

ESDR/EADV Summer Workshop on Research and Imaging Techniques in Ultraviolet and Pigmentation, 18–22 July 2011, Rome, Italy

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European Society for Dermatological Research/European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (ESDR/EADV) 2011 Summer Research Workshop, was held at the San Gallicano Dermatological Institute in Rome, Italy. Catharina Lerche learnt a lot at this course and strongly recommend future similar courses.

The one-week course, which was attended by 22 delegates from 12 different countries, comprised a good mix of lectures, laboratory work, and journal clubs. The lectures were given by leading experts in the field of dermatological research, such as *Professor Thomas Schwarz, Professor Nick Reynolds, Professor Mauro Picardo, Professor Eugene Healy and Dr Gerry Melino*. The excellent and patient staff at San Gallicano Dermatological Institute organized the laboratory work very well. The main subjects covered were: handling cell lines, Western blots, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), flow cytometry, and chromatographic separation. The practical work provided me with an intuitive perspective that will help me remember everything and, most importantly, equipped me with ideas that I can apply in my future work.

The journal clubs taught us to be more critical in reading articles, with particular emphasis on the benefits and limitations of review articles.

We also had time for social events. ESDR and EADV arranged a dinner for all the participants and the laboratory staff at a restaurant near the sea. We ate excellent Italian food in pleasant surroundings and had the opportunity to swim in the Mediterranean.

Our accommodation at the All Time Relais & Sport Hotel was very good. Even though our schedule during the week was busy, we found time to enjoy the amazing city of Rome with its many ancient sites.

This course provides a great opportunity to build a network of contacts within the field of dermatology. Many of the delegates have already arranged to meet again this autumn at the ESDR congress in Barcelona and the EADV congress in Lisbon.

I can honestly say that this was the most thorough course of this type that I have ever participated in, and I recommend future courses to other participants.



Fig. 1. The group of participants in this course.



Fig. 2. The participants enjoying the dinner arranged by the organizers.