

**5th International Dermato-Epidemiology Association
Congress, Nottingham September 7th to 9th 2008,
Nottingham <http://www.idea2008.net/>**

The European Dermato-Epidemiology Network (EDEN) and its counterpart the American Dermato-Epidemiology Network (ADEN) joined forces with the local organising team in Nottingham to set up an excellent meeting on the topic of dermatology-epidemiology in the grounds of Nottingham University Campus. The overall theme of the meeting was "burden of disease" - epidemiological burden, health related quality of life and economic burden. Guest speakers were chosen to clarify these concepts, and a report of the meeting findings will be led by Suephy Chen. Sir Peter Mansfield (nobel prize winner at Nottingham) gave an excellent talk about development of the MRI scan. Full details of the programme can be found in the linked pdf.

Around 80 people from all over the world attended this focussed meeting and the thematic approach worked very well, as it tied in nicely with the current WHO Global Burden of Disease project, presented by Professor Rod Hay. All 52 abstracts have been published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology. The best abstract prize of an apple carved from a tree fallen in Sherwood Forest was awarded to Dr. Christian Apfelbacher and was presented by the Sheriff of Nottingham.

The meeting was preceded by the IDEA Course "common pitfalls in epidemiological studies" which was run by Hywel Williams (prevalence studies), Bob Delavalle (cohort studies), and Luigi Naldi (case control studies). 30 participants evaluated the course highly.

There was a distinct Nottingham theme to the meeting including a talk from Nottingham's official modern "Robin Hood" plus some medieval singers at the Congress dinner who encouraged an unusual singing competition in old English prose.

The meeting was also unusual in that it deliberately did not rely on any industry sponsorship whatsoever. The meeting was able to achieve such educational independence by keeping costs low with student accommodation and by attracting enough people through the interesting programme and course. People came because they wanted to come.

**Hywel Williams, November 2008
Outgoing EDEN Chair and IDEA President 2005-2008**