

## World Congress of Dermatology Vancouver June 2015 Deana Al-Ismael, Specialist Registrar, Wales Deanery

Perched on the harbour front coupled with breathtakingly beautiful views and a week of glorious sunshine, Vancouver Convention Centre truly hosted a fantastic conference. The opening ceremony saw the re-lighting of the Olympic Cauldron, last lit for the Winter Olympics in Vancouver 2010.

This was a great opportunity to meet, share experiences and exchange information with globally renowned Dermatologists. I am very grateful to the BAD/NIHR and Welsh Dermatology Forum for helping to fund it. One of the early highlights of the conference, was the controversy lecture "Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis: To Treat or Not to Treat?" drawing on experiences from the centre in Créteil. Although the arguments for supportive management provided by Jean-Claude Rojeau versus immunotherapy by Pierre Wolkenstein were equally compelling, no firm conclusion was drawn. It was comforting to note, that their experience has brought mortality figures down from 30% to 7%. The other compelling controversy debate was "Is there now enough evidence that controlling Psoriasis really decreases Cardiovascular risk?" I felt that, overall, Rob Stern effectively argued that lifestyle modification has a greater role than the biologic agents used so widely today.

Breakfasts were accompanied by Global Celebration Forum talks. The session on Surgery yielded pearls both in terms of critical appraisal skills and practical tips "Quick exit strategies: When you are in a pinch" including demonstration of the "lasoo" suture. The plenary lectures, held a captivated audience with jewels of information, covering a breadth of topics from "The Bioinformatics Revolution in Medicine", "Multiphoton Skin Imaging" to "Recent Advances in Antimicrobial Peptides" and "Stem Cells in Dermatology".

I was able to share the findings of my translational research into PUVA regarding "Erythema Action Spectrum Re-Evaluated: Implications for clinical practice". We have established an erythemal action spectrum for topical psoralen as is used in current clinical practice. In all healthy volunteers, 325nm showed peak sensitivity studied irrespective of skin type. This mirrors a previous study whereby patients with psoriasis achieved clearance of disease with a 325nm lamp when treated over a six week period. Furthermore, the action spectrum of psoralen - induced erythema will enable reliable estimates of the PUVA erythemal efficacy of any UV source where the emission spectrum of the lamp is known or measured. This enables accurate assessment of new UV lamps used in PUVA treatment of dermatoses.

Moments spent outside the conference, included Sea Plane Tour over Vancouver Island, horse-drawn carriage tour through Stanley Park, walking around Gastown, marvelling at the Steam Clock and a refreshing French Vanilla Coffee at Tim Horton's to end the day. The bar has certainly been set for the next World Congress of Dermatology meeting in Milan, which I'm sure will be equally wonderful!