

Report of attendance at the World Congress of Dermatology 2015 in Vancouver, Canada

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I was privileged to attend the World Congress of Dermatology in Vancouver this year and I am hugely grateful to the British Association of Dermatology and National Institute for Health Research for their generous contribution to my attendance at this fascinating conference.

The conference was held in two conference centres which abutted the Vancouver waterfront, and the mere fact that one conference centre alone was not large enough to host the congress gives some idea of the scale of the meeting and thus the broad variety of plenary sessions, symposia, workshops and courses.

It was incredibly inspiring to hear experts from across the globe speaking passionately about their field including Prof. T Beiber on the re-classification of atopic dermatitis, Prof. B Cribier discussing the histopathological aspects of rosacea and Prof. F Rongioletti sharing his experience of managing mucinoses.

I attended a course on dermatological rheumatology. This session included fascinating lectures on scleroderma, the complex interpretation of anti-body profiles and the manifold skin manifestations of lupus. The discussion with regard to management was very interesting as skin physicians (largely from the North American continent), shared their experiences of using sodium thiosulphate for severe calcinosis cutis and botulinum toxin for severe, recalcitrant Raynaud's.

My contribution to the congress was to present my work investigating the adverse effect profile of azathioprine on the treatment of atopic dermatitis and used my data to make recommendations for bloods monitoring in this patient group. This was well-received and led to a stimulating discussion regarding the balancing of effective monitoring for adverse effects and the distress caused by phlebotomy in paediatric patients.

In summary I have gained a huge amount of inspiration from attending this immensely exciting event and would like to reiterate my gratitude to the BAD and NIHR for enabling me to attend this meeting and to thank my supervisor Dr Veronica Kinsler for her unwavering help and support.

