

International Educational Opportunities for Dermatology Residents

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International resident opportunities in dermatology allow residents to become immersed in different systems of medical care and expose physicians to different dermatologic conditions, cultures, and traditions that are prevalent in each country. Due to the prevalence of some dermatologic conditions in only certain regions, international opportunities expose residents to a variety of skin pathology and disease as well as a rich and diverse experience abroad.

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Little has been written about the various types of international educational opportunities in dermatology, which include medical student electives, mentorship and scholarship programs for residents, international residency programs and conferences, and clinical or research-based fellowships (Table). After residency, there are many opportunities for teaching and volunteering in developing countries and ways to get involved in resident education. Although it may be difficult to participate in exchange programs during residency given the demanding schedules and limited vacation and elective time, international exchange programs in dermatology have become more accessible to residents and dermatologists worldwide. This exchange of ideas and information within our field promotes the advancement of scientific and clinical dermatologic insights that may not be commonplace elsewhere.

Resident Opportunities in Europe

During my internship, I received the Imrich Sarkany Non-European Memorial Scholarship from the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, which facilitated my attendance at the organization's 11th Spring Symposium in Belgrade, Serbia. I participated in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Belgrade, one of the oldest dermatologic programs in Europe, where I learned about Serbian culture, the country's history as part of Yugoslavia, its health and medical education system, and its unique patient population that includes individuals from various ethnic groups. One of the highlights of my experience was learning about the Belgrade dermatovenereologic moulage collection (Figure), which was developed between 1925 and 1958 after the formation of University of Belgrade's School of Medicine and the Institute of Dermatovenereology.¹ In the early half of the 20th century when photographs were not yet established, the use of moulages as an artistic tool for medical education became very significant. The moulage collection in Belgrade is one of the most well known and is comprised of 350 pieces of which 280 are completely preserved while the rest are damaged.¹ These moulages illustrate a wide variety of skin and venereal diseases that have been analyzed and contributed to the historical aspect of dermatologic education and medical conditions that are no longer prevalent thanks to modern medicine. Before World War I when these moulages were created, there was a high incidence of venereal diseases (eg, syphilis) and leprosy. Interestingly, most European dermatology residency programs incorporate the study of sexually transmitted infections and venereology as part of their training. In fact, many European dermatologists also use the term *dermatovenereologist* to describe their profession. Many of the moulages in the Belgrade

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Diverse Educational Opportunities for Dermatology Residents in the United States and Abroad

Geographic Location	Program
Africa	AAD Resident International Grant (Gaborone, Botswana)
Asia	Dermatological Society of Singapore Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists
Australia/New Zealand	NZDS International Scholarship
Europe	Academia Española de Dermatología y Venereología EADV scholarship programs French Society of Dermatology Irish Association of Dermatologists Italian Society of Dermatology Richard B. Stoughton Memorial Fellowship (British Association of Dermatologists) Scottish Dermatological Society
Latin America	Brazilian Society of Dermatology Mexican Academy of Dermatology Sociedad Chilena de Dermatología (Sochiderm)
Middle East	Israel Society of Dermatology & Venereology
Other	American Society of Dermatologic Surgery International Traveling Mentorship Program International Society of Dermatology mentorship program International Society for Dermatologic Surgery meeting scholarships Native American Health Service Resident Rotation Program in Chinle, Arizona (AAD) World Congress of Dermatology scholarship fund World Congress of Hair Research Travel Grant Women's Dermatologic Society Mentorship Award Program

Abbreviations: AAD, American Academy of Dermatology; NZDS, New Zealand Dermatologic Society; EADV, European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology.

collection were made by sculptors and painters, while others were made by physicians themselves, with great authenticity based on comparison of the original diagnosis to current diagnostic criteria.

I also had an opportunity to travel to Kuwait City, Kuwait, for the Kuwait Derma Update and Laser Conference when I was a research fellow at the University of Miami, Florida. In addition to learning opportunities in the form of seminars, workshops, and interactive sessions, each morning began with a visit to one of the government hospitals for a Grand Rounds discussion and presentation of difficult cases for management recommendations. The scientific program was led by Nawaf al-Mutairi, MD, the president of the

conference, and involved diverse topics particularly on laser devices and modern therapies for psoriasis and vitiligo in ethnic skin, as well as how to address complications from these therapies. I first learned about platelet-rich plasma treatments and mesotherapy through a workshop at the conference, which became wildly popular in the Middle East and elsewhere during that time.

International Resident Opportunities Through the American Academy of Dermatology

The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) is dedicated to international education opportunities. The Education and Volunteers Abroad Committee



The dermatology library in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Belgrade, Serbia, where the remaining moulages are housed.

provides 4 grants per year to US dermatology residents who are in their second or third year of residency to participate in a rural health elective in Chinle, Arizona (<https://www.aad.org/education/awards-grants-and-scholarships/native-american-health-service-resident-rotation-program>). This 1- to 2-week elective takes place at the Native American Health Service where residents provide dermatologic care to the Navajo Nation population and work with primary health care providers to assist with diagnosis and management of dermatologic diseases.

The AAD also provides funding for 15 senior dermatology residents from the United States and Canada to participate in a 4- to 6-week elective in Gaborone, Botswana, which provides opportunities for residents to learn about the care of tropical and human immunodeficiency virus-related dermatologic conditions (<https://www.aad.org/education/awards-grants-and-scholarships/resident-international-grant>). These programs allow residents to develop image databases, perform teledermatology consultations, and practice in underserved areas with finite resources.

The AAD's World Congress Fund Review Task Force also offers a limited number of scholarships

to US and Canadian dermatology residents, fellows, or young dermatologists within 5 years of dermatology residency to attend the World Congress of Dermatology, the world's oldest continuous international dermatology meeting, which takes place every 4 years (<https://www.aad.org/education/awards-grants-and-scholarships/world-congress-of-dermatology>). Grants also are offered for travel to dermatology meetings in Asia, Europe, and Latin America through mutual arrangements with several international dermatologic societies and the International Affairs Committee of the AAD (<https://www.aad.org/education/awards-grants-and-scholarships/international-society-annual-meeting-travel-grant>). These grants offer participants an opportunity to meet foreign colleagues and establish long-lasting professional relationships.

International Resident Opportunities Through the Women's Dermatologic Society

The Women's Dermatologic Society Mentorship Award Program helps to develop long-term mentoring relationships for residents and/or junior faculty that might not otherwise be possible due to distance

or funding availability (<http://www.womensderm.org/?page=MentorshipAward>). As a recipient of this award in 2015, I was paired with Evangeline Handog, MD, current president of the International Society of Dermatology and the dermatology department chairperson at Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Muntinlupa City, Philippines. During my time in the Philippines, I was mostly at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila. I also spent a day at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, a state-of-the-art facility that is accredited by the Joint Commission International, and I attended a cosmetic dermatology workshop led by the Philippine Academy of Dermatologic Surgery Foundation, Inc. During this trip, I was surprised by the number of leprosy and human immunodeficiency virus cases that I encountered. Growing up in the United States for most of my life, I had never seen a case of leprosy. I also was very touched by the hospitality, generosity, and warmth of my mentor Dr. Handog, as well as the professors and dermatology residents that I encountered. The Women's Dermatologic Society Mentorship Award Program exceeded my expectations, and I learned much more than I could by reading a textbook. I am

very grateful for this experience and would do it again if I could.

Final Thoughts

Although it may be challenging to schedule international resident electives and opportunities while in residency training, international educational experiences allow for professional growth and development. An international medical experience can provide excellent opportunities for learning and service in remote or underserved areas in the world.

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REFERENCE

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