

The Dowling Club Update

In June 2012 Stephanie Munn will be taking the reins as President of the Dowling Club, and has an exciting year of events planned for her term. These are the dates for your diaries:

15th November 2012: Following the RSM we will dine at the Royal Automobile Club on Pall Mall. To whet your appetite for the overseas trip next year, we shall be joined by Paul Buxton, who will be sharing his experiences of Ethiopia with us.

20th of December 2012: In keeping with Dowling Club tradition, the Christmas dinner will be held at the Garrick Club and Ian Coulson will be hosting the Christmas quiz.

15th -24th February 2013 (extension 23rd-28th) tbc: We are delighted to announce that the overseas trip this year will be to Ethiopia. This promises to be an educational and cultural adventure, offering a unique insight into tropical dermatology and severe presentation of common skin disorders, as well as an opportunity for those not familiar with dermatology in black skin. The itinerary for the first week will include active involvement in clinics and conferences in the capital Addis Ababa, followed by a clinical meeting in Gonder. For trainees this trip offers fantastic opportunities to enhance both your knowledge and your CV; the week should be counted as study leave and there are generous travel bursaries available. Not only will you experience tropical skin disease and its management firsthand, but we will also be hosting a trainee presentation session, which allows the chance to present on an international platform. The second week will be a chance to experience the contrasting landscapes and culture of this amazing country with excursions to the stelae at Axsum and the rock hewn churches at Lalibela.

16th May 2013: Dinner at the Royal Society of Medicine. Speaker tbc

21st March 2013: Dinner and journal club at the George Inn, Southwark

10th-12th May 2013: Deirdre Buckley and colleagues will be hosting an educational weekend in the historic city of Bath. This will include the oration by David de Berker.

We are very excited about the programme of events and hope you can join us for some or all of these. Further information about the Dowling Club and membership can be viewed on the BAD website.

Fiona Worsnop, Dowling Club Secretary from June 2012
fionaworsnop@nhs.net

Stephanie Munn, Dowling Club President from June 2012
Stephanie.munn@nhs.net

Membership Administrator:
admin@bad.org.uk

Stephanie Munn

Fiona Worsnop



The Dowling Club in India

Thirty-four members and guests of the Dowling Club visited India in February 2012. The president, Dr Sue Lewis-Jones, and the secretary, Dr Andrew Sherley-Dale, scrupulously planned the visit. Twenty-three consultants and two registrars attended. The registrars received generous sponsorships from the Royal Society of Medicine and Genus Pharma.

Our first stop in India was Mahabalipuram, a beautiful beach resort, where we recuperated after our long flight. Following a restful night in the Radisson Blue Resort, where many of us swam and walked on the beach, we went onto the Teledermatology Society Clinical Meeting in Chennai. Our hosts, Dr Jayakar Thomas and Dr Parimalam Kumar, warmly welcomed us. The Indian doctors provided a fantastic meeting with real patients. Much to our excitement, we saw leprosy, cutaneous TB and Madras foot, which in India is an everyday clinic. From our party, Dr Sherley-Dale presented an interesting case of thrombophilia, Dr Robin Graham-Brown lectured on the use of teledermatology in atopic eczema, Dr Nick Levell presented a BAD survey on teledermatology, and Professor James Ferguson lectured on the use of teledermatology in the diagnosis of photodermatoses. At the end of the conference our hosts endowed a tremendous display of generosity and appreciation on us in the form of gifts, medals, and a wonderful gala dinner.

The following day was a break from medical science and a chance to do some sight seeing. We were guided around the beautiful World Heritage Site of Mamallapuram, where we saw rock-cut monuments largely from the 7th and 8th Century, still incredibly well preserved and majestic.

Agra was our next destination to see what no trip to India is complete without seeing; the Taj Mahal. Our visit was early in the morning and the beauty of the white marble mausoleum in the early morning sun seduced us all. Dr Donna Thompson managed to take some superb pictures of the group members balancing the Taj under their fingers.

From the Taj Mahal we went onto visit Agra Fort, a 16th century red-walled city and a testament to a long gone Mogul Empire. Within the fort we saw two beautiful mosques, one built from pearls and the other from white marble and a number of fairy-tale palaces.

On the way to our next destination, Jaipur, we stopped off for a spot of bird watching at the Keoladeo National Park, given our president's penchant for the sport. We all carried binoculars and rode on rickshaws, cooing and gasping as we spotted kingfishers, eagles, peacocks and even a baby python. What was most remarkable, however, was that Dr Julia Ellis had been to the same National Park 20 years earlier on a Dowling Club trip and one of the rickshaw drivers spotted himself in one of her photos from that trip. Neither of them had changed one bit!

In Jaipur, member Professor Chris Bunker joined us for the Indian Association of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology Conference. From our party Dr Sue Lewis-Jones gave a very informative and interesting lecture on the use of propranolol in infantile haemangiomas; Dr Andrew Sherley-Dale presented a fascinating case of metastatic basal cell carcinoma; Dr Julia Schofield presented a poster



The Dowling Club visits Agra

on multi-professional postgraduate dermatology education at the University of Hertfordshire; Dr Robin Graham-Brown lectured on what's new in paediatric dermatology and Professor Chris Bunker gave a very well received lecture on the pathogenesis of male genital lichen sclerosis. The conference was extremely well organized, of a very high standard and spanned over 4 days. The gala dinner at the end of the conference was akin to something out of Bollywood and was truly astounding.

One evening whilst in Jaipur, we were joined by Professor Alex Anstey for an Elephant Polo Match and Dinner. Caution was thrown to the wind as each member of the party jumped onto the back of their personal elephant, seized their polo stick and plodded to victory.

The final leg of our trip took us to the lake city of Udaipur, which houses some of the most opulent palaces in India, including the one used for the filming of Octopussy. Our final day was spent at the RNT Medical College in the M.B. Croft Hospital Department of Dermatology. A tour of the dermatology ward was given and a wonderful selection of cases were presented. Then to see us off the Indian doctors thrashed us in a game of cricket.

Annabel Scott
London