

Dowling Club Trip to Canada May 18th –May 29th

This year's Dowling Club destination was Canada and like so many before it, it was a trip of a life-time. Thirty dermatologists (10 Registrars) set out for Toronto where we visited the impressive Sick Kids Hospital. The architectural flourishes and attention to detail were breathtaking. The theme of the 2-day meeting was Paediatric Dermatology with presentations from both sets of dermatologists being of very high standards. We selected a Canadian trainee to come over and present their excellent Muir-Torre talk at BAD 2006. We took in The Royal Yacht Club and the CN Tower as dinner venues – digital cameras were almost melting before the trip had even started. We ventured further afield on the rest days to visit Niagara Falls and a local vineyard. An internal flight took us to Calgary where we slept (in hotels!) up in the mountains. We visited lakes, waterfalls and mountains that require pictures to describe them rather than prose. Some of our party almost bumped into a grizzly bear on the way back from one lake. This may sound cute but we read later on in the trip that it had killed and half eaten a man subsequently. Obviously British Dermatologists are a bit too gamey a dish for your average 500lb bear. One

of many highlights was walking on a glacier and having a snowball fight (in May). The snow-gear packed away, we descended to sunny Vancouver by overnight train. Two words: Richard Logan – a complete star. We attended a joint residents meeting, as well as the British Columbia Dermatology meeting. The cases presented were of a high standard and the meeting was of a high quality, with subjects ranging from acne (a great overview by Vicky Yates) to leg ulcers. We selected a Canadian resident to visit the BAD Annual Meeting to present her papers. How could we top the clinical meeting? We took seaplanes to Vancouver Island and got on power boats to go whale watching of course. I foolishly took part in a 27K cycle tour of Vancouver. Our final night was an interesting insight into the lifestyle of a Mohs surgeon. We had a magnificent farewell dinner at Dr David Zloty's house, which comfortably accommodated all the British Columbia dermatologists and ourselves (approx. 60) in style. We all fell in love with the scenery and the lifestyle: ski in the morning, swim in the sea in the afternoon and then go for sushi. The Dowling Club president, Danny Kemmett, deserves a special mention for deciding on the locations and negotiating our visits to the



Bav Shergill

respective departments. Tony Griffiths from Steifel came with us and was an entertaining and resourceful member of our crew. The Dowling Club visits forge social and work links between dermatologists around the world and also between registrars and consultants. As a registrar, you are heavily subsidised to go on these trips and I would urge you all to go on at least one during your training. It was a break-neck tour and a lot of fun. Some went on to Alaska by boat and I am sure their story will be told in the Dowling newsletter.

Dr Bav Shergill
London



Dowling Club group on glacier



Vancouver by sea-plane



Danny Kemmett, Toronto