



Report from the ISPAD Research School for Physicians 2014, Boston, USA

25 delegates, 16 countries, 5 continents in one place – Boston, USA. It was a great privilege to be a participant of the 14th Science School for Physicians, a week of an intensive research course hosted by the Joslin Diabetes Center. Dr Lori Laffel, Prof Joseph Wolfsdorf, Dr Katherine Garvey, Dr Elvira Isganaitis, Dr Michelle Katz, Dr Jessica Markowitz, Dr Sanjeev Metha as well as other world-renowned faculty members mostly from the Joslin Diabetes Center and Harvard Medical School devoted their time and gave us energy and passion for research in pediatric diabetes. It was a wonderful opportunity for us, young physicians who got involved in research, to enhance our knowledge. We heard interesting lectures on study design, statistical analysis and presentation of research findings as well as some really inspiring talks by experts in key areas of basic, clinical, and translational diabetes research. It was all latest and top science!

Each day we had also breakouts in small groups during which we discussed our planned or ongoing research projects. This gave us not only great feedback from experts and other participants, but also a possibility to improve the current or further projects. I found it very challenging and it taught me a lot how to analyze research projects in order to enhance them to obtain the best out of them. During the final presentations to the whole audience we got to know the research of all other delegates – great experience of pediatric diabetes in different parts of the world.

After very intense hours of lectures, breakouts and discussions there was a little bit of time for some extra activities. We had a great time exploring Boston during the Duck Tour and some of us gained additional experience driving the Duck on the water. I think all of us will also remember the visit to walk through the Harvard Yard and the encounter with baseball. This whole time was a wonderful occasion for networking, getting to know each other, exchange experiences, make friends.

I think that on behalf of all delegates I can express our gratitude for this amazing time. Thanks to all faculties, their devotion to patients, passion for diabetes and knowledge that their shared with us, we gained something extraordinary. I also truly believe some of the contacts and friendships will last for long and that we can support each other in research and work together in the future to make a difference to patients with diabetes.

The organization by Laura Hanson was magnificent. And thanks to Sanofi for the grant that supported the Science School.

Thank you ISPAD!

Agata Chobot, ISPAD Research School for Physicians 2014 participant