

**BEES XIV**  
**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2005**

Those who braved the cold and flurries of snow blowing through from the valleys were richly rewarded with a cultural and educational feast in Cardiff. Having celebrated St David's Day in style by sampling the culinary delights offered by the new development of Cardiff Bay, Europe's leading experts in the field of dermato-epidemiology convened at the magnificent new Millennium Centre for the fourteenth meeting of BEES with the theme of disease outcomes in dermatology.

The meeting began with Carolyn Charman extolling the virtues of her new Patient Orientated Eczema outcome Measure which led nicely into Dundee's Sue Lewis-Jones overview of quality of life measurement in paediatric dermatology. Professor Williams then stepped into the breach and proved that he was able to present a study on which he had been listed as a co-author that suggested that there was no link between allergen exposure in early life and eczema. Great ammunition for lazy fathers who would rather watch the rugby with a beer than do the vacuuming!

The highlight of the morning was Robert Chalmers' polemic on PASI. This left the whole delegation wondering how on earth we, as dermatologists, had allowed such an unrepresentative measure to become the gold standard for trials vindicating, or otherwise, revolutionary new treatments which is becoming a multimillion pound industry. Lunch reinvigorated our guest overseas lecturer, Damiano Abeni, who had contributed with plenty of incisive comments throughout the morning. He gave a thought provoking lecture on the meaning of quality of life. A word of congratulations must go to Ruwani Katugampola, SpR in Swansea, who won the coveted award for best abstract presentation (I have not yet seen the beautiful BEES mug on ebay).

Finally, a word of thanks to Professor Andrew Finlay and his team from Cardiff who have raised the benchmark for future BEES meetings by putting on a fantastic meeting.