



Dermatology Department, Royal Free Hospital, London

Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend Royal Free Hospital, London, during October 2011 with Dr McBride, The Psoriasis Research Group and other Academic Dermatologists. In addition to this I attended the Introduction to Qualitative Analysis course, organised by the Social Research Association.

Over a year ago I did a Taster week at the Royal Free Hospital Dermatology Department and was offered the opportunity to become involved in an interview based, study in Psoriasis patients. We were in the process of obtaining local ethics approval and I wanted to spend time in the department to further the study and recruit patients and prepare for interviews.

During the week I attended Journal club, involving a presentation discussing a recent paper regarding Isotretinoin and side effects. The discussion helped consolidate methods of critically appraising papers, which I can apply to the literature review for my study.

I attended psoriasis clinic with my academic supervisor, Dr McBride. I practiced interviewing techniques with some patients, obtaining patients feedback. During clinic we discussed some of the recent evidence for vitamin D supplementation in Psoriasis. We were not able to recruit from clinic during this week pending local ethics approval but have since obtained approval, begun recruiting and data collection.

I enjoyed spending time with the Clinical Psychologists who were advising about the questionnaire and learning about their research programme. I attended the Psoriasis Research Group meeting - a collaboration between Clinical Psychologists, Rheumatologists, Students and Dermatologists and learnt about research into cardiovascular risk in Psoriatic patients.

In addition, I attended histopathology teaching with the registrars. Following a discussion about an interesting case with Erythema Annulare Centrifugum, I was offered the opportunity to write up the case and spent time researching the case and histology, with Dr Melly (Consultant Histopathologist) and Dr Seaton (Consultant Dermatologist).

I attended the course 'Introduction to qualitative analysis course' organised by the Social Research Association. This was extremely informative and we worked through samples of dialogue and devised and applied a thematic framework. This was invaluable as it enabled me to learn and practice this analytical technique, which is the same technique I am applying to my interviews.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to gain an insight into Academic Dermatology and related specialties and to the Dermatology staff at the Royal Free Hospital, I had a great time and it confirmed to me I would enjoy a career as an Academic Dermatologist and helped me make contacts, who have offered other opportunities since and helped me further my own study.