

## **Emirates Dermatology Society Fellowship - Summer 2018**

Having been awarded the Emirates Dermatology Society fellowship I was excited to attend Abu Dhabi in November for three days of learning in the sunny Emirates, with SPF 50 of course! The annual conference is a great opportunity for practicing clinicians in both adult and paediatric dermatology in the Middle East to congregate, share their expertise and learn from each other. The significant heterogeneity in the environmental, ethnic, social, cultural and economic backgrounds of populations inhabiting the different middle eastern countries, gave a rise to a number of exciting and varied talks.

The main sessions covered a variety of sub-specialities from Paediatrics to Cosmetic dermatology. Each session had multiple short lectures, based around a central theme, which enabled me to glean lots of 'clinical pearls' to employ into my daily practice. Alongside this, the practical surgical sessions run by the UK based speaker's Dr Hussain and Dr Spierings were extremely well received.

Apart from local speakers, the society invited external speakers for their expertise. One of the most informative talks was given by international hair expert, Dr Jerry Shapiro. He discussed his algorithmic approach in the management of scarring alopecia's, how to manage expectations, counsel patients as well as newer treatments for alopecia areata. Furthermore, this conference encouraged talks beyond the usual clinical and histopathological series and discussed novel uses for dermoscopy and the role of artificial intelligence. These progressive and innovative talks made for a great discussion about the role of the dermatologist in the future and ways in which we can embrace technology to best help our patients.

With most places open till late, the free evenings allowed me to explore Abu Dhabi and see how a relatively barren desert has been rapidly transformed into a world class tourist destination. Beyond the tourist luxuries afforded in incredible resorts, you can also catch a glimpse of the local Emirati heritage with visits to the world-famous Sheikh Zayed mosque and the traditional souks. I also managed to squeeze in a sunset visit to the infamous Louvre museum, a modern outpost of the traditional Parisian institution. The museum's modern architecture is just as impressive as its artistic contents, which like the conference reflected different cultures, side by side in this truly international city.

I would like to thank the BAD as well as the Emirates Dermatology Society for their award and their gracious hospitality. The opportunity to learn from international colleagues is always a refreshing experience as it reminds me that there are multiple ways to manage diseases and the broad range of treatment options at our disposal. I would particularly like to thank the President of the Emirates Dermatology Society, Dr Anwar Al Hammadi and Patina Mostacci for their hard work in delivering an excellent programme and would strongly recommend other trainees to submit work to this conference in the future.

Dr. Aadarsh Shah



