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42nd Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research, Venice, Italy
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I was fortunate to receive a NIHR/BAD travel award to attend the 42nd annual meeting of the European Society for Dermatological research in Venice. I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to present my work at an international meeting and found the research presentations to be of a high standard.

There were many interesting talks and posters, from basic science and animal models, to clinical studies of treatments of skin disease. My poster entitled “Impaired Langerhans’ Cell Migration in Aged Skin” was well received and I had the opportunity to learn about other groups work on Langerhans’ cells both through attending talks and viewing posters. The highlight of the meeting for me was the René Touraine lecture by Professor Georg Stingl on “The Changing Faces of Epidermal Langerhans’ Cells”. Professor Stingl gave an excellent lecture detailing the history of Langerhans’ cells and how our recent understanding of the role of these cells has changed, such that they are now recognised to have both an immunostimulatory and immunomodulatory role. Other talks of particular interest to me included that by Nagao *et al*, who demonstrated the importance of hair follicles in the recruitment of Langerhans’ cell precursors via chemokine production, and that by Ali *et al* who presented their work on a novel dermal dendritic cell population in humans.

I had also contributed to some work on Langerhans’ cells in psoriasis which was presented at the meeting, and again there were a number of relevant presentations in this field. For example, Di Meglio *et al* presented research on the role of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor in the modulation of psoriasis in both an experimental mouse model and human skin.

In terms of linking scientific research with clinical practice, I particularly benefited from the talks on the treatment of pemphigus. Roberta Lotti gave an enlightening talk on the blockade of Fas ligand as a potential treatment for pemphigus. Inhibition of caspase-8 also prevented acantholysis of keratinocytes treated with pemphigus immunoglobulin. Pascal Jolly and Marcel Jonkman both gave presentations on the treatment of pemphigus using the B cell targeting therapy, rituximab. Pascal Jolly showed that treatment with rituximab led to prolonged B cell depletion, and in patients with complete remission there was a higher incidence of regulatory interleukin-10 producing B cells. Marcel Jonkman presented data on different therapeutic regimes and offered guidance on how best to use rituximab when treating patients with pemphigus.

The location of the conference centre on the Lido was excellent and we were fortunate to have good weather to enjoy the sights of Venice when the conference was finished. I would definitely recommend attendance of this international conference to other dermatology colleagues in terms of the quality of the presentations and the opportunity to network with other research groups, and I hope to have the opportunity to attend again in future years.