

73rd Annual Meeting, American Academy of Dermatology 2015

REPORT – Dr Yasmine Robson

I would like to thank the British Association of Dermatology for helping to sponsor my trip to San Francisco, California for the 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology.

The meeting was located in the Moscone centre, a vast convention and exhibition complex with three main halls. The program was filled with focus sessions, courses, symposia, discussion groups and forums. The AAD meeting Mobile App enabled me to plan my timetable, check-in to sessions and collect continuing medical education points. Handouts for sessions could be downloaded during the talks allowing written access to clinical pearls, useful to my practice in the future.

I was able to attend a wide range of presentations covering my objectives for the meeting, which was to increase my understanding of more complex medical dermatology; learn new surgical techniques and review the latest evidence-based medicine approach to managing dermatological conditions.

Some highlights of the conference included the regional reconstruction symposia which was a practical session reviewing relevant anatomy of the head and neck, tissue mechanics and flap design around eyes, nose, mouth and ear. The popular 'Acne treatment controversies' session discussed the role of diet in acne, side effects of isotretinoin and the problem of antibiotic resistance. Jeffrey Donovan gave an engaging talk, summarizing the diagnosis and treatments of scarring alopecia. It was interesting to reflect on the future of our specialty with a forum on teledermatology as an evolving concept in triaging, direct care and monitoring of patients by Dr Carrie Kovarik.

I was given the opportunity to present two electronic posters. 'Raising awareness of the number of patients with multiple primary melanoma and a positive family history of melanoma' summarising a two-year prospective study on 36 patients, which found a high proportion to have a positive family history of melanoma and CDKN2A mutation. The second poster 'An unusual presentation of multiple lentigo maligna melanoma successfully treated with imiquimod 5% cream' demonstrated a case of 13 lentigo maligna melanoma lesions on the left side of the face and neck, which completely cleared (with no recurrence at 24 months) with 6 weeks of imiquimod cream.

I am now in my final year of training and I felt this conference was an excellent way to consolidate knowledge from my training and give me additional confidence to start a consultant post. The speakers were enthusiastic and dynamic and I came away brimming with knowledge and motivation and an insight into the future of dermatology. It was superbly organized and I can highly recommend attendance to this conference to other trainees.