

BAD/NIHR Travel Bursary Report

42nd Annual European Society for Dermatological Research, Venice, Italy: 19-22 September 2012



The 2012 ESDR meeting was held at the elegant Palazzo del Casinò on the Venice Lido, over the 4 days of the conference the more than 1000 delegates had the opportunity to hear from 111 Oral presentations and view 770 poster presentations. In addition to this Satellite Symposia and workshops covered areas including Lupus, Psoriasis, Stem cells and skin ageing. Guest lectures were given by Professor Bruce Beutler, Professor Elaine Fuchs, Professor Georg Stingl, Professor Martin Röcken and Professor Jonathan Barker. The guest speakers covered areas as diverse as TLR signalling, Stem Cells in regenerative medicine, Epidermal Langerhans cells, Adaptive Immunity and Psoriasis. Without a doubt the guest lectures were a highlight of the conference and gave an impressive idea of the advances going on in dermatological research worldwide. The conference also included a large social event held in one of the naval warehouses in Venice's Arsenale district. With almost all the delegates attending it was a fantastic evening.

As well as the guest speakers there were 10 concurrent and 3 plenary sessions of talks grouped by research topic. My groups work on K 15 and VZV replication in the skin was selected for an Oral presentation as part of the Innate Immunity and Microbiology session. The session covered a range of related research areas within dermatology and my presentation was well received with some useful questions from the audience.

Some of the most useful sessions were those held as satellite or lunch time symposia, focusing on a specific area of research and generating stimulating discussions during and after the sessions. Among the satellite symposia I attended the Dermato-Oncology meeting and Cutaneous Stem Cell sessions stand out as being particularly useful. The Dermato-Oncology symposia updated us on current therapies for metastatic melanoma, introduced new ideas for genetic targets that are coming out of the GWAS study and demonstrated a novel validation of 'Ugly Duckling' signs in melanoma. The lunchtime Cutaneous Stem Cell seminar was focused on roles for stem cells in disease and as research tools. The presentations from four leading European researchers were superb and the discussion afterwards was very enlightening.

The two poster sessions were very well attended and with more than 700 posters to look at very busy, as well as an oral presentation I also presented a poster covering the same work in more detail. The chance to meet and talk to researchers in the same field during the poster sessions has given me several new ideas for way to advance my research and were very worthwhile. I would like to thank the BAD/NIHR committee for giving me the opportunity to attend this meeting.