

NIHR/BAD Travel Bursary Report - Soudeh Mashayekhi



The EADV Prague 2012 was one of the highlights of my medical career. After months of hard work and dedication, being informed my abstract had been accepted as an oral presentation with a high score was very rewarding. I had never presented at a conference of such scale and there was some anticipation, presenting in a world-renowned conference.

I was able to attend a number of very interesting talks, providing me with an insight of the most cutting edge research and the opinions of some of the most respected Dermatologists from across the globe. I was able to speak to a number of these individuals about their research and this really inspired me to continue with my commitment to research.

Contact with clinicians from different countries, familiarised me with different management systems and training programs across the world. This can be particularly helpful in the future when working with colleagues from different training backgrounds.

My own presentation was well received and I had very positive feedback on my presentation skills and the quality of my PowerPoint slides. Presenting at such an important conference, with good feedback has greatly enhanced my presentation skills, and my confidence in my presenting abilities.

The topic of my presentation, Spitzoid lesions in childhood, was of great interest to the audience and caused an important discussion into the best means of managing these sometimes ambiguous lesions. As part of the team at St Johns Institute we have produced a management algorithm, which I believe is relevant and important to the Dermatological community, and presenting at the conference has increased the awareness of the issues in management and our proposed means of dealing with them. Presenting a number of cases from the UK and beyond with histological and clinical photographs provided an illustration of these difficulties, which can assist the attendees if they encounter similar cases in the future.

Given the high score my abstract received, and the intrigue of the attendees of my talk, I am more confident in the quality of our work and am in the process of submitting a manuscript, which includes a literature review with 7 cases and a management algorithm to a peer-reviewed journal.

I would hereby like to thank my supervisors, who have been a great help and inspiration throughout my research. In particular Dr Alistair Robson, Dr Carsten Flohr and Dr Catherine Stefanato from the St John's Institute of Dermatology. They have provided me with advice and guidance, fine tuning my writing skills, going above and beyond their working hours to meet deadlines, and to perfect my presenting abilities. I look forward to involvement with research throughout my career and to more opportunities to present my work at National and International Conferences.

I am extremely grateful for this travel bursary, which has been immensely useful in helping with the costs of the conference, and will provide me with the financial relief necessary to commence new and interesting research projects, which I hope I will also be able to present. This prestigious award will be a great asset to my application for future jobs and I am delighted to have received it.