

Report: XV World Congress on Cancers of the skin, Edinburgh, 2014, by Dr Tang Shim

I was very grateful to be awarded the BAD/DC Postgraduate Travel Fellowship to attend The World Congress on Cancers of the Skin (WCCS), Edinburgh, 3-6th September 2014. The conference was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC). This is the first time I have attended the WCCS. This congress offers me a unique opportunity to interact with a distinguished international faculty and learn about breakthrough discoveries in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of all types of skin cancer. I have also use this opportunity to present my research work on HLA and HPV in male genital lichen sclerosus, penile pre-cancer and penile cancer in the plenary session. The presentation was well received and attended. I have also two poster presentations: (1) Immunosuppression, human papillomavirus and Merkel cell polyomavirus in male genital lichen sclerosus, penile pre-cancer and penile cancer, (2) Prevalence of human papillomavirus in male genital lichen sclerosus, penile carcinoma-in-situ and penile carcinoma: correlation with p16 expression and immune status. I gave a 5-minute oral presentation on each poster to share my research findings.

One of the interesting lectures was the WCCS Public Lecture on “Around the World in 80 Faiths”, a thought provoking lecture on how both religion and medicine can be interlinked.

I have also attended the Conference Dinner which was held in the prestigious Grand Gallery of the National Museum. It was an enjoyable evening with a demonstration of the ceilidh, a traditional Scottish dance.

The congress was of extremely high standards and exceeded my expectations. There are many excellent learning opportunities. It also reaffirmed my interest in dermatology research.