

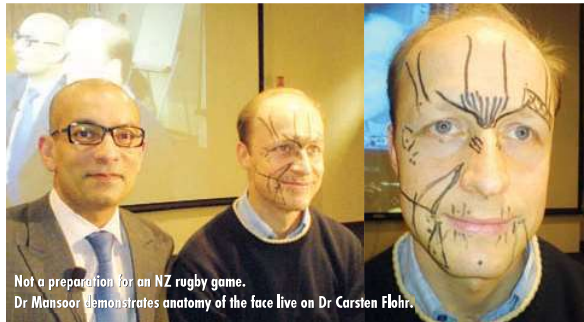
Dowling Club Newsletter

It's been another exciting year for the Dowling Club, with the usual mixture of high quality Educational weekends, post-RSM dinners, and with a wonderful overseas trip to Mexico still in prospect for April/May.

Educational weekends

In September 2008 we kicked off with a joint Dowling Club/SWEWDS meeting in Poole. At the stunning Sandbanks harbour location we had a bevy of outstanding talks by inspiring speakers on "Pearls in Surgical and Medical Dermatology" followed by an excellent clinical meeting with Dr Catherine Stevens and the local team.

In November the Dowling Club joined the BSPD Annual Symposium hosted by Dr Sue Lewis-Jones. This included a CPD session on paediatric dermatology for SpRs, a superb paediatric dermatology educational meeting at St Andrews, culminating with a sumptuous meal at the Old Course Hotel, followed by a tremendous array of paediatric clinical cases the following day



Not a preparation for an NZ rugby game.
Dr Mansoor demonstrates anatomy of the face live on Dr Carsten Flohr.

at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

Dr Wanda Robles and the Chase Farm and Barnet Hospitals team recently hosted the last educational weekend of the season in early February. The meeting had a deliberately Cosmetic Dermatology theme, to reflect the increasing importance of providing this training for our trainees, crowned by hands-on teaching from Dr Sohail Mansoor on injectables for cosmetic rejuvenation with live cases and video. It was a pity to find that there were so few trainees taking up this amazing opportunity on a Saturday afternoon. Those who were lucky enough to attend will also have happy memories of the banquet at the 17th century mansion Forty Hall, capped by a Salsa dance teaching session to further broaden the educational experience!

Post-RSM dinners

Once again we have been treated to a number of fine dinners, with outstanding

speakers. Professor Martin Black introduced us to the entrepreneurial beginnings of St John's Hospital at the first dinner of the season in October at Willan House. In November we maintained the tradition of an annual dinner at the George Inn, with a pithy journal club. We have to give special thanks to Dr Richard Staughton who continued to support the Dowling Club by inviting us to a dinner in December at the Garrick Club and for putting together an entertaining Christmas quiz.

BAD/DC Travel Fellowships

We are delighted that a total of 9 BAD/DC Travel Fellowships were awarded to Dermatology trainees and NCCG Dermatologists in autumn 2008, sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. Many congratulations to the successful candidates. Further details can be found on the Dowling Club website www.bad.org.uk/site/548/default.aspx

Events to come:

Overseas trip to Mexico

22nd April- 4th May 2009
(extended trip till 9th May 2009)

The trip is heavily discounted for trainees. Further details are available at www.bad.org.uk/site/553/default.aspx and/or email the Dowling Club secretary dowlingsecretary@hotmail.co.uk

Annual Oration

19th - 21st June 2009,
Royal College of Physicians,
Dublin, Ireland

Orator: Dr Gillian Murphy

Further details are available at www.bad.org.uk/site/550/default.aspx

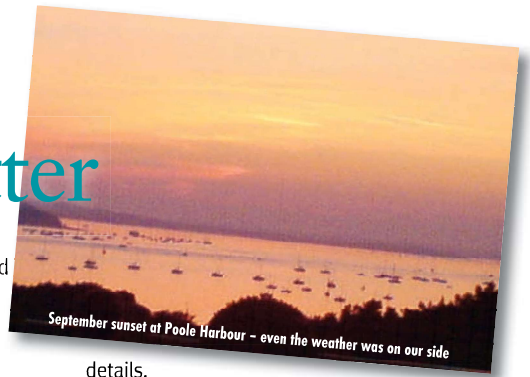
Other matters:

Communication about Dowling Club events

Communication of events is now primarily via emails from the Secretary, and for post-RSM dinners from Charlotte Smith at BAD House. Information is also available on the BAD website: www.bad.org.uk/site/546/default.aspx

If any Dowling Club members do not regularly receive the Club emails, please email the Dowling Club Secretary providing up-to-date email address and contact details.

It is worth remembering that members' updates of email addresses are **not** automatically passed on from the BAD to the Dowling Club Secretary. It is, therefore, necessary to inform the Dowling Club Secretary of changes in e-mail and contact



September sunset at Poole Harbour - even the weather was on our side

details.

A membership update and feedback form is downloadable from the Dowling Club website www.bad.org.uk/site/552/default.aspx. Alternatively please email the Dowling Club Secretary at dowlingsecretary@hotmail.co.uk or Charlotte Smith at charlotte@bad.org.uk

Finances

It becomes increasingly difficult to raise funds from the pharmaceutical industry to sponsor Dowling Club events, in particular the post-RSM dinners. We would like to stress that the Dowling Club is a not-for-profit charity, with funds raised by the president and secretary for events organized during the year in post. An individual fee for attendees (usually subsidized for trainees) is inevitable to cover the costs of running these events.

Junior/SpR members

We are delighted to have welcomed 32 new trainee members in the last 12 months. Despite this, the attendance of trainees at Dowling Club events is often poor, although feedback from those attending confirms the high quality of the educational events. As exemplified by the recent cosmetic dermatology training provided at the February weekend, this is often also a rare forum to obtain pearls from experienced clinicians in topics diverse from mainstream Dermatology training.

The ethos of the Dowling Club remains to promote education for Dermatology Trainees, and to facilitate an informal environment, in which this exchange of thoughts and educational relationships between Dermatologists of all ages across the UK and other countries can be fostered. Dowling Club events, including the overseas trip, continue to be heavily subsidized for trainees; but we can only continue to secure the support of our generous sponsors if trainees make an effort to attend. It would be extremely sad to lose this unique educational charity which is the envy of other specialties. We encourage trainee members and Consultants to spread the word.

Best wishes, and hoping to see some of you in Mexico!

Dimitra Koch

Honorary secretary Dowling Club

Wanda Robles

Honorary president Dowling Club