

BSDS Travelling Fellowship Report

Dr. Mairi Ferguson

Mohs Surgery Clinical fellow

Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee

I was fortunate to be awarded the BSDS travelling fellowship in December 2015. This facilitated my attendance at the American Mohs College 48th Annual meeting in April 2016.

The conference was held in sunny Orlando, Florida. With its vast array of leisure parks and conference centres, it made for a busy and cosmopolitan city, full of both delegates and holiday-makers.

The course ran for four days and was held in a beautiful hotel with a surrounding golf course. The meeting was impeccably organised and every detail was catered for. The scientific meeting covered a wide range of topics including applied anatomy, pathology, frozen section preparation, skin cancer, reconstruction, and billing and coding. After the latter presentation, I have to say I felt very grateful to be working in a health care system where clinical care is free at the point of delivery.

There were many excellent lectures during the course of the meeting and one of my favourite lectures was given by an oculoplastic surgeon where she discussed anatomy, pathology, tumour behaviour, and reconstruction relative to the eye. She also gave lots of useful advice on potential problems when performing Mohs in the periocular area. There were also morning mini-sessions where I attended a work-shop on the three-stage paramedian forehead flap, and I am now waiting patiently for my next suitable nasal defect, to apply this technique. New to the conference this year was a session on rapid clinical pearls. This comprised a series of two minute presentations on tips and techniques from different Mohs centres around North America. Most of these were easy to apply and have now been incorporated into my routine practice at my training hospital.

The keynote speaker was a Dr. Martin Makary, a gastrointestinal surgeon from Baltimore. He gave an outstanding talk on how the science of safety had dramatically reduced errors and complications in medicine. He concluded by leaving us with an enlightened statement, 'humility is the greatest quality a doctor can have'.

I thoroughly enjoyed this meeting and can honestly say it has been the most useful and inspiring conference I have attended in my training thus far. I have no doubt it will benefit me in my future career as a Dermatologist and Mohs surgeon. I would like to thank the BSDS for giving me the opportunity to attend this informative conference, which has greatly expanded my knowledge and safety as a Mohs micrographic surgeon.