

MEETING:

Seventy-third World Health Assembly

AGENDA ITEM:

- Written statements exceptionally considered under provisional agenda item 3 Address by WHO Director-General devoted to the COVID-19 pandemic response in advance of the opening of the Health Assembly.

STATEMENT:

The International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) appreciates the opportunity to share a statement on behalf of 195 dermatological societies representing over 200,000 dermatologists with the common goal to improve skin health for all people around the world.

We commend the WHO's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outbreak, the ILDS has been supporting WHO's public health activities including sharing resources, such as the WHO Academy App, with our global networks.

There are increasing reports of dermatologic manifestations of COVID-19 and support is required in this area for patients with skin conditions during the pandemic (1).

- In order to rapidly and centrally collect information from a global network of dermatologists and patients and inform those on the front line combating the virus, we are collaborating in the development and promotion of the use of newly developed registries (2). These are aimed at helping dermatologists and other health professionals around the world get a better understanding of the consequences of COVID-19 for patients and their management.
- The ILDS has also published guidance on COVID-19 and the management of skin diseases.

There is also increased development of occupational irritant skin disease in healthcare workers and the global population due to necessary handwashing and alcoholic disinfection, as well as protective goggles and face masks. Clear guidance, preventive and therapeutic measures are also required in this area. Further information including guidance notes and links to registries can be found online at: <https://ilds.org/covid-19/>

The ILDS activities aim to assist the WHO member states and their health professionals in coping with skin disease and the treatment thereof in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

References

- (1) Casas CG, *et al. Br J Dermatol* 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjd.19163>
- (2) Freeman EE, *et al. J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2020.04.045>