

## **Report of Attendance to EADV Paediatric Course Barcelona February 2012.**

I was extremely pleased and honoured to have been awarded this BAD/DC Travel Fellowship for attending the EADV paediatric dermatology course. All flights and travel to and from Spain went very smoothly and finding the 'Hospital Clinic-Facultat de Medicina', where the course was being held, not too difficult. This was of great relief to me as I do not speak a word of Spanish.

Course delegates were from across Europe including Portugal, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. Each delegate brought and presented a case. The presentations of these 24 cases, I presented one on a mastocytoma, was very interesting to listen to, not only as a 'basic' learning exercise, but also to see how some of the conditions I had encountered before were treated, sometimes quite differently. Cases of cutis marmorata telangiectasia congenita, Coffin-Siris syndrome, neutrophilic eccrine hidradenitis and a particularly florid kerion due to *T.mentagrophytes* stuck out as especially interesting. Regarding my presentation I was relieved that the expert in mastocytosis present agreed with our diagnosis and management of a solitary mastocytoma in a 9 month old girl.

Of particular interest regarding the lectures given during the course those on 'mastocytosis', 'update in management of haemangiomas', 'neonatal hair abnormalities' and 'dermatoscopy basics in paediatric dermatology' were particularly interesting and useful. At the end of the first day a very useful practical session was organised for us on hair shaft abnormalities. During this session we were shown how to prepare a hair pull samples for direct light microscopy and prepared such a slide (of our neighbours' hair) ourselves. Many of my own roots were shown to be atrophic. We also had the opportunity to study various hair shaft abnormalities from pre-prepared slides such as those seen in trichothiodystrophy.

After lectures on the first day we all met for dinner in central Barcelona. This was a great opportunity to meet fellow delegates and to discuss similarities and differences about training in dermatology across Europe and also the course organisers and lecturers such as Dr R Grimalt. On the way we had time to look Casa Batllo and Palau Guell by Gaudi. Amazing.

I ate roast rabbit with snails for lunch on the final day at 'Los Caracoles' (a tavern in the area since 1835) after lectures on the final day had finished. This nicely brought to an end a most educational and culturally exciting visit to Barcelona. I have been inspired to attend further EADV courses and to improve my German, as everyone there spoke English so well I felt ashamed about my second language.