

**Joint BAD/NIHR Travel Bursary Award Report  
Attendance at the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting 2015**

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I would like to express immense thanks for this award, which enabled me to go to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, 20/03/2015 – 24/03/2015. I had neither been to an AAD meeting or to San Francisco before and both were eye opening, and incredible experiences. The volume of the educational programme amazed me. Each day I had to make multiple choices between competing lectures, seminars and symposia scheduled at overlapping times, many of which were interesting and relevant to my training. Acquiring Hermione Grainger's Time Turner would have been the only way to truly make the most of the abundant learning opportunities. However, magic was not an option, and jet leg was against me. Having said this, in some ways the need to make sensible decisions regarding what to see and do each day helped to focus my time at the AAD.

I was fortunate to present two e-posters at the conference, "Immunohistochemical evaluation of Trichoepithelioma and Basal Cell Carcinoma using Ki-67" (Dermatopathology section) and a case report entitled, "Diagnosis of Castleman's disease in a patient treated with prolonged anti-TNF biological therapy for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis" (Cutaneous Lymphoma/Mycosis Fungoides section). Having never presented at an International Forum, this was a very useful experience and helped me to hone my presentation skills and increase my confidence presenting information clearly in a succinct manner.

Particular personal highlights of the AAD conference included the Global Health Dermatology and Eradication of Scabies sessions, which were inspiring, and chimed with my interest in global health developed through the Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. My top recommendation for registrars attending the AAD in future would be the Resident's Power Hour, which was a race through hot topics, which I think will be extremely useful for the Dermatology Specialty Certificate Examination. Some of my favourite sessions were the more off the beaten track ones: *The Game's Afoot: Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Dermatologic Diagnosis*, aiming to, "sharpen our diagnostic skills in the spectral presence of a master detective", and *Enhancing Observational Skills*, in which we examined narrative paintings learning to objectively describe what we could see. These sessions were extremely refreshing, helping me to think outside the box, and complemented the myriad of sessions with a more evidence-based focus on medical dermatology, dermoscopy, paediatric and vulval dermatology, to name but a few. I would certainly recommend the conference to other trainees; I returned to the UK reinvigorated and enthused. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to attend.