

Report of attendance at the Association of Psychoneurocutaneous Medicine of North America Annual Meeting and the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting

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In March this year I was lucky enough to travel to San Francisco and present my work in two meetings there. It was an unforgettable trip and I am very grateful to the BAD/NIHR for helping to fund it.

The first meeting was the Association of Psychoneurocutaneous Medicine of North America Annual Meeting where I presented a case series looking at the cost-effectiveness of a psychodermatology service. I was unsure whether my project, in which the limited NHS budget featured heavily, would be relevant to an international audience. In fact, they found the subject to be very interesting and were very encouraging. They explained that in the USA, insurance companies are becoming more interested in the cost-effectiveness of treatments they pay for, so clinicians there are under similar pressures. The other presentations included various topics related to psychodermatology including body dysmorphic disorder, habit reversal techniques, and Morgellon's disease. I particularly enjoyed talking to other dermatologists who have an interest in this fascinating subspecialty, and it has increased my desire to learn more about it.

The following day was the beginning of the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting which lasted 5 days. This event was even more enormous than I had imagined with presentations happening simultaneously in dozens of rooms and an exhibition covering 3 huge halls. The posters were presented in 5 minute intervals at 3 podiums throughout the meeting. I presented a poster which was a case report about cutaneous BCG infection following BCG vaccination, for which I received good feedback from the small audience. I attended a wide variety of sessions covering topics such as immunobullous disorders, acne, rosacea, paediatric dermatology, dermoscopy, hair disorders, vulval conditions and much more. The teaching was excellent and I would wholeheartedly recommend attending such meetings to other trainees for the invaluable educational opportunities. I really enjoyed meeting fellow dermatologists and trainees from around the world and it was also nice to see some familiar faces at the BAD reunion!