

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
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06 October 2010

BAD Research Committee
British Association of Dermatologists
Willan House
4 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 5HQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

NIHR / BAD Travel Bursary Report
The University of Manchester, April 11th-13th, 2011

The British Society of Investigative Dermatology annual meeting held this year in Manchester has provided a valuable opportunity to share my current research ideas and engage with likeminded individuals with a commitment to dermatological research.

As a third year specialist registrar in dermatology I have recently been able to begin to investigate the relationship between cardiovascular biomarkers and psoriasis in patients with severe disease. This work is intended to form the basis of a thesis application which will interrogate the relationship between psoriasis (a chronic inflammatory systemic disease) and cardiovascular disease. My intended submission date for this is 2011.

The initial lectures by Professor Christopher Griffiths (Trainee Lecture) and Professor Rona MacKie (Aims and achievements in translational research- the paradigm of melanoma) provided an excellent introduction to the meeting and an overview of a career at the highest level of clinical research. Later scientific sessions provided opportunity to understand current concepts and investigations underpinning the pathogenesis of psoriasis and potential therapeutic strategies for the future of biologic therapies. Work by Professor Nestle and colleagues into the role of Th17 cells and Interleukins-22 was of particular interest. Finally, the BSID enabled me to discuss poster presentations with junior researchers and explore research findings in greater detail. This has the added benefit of providing encouragement when trying to problem solve ones own technical issues with a research technique.

The lecture course in Manchester revealed the breadth and extent of research that is currently on going in dermatological sciences and fuelled my commitment and enthusiasm to the specialty.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support provided by the British Association of Dermatologists/ National Institute of Health Research travel bursary.