

Meetings, Transactions and Society News

Grateful International Society of Dermatology Fellowship Awardees Reminisce The Scholarly Experience

Recalling the events that happened last May 2009 at the 10th International Congress of Dermatology in Prague is not difficult. It was my very first international convention, perhaps the reason why I remember every detail from the time of my application for the Maria Durán Travel Grant to being part of the Maria Durán symposium.

The convention proved to be a huge success. More than 3000 dermatologists from all seven continents of the world were brought together for this 4-day event. Diverse facets of dermatology, from the pathologic to the artistic, were united under one roof. On top of that, I learned about new medications and state-of-the-art machines together with the latest techniques from developed countries. I was privileged to share this experience with my

colleagues at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila, Philippines, who also participated in other activities as well, such as oral and poster presentations. But more importantly, we were there to give our utmost support to Dr. Evangeline B. Handog, Secretary-General of the International Society of Dermatology. She is our pillar, our mentor and our friend! She is literally like a fairy god-mother to all residents and young dermatologists in the Philippines. Her most recent achievement is a milestone for all Filipino dermatologists. We are truly proud of her!

Being part of the Maria Durán symposium was indescribable. I was totally awed by the presence of Professors Torello M. Lotti, Jana Hercogová, Dedee F. Murrell, and Amy Paller. It did not sink into to me that they were physically present, intent on listening while I was delivering my case presentation entitled, “Lepromatous Leprosy and Lupus in a Lady”. I also got the chance to meet and chat with previous Maria Durán Awardees from other countries. I was humbled being a part of the Maria Durán Scholarship program as I was introduced to the life, dedication and commitment of Dr. Maria Durán.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the members of the Maria Durán Committee for selecting me



1030 Maria Durán Chairs - Secretary-General Dr. Evangeline B. Handog and Prof. Dedee F. Murrell.



Maria Durán Fellow 09 Dr. Dulce Galang with Prof. Dedee F. Murrell

as the 2009 Travel Grant Awardee. I will always recall the opportunity that was given to me. I am indeed one lucky lady from the Philippines who had a wonderfully scholarly experience in Prague.

Ma. Dolce Amor Vivan F. Galang, MD, DPDS
Manila
Philippines

My Experience

It was a happy unforgettable moment reading my letter of acceptance for the ISD Fellowship in Dermatologic Surgery from April to June 2009. Prof. Yahya Dowlati of Iran was matched as my mentor for this program, an intensive course within the three leading Iranian Dermatological Institutes, all under his kind supervision:

(1) Dowlati Skin Clinic (6 days weekly), where he and his colleagues, excellent Iranian dermatologists and plastic surgeons, taught me fundamentals of modern techniques in hair transplantation, Botox® injection, dermabrasion and other dermatologic surgery procedures.

(2) Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Razi Hospital (3 days weekly), the biggest referral dermatology hospital in Iran, where I learned new approaches for diagnosis and treatment of the serious and complicated skin conditions, histopathology, phototherapy and biological treatment. I observed a lot of skin surgery and joined with distinguished colleagues in weekly meetings discussing the treatment of challenging and complicated cases.

(3) Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Center for Research and Training in Skin Diseases and Leprosy (2 days weekly), where I participated in the weekly staff



Prof. Yahya Dowlati and Dr. Mohamed Al-Kamel in the former's academic office

conferences for observation and discussion of unusual skin conditions. I presented a scheduled lecture about common skin problems in Yemen and observed modern methods for diagnosis and management of cutaneous leishmaniasis, which is a common problem in both Iran and Yemen. Use of the center's excellent library was beneficial for me as well.

Afterwards, recommended by Prof. Dowlati, I traveled with him to the Czech Republic to attend the 10th ICD as a Congress Scholarship Awardee and to complete the rest of my fellowship in the Department of Dermatovenereology, 2nd Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague under the direct supervision of Prof. Jana Hercogová, ICD 2009 President and the Chairman of the Department, who offered me a great insight into dermatology, including digital dermatoscopy. I observed cutaneous surgery in the operative theater and managed many cases in the out-patient clinics. During my participation in the Congress I presented both a lecture and a poster about bullous mastocytosis and common skin problems in Yemen. I enjoyed the ISD meeting, interacting with hundreds of colleagues from all over the world. I am grateful to our great ISD and its Fellowship Committee, especially Secretary-General Dr. Evangeline Handog and Vice President Dr. Luitgard Wiest, and to my mentors Prof. Yahya Dowlati, Prof. Jana Hercogová and colleagues in Tehran and Prague.

Mohamed Al-Kamel, MD
Dermatologist
Yemen



Prof. Jana Hercogová and Dr. Mohamed Al-Kamel in the operative theater