

American Academy of Dermatology AAD Annual Meeting 2014

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Winning this year's NIHR/BAD Research Travel Bursary Award for the AAD 2014 Annual Meeting has been the highlight of my medical career so far. Not only was it an enriching experience attending and presenting a live poster presentation at the Meeting itself, it was also my first trip to the United States and my very first ever ski experience in Denver Colorado!

I presented an Interesting Case of Facial Becker's Naevus in a 5-minute-Live Poster Presentation slot at the AAD Meeting and received good feedbacks from several audience who attended my presentation during the Meeting. This opportunity has further cultivated my interest in Translational Dermatology and getting involved in research with substantial clinical and academic value in future.

I also took the opportunity to attend symposiums and lectures that would compliment my current training as a CT2 – Hot Topics in AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases: including an update in Kaposi's Sarcoma, Drug Eruptions in HIV/AIDS, HPV and Anogenital Malignancies, Immune Reconstitution Syndrome and Infectious Genital Ulcer Diseases Symposiums. These lectures allowed me to further understand and appreciate the interphase between Genitourinary Medicine, Sexual Health and Dermatology.

On the following day, I attended lectures on Advanced Medical Dermatology presented by International Dermatological Experts from all over the Globe – Dermatological manifestations in Hematological Disorders; Drug Hypersensitivity Syndromes; TEN; and Cutaneous Reactions to Chemotherapy.

The Annual AAD Conference also provided a very good opportunity for trainees from all over the World to socialise and exchange ideas and training experiences from our respective countries / regions. This can be particularly useful when working with colleagues from different backgrounds and training programmes in future to further understand and cultivate team work within the organisation.

My whole AAD 2014 experience was not only work with no play – I explored the vibrant City Centre of Denver and also had my first ski experience in the world-renowned Mountains of Colorado with other Dermatology colleagues.

I would like to thank the NIHR and BAD for this Award as it provided me with significant financial relief and made my trip to the United States possible. This prestigious award would hopefully also provide me with further advantage and brownie points for job applications in future. Last but not least, I would like to thank my Dermatology Consultants (Dr Rajasekaran, Dr Ogboli and Dr Abdullah – Birmingham Skin Centre) for supporting my award application. I would highly encourage other Junior Trainees in applying for this award in future.

