

Innovating to provide world class dermatology education

Welcome to the first edition of the Dermatology Continuing Professional Development Society (DCPDS) newsletter.

Members of the Society are part of a wide and growing network of 'Cardiff trained' doctors. You'll find our graduates and students in every corner of the globe, from the valleys of South Wales to the Falkland Islands and New Zealand.

We're very proud of your enthusiasm, commitment and knowledge, and of the massive worldwide impact you've had on improving the quality of care of people with skin diseases.

The pedigree of Cardiff dermatology postgraduate teaching goes back to the '70s, when regular evening teaching sessions for local GPs were held in the city. The full-time DDSc and MSc courses were launched in 1982; the Diploma in Practical Dermatology (DPD) kicked off in 1989. In 2000, we took the strategic decision to recreate the DPD as a world leader in e-learning.

We've always sought to meet your ongoing educational needs and have been aware of regular feedback from alumni asking for up-dates and refresher courses. In response we built a strong team of highly trained lecturers and administrators to run the course, and this allowed us to start the Dermatology Continuing Professional Development Society in 2005.

We hope that the unique interactivity and educational material on the website, together with the quality of the annual meetings, will help meet your needs. Be sure to tell us what you want or where we could improve. It is by listening to your feedback that we have succeeded in leading dermatology postgraduate education worldwide.

We will continue to innovate, lead and try to encourage you. Enjoy your dermatology!

Professor Andrew Finlay



Memories of a great meeting

The 2005 Dermatology CPD meeting was a resounding success. It would be impossible to provide a full report on the events of the day but a few highlights are worth mentioning.

On Friday, we were treated to an interesting session on therapeutics delivered by several experts in the field. Professor Sakari Reitamo from Helsinki provided an informative update on Tacrolimus. There were equally useful presentations on Imiquimod, biologics and acne treatments delivered by Dr Steve Keohane, Dr Amrit Darvay, Dr Martin Bevan and Dr Trevor Brooklyn.

Controversy over acne treatment

Dr Anthony Chu provided a closing talk on Pulse Dye lasers for acne treatment. This subject was not without its controversy, but what is a dermatology conference without some dissent to keep us stimulated?!

On Saturday there were several memorable parallel sessions including a surgical demonstration by Dr Vindy Ghura delivered via video link, and moderated by Dr James Langtry. This was certainly a technological success, and feedback suggests that the video link enhanced the learning for conference delegates.

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From left: Mrs Joy Hayes, Mrs Julie Amos, Dr Maria Gonzalez, Miss Sian Coxall, Dr Rufaro Gamanya, Mrs Helen Pugsley, and Prof Andrew Finlay at the front.

Join the band

Membership of the DCPDS is just £250 a year. Benefits include registration at the annual conference in November and access to the alumnus website.

The website offers access to a community of likeminded professionals 24/7 providing a great place to socialise, meet new people and get professional support with difficult or interesting cases. For more information or to join, email **Sian Coxall** at coxallsm@Cardiff.ac.uk

Meeting scholarship offer

The Dermatology Continuing Professional Development Society is offering a scholarship (covering the registration fees) to attend the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) annual meeting in Birmingham in July 2007.

The scholarship is open to members of the DCPDS. To apply, send your CV with a short essay (up to 500 words) on how you think attending the BAD conference will benefit you. Closing date 1 May 2007.

Please note that applicants need to be eligible to attend this meeting, and a BAD member needs to approve an application to attend.

Address your application to:
Miss Sian Coxall,
Senior Postgraduate Courses
Administrator,
Department of Dermatology (Box 27),
Wales College of Medicine,
Cardiff University, CF14 4XN



(Conference highlights continued)



Prof Argenziano reveals how to use dermoscopy to diagnose pigmented skin lesions

The highlight of this session was the obvious chemistry between the two speakers, who kept us all entertained with playful bantering and minor disagreements, which maintained a relaxed and entertaining learning environment. Both Dr Ghura and Dr Langtry have agreed to provide more advanced surgical sessions in this year's meeting.

Video link demonstrations

Dr Alex Anstey also used video link technology to good effect, demonstrating photodynamic therapy to an enthralled audience with the assistance of Sister Beverley Gambles. Dr Anstey used clinical cases to demonstrate appropriate clinical applications for this therapeutic option.

Those who attended the Difficult Cases session used words like 'outstanding' and 'excellent' to describe it. Dr Richard Logan, Dr Anne Farrell, Dr Celia Moss and Dr Tony Burns kept the audience captivated with case after case of interesting and challenging dermatological problems. Because of the resounding success of this segment we have arranged a similar session for this year's meeting and we intend to include patients by live video link to further the effectiveness of this format.

Masterclass in dermoscopy

Professor Giuseppe Argenziano of Naples University was easily the star of the weekend. In an engaging and entertaining style, he delivered a three-hour workshop introducing dermoscopy to a captivated audience.

Many doctors reported that, although the session was intense, it was an excellent educational experience which they thought would make any future reading around the subject much more useful. Some have described the session as 'the best lecture on this subject' that they have heard. Overall, the consensus on Professor Argenziano's session was: 'We want more, please!'

As we always aim to please, we have already arranged for Professor Argenziano to deliver another workshop at this year's meeting, so 'Watch this space'. There is much more to come!

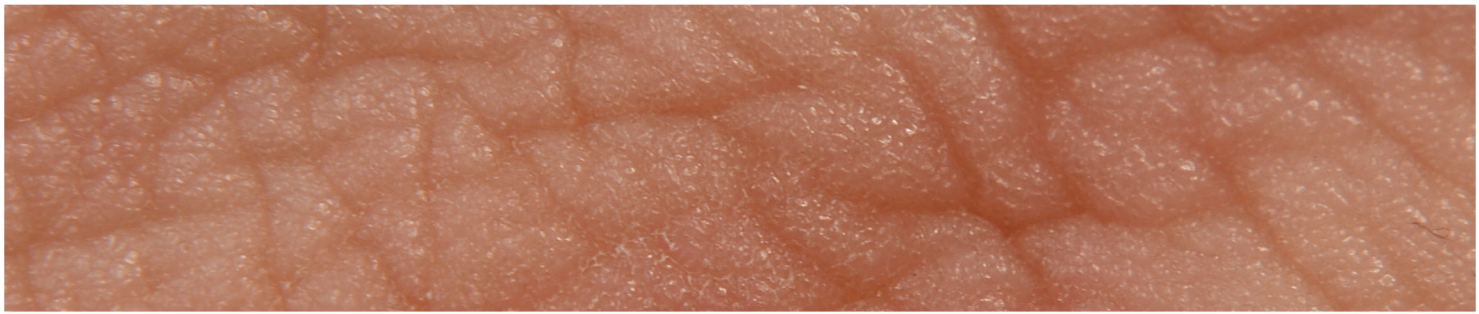
Conference entertainment

We were all wined and dined at the gala dinner where colleagues were able to reconnect with old friends and form new acquaintances on the day.

The highlight of this event was the lively dancing delivered by 'Dawnsywyr Nantgarw' accompanied by our own Dr Richard Logan, who impressed us all with his musical skills.

Delegates were pulled onto the floor to dance, and the evening ended with a vibrant, pulse-rising session of folk dancing. Aren't you sorry you missed this conference, now?

Dr Maria Gonzalez – Senior Clinical Lecturer



What's ahead for 2006

The next conference will be held in South Wales at the Celtic Manor Hotel on 17-18 November.



Dr Maria Gonzalez

Meanwhile, we have been working hard to exceed the standard set by our first conference. For example, we've listened to your

feedback and responded by arranging the Difficult Cases segment as a featured section, allowing everyone to attend. Key speakers will include Professor Chris Griffiths, Dr Richard Logan, Dr David De Berker, Dr Tony Burns and Professor Giuseppe Argenziano – a true clash of the titans!

We have arranged a selection of parallel sessions based on feedback received at the last meeting. Many of you enjoyed the satellite linked video session which was deftly handled by Dr Ghura and Dr Langtry. However, a number of you thought it was too basic. So we have asked the same speakers to deliver a more advanced programme in November, using patients on a live video link. We anticipate another session of lively bantering with this charismatic pair.

We have also enlisted the involvement of Dr Paul Williams, Consultant Immunologist, in a session on 'The Allergic Patient'. This session will include live demonstrations of 'Prick Testing'. We are all looking forward to gaining useful information on this difficult clinical subject.

In response to your feedback on the Therapeutics Session, we have completely revamped it and produced a session on 'Managing Pigmented Skin'. As the UK

population becomes more cosmopolitan, it is increasingly important to understand the unique properties of different skin types in order to manage all our patients competently.

In addition to our UK experts such as Dr Tony Burns and Dr Celia Moss, who will share their experiences in managing cases in patients with pigmented skin, we have included two international speakers with expertise in this area. Dr David Luk, Paediatric Dermatologist from Hong Kong, will share a number of interesting cases with us, and Dr Cheryl Burgess from Washington DC will discuss the management of common problems in pigmented skin.

We are all excited about this year's conference and we hope to see many of you there. The conference is free to DCPDS members. It promises to be popular and places will be limited, so reserve your place today by emailing Sian Coxall at coxallsm@Cardiff.ac.uk

Dr Maria Gonzalez – Senior Clinical Lecturer



Delegates found the speakers very entertaining

'I was thrilled to have gone to the trouble of travelling to Europe just for this meeting and found it exceeded my expectations dramatically. Having just completed the diploma, I was not expecting an update meeting to be too helpful. However, I found there were several new areas and treatments discussed – well worth the effort of attending. I treat a lot of skin cancer and the highlight of the meeting for me was the dermoscopy course. I had used one for 12 years but this session was extremely valuable. I have been able to transform this area of my practice with this knowledge after obtaining a DermLite and the Photomax software.'

Dr Peter Mayne, Laurieton Medical Centre, Laurieton, Australia

'The most interesting session by far in the 2005 conference was the difficult cases discussion, where I found the speakers to be knowledgeable yet entertaining.'

Dr Pallavi Devulapalli, GP and Hospital Practitioner, Kings Lynn, UK



Let's talk

A voice for more structured collaboration



Dr. Andrew Sherley-Dale

The GP with Special Interest (GPSI) movement has gained momentum since its inception some years ago but its future remains unclear. From a dermatological perspective, this is one of the hardest posts to take on, writes Dr Andrew Sherley-Dale.

Triaging can do much to ensure that we see the right patients for our ability. On the other hand, 'eczema' can present very differently in clinic and oddities crop up.

So it is pleasing that Professor Salisbury and colleagues, reporting on the Bristol Dermatology GPSI experience (BMJ, December 2005), showed that such a service can be acceptable, accessible, and effective, if a little more expensive than its hospital counterpart.

Although there are good accreditation documents available to ensure that candidates taking up GPSI positions are competent, I have concerns about what happens next.

Understandably some consultant colleagues look at GPSIs, and eye their sessional payments with some suspicion. What they often overlook is that such GPs are leaving comparatively well-paid surgeries to take up these posts, and so must be appropriately remunerated.

While we will never compare with the depth of dermatological knowledge that consultants have, we have vast experience of practicing in a community setting. So it is essential that our relationship with consultants is harmonious. Dermatology GPSIs depend heavily on consultants for ongoing advice and continuing

Professional development. GPSIs cannot, and should not, work in isolation. Consider GPSIs who have extensive experience of prescribing roaccutane. Without consultant support, it would be impossible for them to continue to do so, and this would jeopardise a major area where GPSIs can contribute.

Personally, I feel that GPSIs should evolve from, and retain links with, existing hospital services in a structured manner. I'd do away with the outdated (at least, in terms of remuneration) clinical assistant system, and groom GPSIs as part of the departments, to work later in the community if they are considered competent to do so. Educational needs and support would thus be safe-guarded.

I'm certain that there are many excellent such examples. However, there is no clearly defined path that we automatically follow. Such a path could go a long way to harmonising potential conflicts of interest between, say, non-consultant grades and GPSIs, as well as safeguarding an excellent opportunity for GPs to develop specialised interests.

Dr Andrew Sherley-Dale, DPD Graduate, 2005. A former GP, he took up an SHO post in Bristol in February 2006.

Having completed the DPD you will remember that the key aims of the course were to:

- Promote critical reflection and understanding of dermatology practice, and facilitate change in the practice setting;
- Develop understanding of the factors influencing chronic dermatological disease, and how these in turn influence patient support requirements.

Delivering the course over the Internet has allowed us to promote collaboration, both academic and clinical, between course participants. It has also offered us the opportunity to create a friendly, supportive and communicative learning environment.

Alumni members find access to the alumnus website and associated forums as valuable now as they did when they were taking the Diploma. Indeed, the discussion forums have successfully provided ideas and much needed support to sometimes bewildered GPs (as in 'What do I do with this scenario?').

The forums are informal, yet generate discussion and resolution of clinical issues. They give students and alumni access to a wealth of experience.

Online forums available include:

- Clinical discussions. This section allows the uploading of clinical photos and the discussion of clinical cases in your practice;
- Dermoscopy cases and training. In this section we are fortunate to have an Australian GP – Dr Jason Giacomel – who has considerable expertise in this field. He regularly uploads interesting cases and provides some teaching and guidance to fellow alumni.
- GPSI and GP Commissioning. This forum focuses on topical or political issues you may wish to share when trying to provide dermatology care in the primary care setting;
- Doctors' Mess. This area covers off-topic discussions... about anything, allowing members of the alumnus to keep in touch in a more social setting.

Mrs Helen Pugsley – Lecturer