

BAD/DC Travel Fellowship Winter 2019 - AAD

Dr Viktoria Eleftheriadou

It was a great honour to be granted the BAD/DC Travel Fellowship and attend the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, 1-5 March, 2019. I was invited by the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and the Scientific Assembly Committee to speak at the Cochrane Skin Evidence Based Dermatology Symposium Session. I presented the work of the International Initiative for outcomes for vitiligo trials (INFO for vitiligo), which I have been leading since 2010.

Dr V Eleftheriadou presents
at the AAD



Despite over 60 years of research, neither firm clinical recommendations nor cure for vitiligo have been found. Cochrane review, Interventions for vitiligo, concluded that one of the main issues is heterogeneity of outcomes and outcome measures which are used in randomised controlled trials for management of vitiligo. The International Initiative for outcomes for vitiligo trials (INFO for vitiligo) is a group of patients, clinicians, journal editors and regulatory authorities from over 24 countries worldwide. Since 2010, INFO members work collaboratively on bringing consensus amongst researchers on what outcomes and outcome measures should be assessed in future vitiligo trials. Up-to-date, core outcome set for future vitiligo trials has been defined and recommendations have been made with regards to how repigmentation should be measured. At the AAD, I presented the progress, which INFO made so far, as well as the results of the updated systematic review on outcome measures.

Currently, I am a dermatology SpR at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and also an Associate Specialist in vitiligo at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, the University of Nottingham. I hold a special interest in vitiligo and pigmentary disorders. In 2013, I completed my PhD in vitiligo (funded by the National Institute for Health Research) at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology. My research work was influential in driving the research agenda in the field of vitiligo. In particular, based on my PhD thesis, the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology was successful in obtaining the £1 million grant from the Health Technology Assessment in order to conduct a multi-centre national trial in vitiligo (Hi-Light trial).

It was extremely beneficial for research in vitiligo to present the up-to-date progress of the INFO group. The BAD/DC Travel Fellowship supported my trip financially and provided me with the opportunity to attend the 2019 AAD Annual Meeting, which brings the brightest minds in dermatology together for an unforgettable educational experience.

I was thrilled to hear from expert speakers as they discussed the latest advances and trending topics in dermatology. With more than 300 sessions across various tracks, I was able to make the most of my visit, attend sessions of interest and bring relevant information back to my practice.

In summary, this prestigious fellowship enabled me to develop further my leadership skills, to network with colleagues and allied health care professionals internationally. I am extremely grateful to the BAD Fellowship Awards Committee and the BAD President, Dr Ruth Murphy.



Dr V Eleftheriadou (UK) and Prof K Ezzedine (France), co-leaders of the INFO for vitiligo