

## BAD/DC Travel Fellowship - Summer 2017

### Alison Honan

I have now been fortunate to attend the AAD on two occasions during my registrar training; most recently attending the meeting at the San Diego Convention Center supported by a travel grant from the BAD (*view of convention center from hotel bottom left*). Now closer to my CCT, the focus of what to be gained was different to my first experience. I sought to go to clinical sessions to enhance knowledge of personal areas of interest and to those which would help shape my independent practice. In addition, I was able to fill gaps within my curriculum competencies.

During my first day I attended a highly informative early morning session on pregnancy dermatoses followed by a forum on advanced management strategies for Hidradenitis Suppurativa. My afternoon comprised of a short topics session covering challenging and controversial issues in atopic dermatitis, paediatric dermatology, cosmetic dermatology and skin cancer with integrated multiple choice questions and my day finished with a concise case based session on paediatric vulvar diseases from a multidisciplinary team who run a clinic at a tertiary referral centre.

My second and third days covered the management of difficult wounds, a forum on psychocutaneous disease, the evidence behind the current AAD acne guidelines, evidence based complementary dermatology therapeutics, male genital dermatology lessons learned and further insights on Hidradenitis Suppurativa. During my final day I attended a session on paediatric dermatology for the adult dermatologist which covered several topics highlighting key diagnostic clues, important investigations and essential management tips, and a session on dermatoses of infancy.

In addition, my interest in paediatric dermatology lead me to secure a day shadowing with the team at Rady Children's Hospital where I was warmly welcomed (*view from department bottom right*). They were interested to hear how I would investigate and treat each patient we reviewed. The range of diagnoses were similar and even the majority of the treatment choices. On occasions the differences in our healthcare systems were evident when discussing the variation in treatments covered by insurance companies and also the thorough knowledge the staff had on which treatments were available 'over the counter' and the corresponding costs. I was also amazed at the ability of a number of the staff being able to communicate in both English and Spanish to enhance the consultation. Furthermore, I enjoyed the weekly departmental meeting where inpatient referrals were discussed and where each team member had to summarise an AAD session they attended and the learning points gained. This is certainly an idea that I could integrate into my future practice both to enhance team learning as well as to boost team morale.

A further wonderful meeting on which to reflect with a large amount of new insights gained. The meeting has had a direct impact on my own patient management and through feedback to colleagues it may have additionally influenced their practices. I would not hesitate to encourage others to attend the AAD and would also thoroughly recommend increased exposure to the different healthcare system through an observership programme.

