

# **BAD/DC Travel Fellowship - AAD Report**

## **Dr Prativa Jayasekera**

As soon as I arrived in Washington DC airport I saw a huge banner welcoming me to the AAD and immediately I was excited to attend this conference with so many other dermatologists. That evening, slightly jet lagged, I attended the scholarship dinner held at the Marriot hotel. The food was absolutely delicious and it was a great opportunity to meet other trainee dermatologists from around the world.

The first day was an early start and I decided to concentrate on lectures on medical dermatology. I attended excellent lectures on lupus, scleroderma and morphea; I scribbled down furiously pearls about difficult to manage patients from the expert presenters. The venue itself was across two large buildings, I found all rooms to be well sign posted and there was always a smiling employee available to ask for help for directions.

On the second day I attended lectures on vasculitis, neutrophilic dermatoses and pregnancy dermatoses. I was very impressed at the quality of the speakers and found that they generally concentrated on clinically orientated lectures which I personally found very beneficial. Every morning I would attend the 7am lectures and I was surprised at how many delegates attended so early in the morning but they were always worth getting up early for! In the evenings I enjoyed various different cuisines and sampled the busy nightlife that Washington DC had to offer.

On the Sunday evening I attended the BAD reunion which is always a great chance to catch up with old friends and we were also treated to a first viewing of the latest edition of the Rook textbook. The following days were jam packed with lectures on skin surgery and skin cancer. I went to many talks regarding facial reconstruction and picked up lots of tips which I will use in my own practice. One of the lectures, that stood out for me, was on cutaneous lymphoma which I have always found particularly tricky. After the lecture I felt much more confident about the diagnosis and treatment of cutaneous lymphomas and the rest of the audience seemed equally as impressed as me.

On the penultimate day I attended a whole day course on dermoscopy, the speakers managed to cover a huge amount over one day and I left the course feeling much more confident about dermoscopy especially acral pigmented lesions which are always difficult! The weather was interesting, it was freezing for the first 4 days and on the last day of the conference it was twenty degrees which was lovely but came a little late!

After the conference had ended I did some sight seeing as I could not leave Washington DC without seeing the famous White House. When I finally arrived at the white house I was surprised at how small it was, as on the television it appears much bigger! I took an obligatory selfie and then set off to see the Lincoln memorial. The scenery in Washington DC was beautiful and there is so much culture and history that can be absorbed by just walking around. By Tuesday evening it was time to leave Washington DC and I was sad to go, the conference was fantastic and the venue could not have been better - I am already making plans to go to the next AAD!