

NIHR/BAD Travel Bursary Report
International Investigative Dermatology – IID 2018 Meeting, Orlando, Florida (16-19 May 2018)

Dr Su M. Lwin

Clinical Fellow in Dermatology | Honorary Clinical Research Fellow in Genetic Skin Diseases
St John's Institute of Dermatology | King's College London

I am deeply grateful to the National Institute for Health Research Senior Investigators: Professor Chris Griffiths and Professor Hywel Williams, and the British Association of Dermatologists for this prestigious travel award to attend the IID 2018 meeting in Orlando, Florida. The IID meeting only takes place once every five years and the first tri-continental meeting of the ESDR, JSID and SID was established in 1989.

This was my second IID experience; the first being the IID 2013 in Edinburgh where I was fascinated by two certain eminent Lectures that inspired me to embark on the research journey in dermatology. It was, therefore, of a personal significance and privilege for me to present my PhD work on “Safety outcomes for first-in-man intradermal injections of lentiviral-engineered *COL7A1*-supplemented autologous fibroblasts in adults with recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB)” to an international assembly of the world’s leading clinicians and scientists in dermatology at this meeting. The ensuing fruitful discussions with the audience provided me with important lessons and new ideas for my future research.



Having completed my presentation early on in the week, I was able to relax and enjoy the rest of the meeting held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort surrounded by the luscious landscape of the old Florida Frontier. The scientific programme was vigorous and expansive; it consisted of a terrific selection of talks including 9 Guest Lectures, 3 Rising Star Lectures, 5 plenary sessions, 18 selected ePoster discussions and 3 come and see my poster sessions. Some of the highlights for me included the ESDR Guest Lecture by the Nobel Laureate Stefan Hell from the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry on his development of ultra high resolution STED microscopy, derived from a seemingly simple yet logical idea replete with determination and self-belief in its revolution; the SID Herman Beerman Lecture by Rob Knight from University of California, San Diego/ a 2014 TED speaker on the Skin Microbiome and the exciting Human Microbiome Project amongst others; the Rising Start Lecture by Amaya Viros from the University of Manchester on the effect of ageing on melanoma initiation and progression prior to sharing a more personal note on her professional journey and how to establish a scientific niche at the IID Trainee Retreat. The evening social events were equally energetic and propitious for optimal networking at the welcome reception and the Young Investigator Collegiality “indoor pool party” whilst a select sum ventured into the Wizarding World of Harry Potter!

In conclusion, IID 2018 was a memorable experience replete with stimulating science and enjoyable opportunities to catch up with old friends and colleagues whilst making new ones. I am humbled and honoured to have received the support from the NIHR/BAD travel bursary that afforded me to attend the last ever IID before transitioning to the new format of International Societies for Investigative Dermatology – ISID 2023 in Tokyo, Japan.