportunity to discuss their work and address audience questions.

The AAD had a wide variety of surgical themed lectures where I had the opportunity to hear presentations by Dr Hugh Greenaway, of the highly regarded anatomy course in San Diego, and Dr Zitelli, of the bilobed flap design fame. Both of these highly regarded dermatologists trained in Mohs surgery under the man whose name this technique carries.

I returned to the UK feeling intellectually refreshed, ready to put my newly acquired knowledge into practice.

Elizabeth Kulakov

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