



International League  
of Dermatological Societies

Addressing Challenges in Global Skin Health

# A DIRECTORY OF MEMBER SOCIETY INITIATIVES

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# Introduction

I am delighted to present this special compendium of initiatives by ILDS member societies to support and enhance dermatology around the world entitled '**Addressing Challenges in Global Skin Health: A Directory of Member Society Initiatives**'.

This publication has been launched in conjunction with the **2<sup>nd</sup> ILDS World Skin Summit** held 10-12 June 2018 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam ([www.WorldSkinSummit.com](http://www.WorldSkinSummit.com)). The Summit is a special and unique global event involving the leaders of ILDS member societies. The goal is to work together towards a vision of attaining the best possible skin health for all people around the world.

An important element of the World Skin Summit and one of the ILDS' overall aims is to promote the sharing and exchange of information between member societies in order to educate and empower dermatologists and their societies. This publication contributes to that aim by presenting a broad range of approaches to address the following themes:

1. *The future of dermatology: threats and opportunities*
2. *What are the truly unmet needs in dermatology?*
3. *Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care*
4. *Training and education*
5. *The scope and challenges of evidence-based care*
6. *Global volunteerism: Addressing the challenges in global and national skin health*
7. *The future of dermatology as a discipline*

This inaugural ILDS directory contains contributions from over 30 ILDS member societies covering all world regions. The topics featured are diverse, including: dermatological education and training programmes; national awareness campaigns; dermatological research and the development of standards; care and treatment for displaced and marginalised communities; and the development of registries and algorithms.

Many of the initiatives described in this directory have been in support of **World Skin Health Day**, ([www.WorldSkinDay.org](http://www.WorldSkinDay.org)) the goal of which is to raise awareness of skin health and the importance of ensuring access to dermatological care. World Skin Health Day is a collaborative project spearheaded by the ILDS and the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) to engage and support ILDS Member Societies at the local, national, and regional levels.

The creative initiatives and projects that are featured in this publication are the culmination of many dedicated individuals and societies. We hope that you and your dermatological societies will find inspiration and practical know-how from the energy and compassion that is embodied in each of these initiatives.

**Professor Harvey Lui**  
President, ILDS

# African Society of Dermatology and Venereology

The African Society of Dermatology and Venereology (ASDV) is an organisation for dermatologists across the African continent. Our mission is to strengthen public and private partnerships and local and international collaborations; to support community outreach initiatives and public education; and to promote relevant research, leadership and mentorship.

## Albinism Awareness; Dermatologic Outreach Education

**Themes:** Unmet needs in dermatology; Access to healthcare; Training and education; Global volunteerism

Members of the ASDV took part in an outreach initiative to raise awareness about albinism and skin care. International Albinism Awareness Day takes place on 13 June, and in recognition of that, an event was held at Durban City Hall on 21 June 2017. The public community and children and adults with albinism, as well as their family members and friends, attended the event. The event was a joint venture between the ASDV, the AWDS (African Woman's Dermatologic Society), the Albinism Society of KwaZulu-Natal, University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Department of Dermatology and local radio station Gagasi FM. Galderma and Biersdorf, pharmaceutical companies who sponsored sun protective hats and sunscreen products for delegates and people with albinism, supported the event.

The outreach was aimed at teaching the public, including people with albinism and their caregivers, about skin care and living with albinism. The province of KwaZulu-Natal has, in the past, seen a high number of albinism killings, making this community an appropriate target for this initiative. The tragic killings are fueled by myths and superstitious beliefs. People with albinism are ostracised and live in fear – therefore not much is understood and known about the condition.



*Mother and child at the AWDS, Albinism outreach*

The primary purpose of the 2017 initiative was to demystify the myths about albinism and to curb the scourge of innocent albinism killings in the province.

Doctors gave lectures on the following topics:

- What is albinism and how is it inherited?
- Sun protection and its importance in albinism
- Early signs of skin cancer
- Regular screening and skin checks

The event was widely publicised in the media and broadcast live through local radio stations to increase education and awareness amongst the general public. The event was highly successful and effective, so we plan to do it on a yearly basis. The most important message highlighted by our society was that no one should fear for their life because of their skin colour!

The AWDS and dermatologists in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal also participated in the teaching of more than 500 primary healthcare nurses, medical students, and doctors in a total of six districts and venues across the provinces of Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, spending three days in each province.

Unilever and the Direct Relief Programme sponsored this initiative. As many of these districts are short of dermatologists – or have none at all – empowering primary healthcare nurses and local doctors to identify and treat common skin conditions, and refer appropriately, is key.

Lecture topics included diagnosis and management of common skin diseases as well as practical tips on bedside diagnostic tools and appropriate therapies that can be adopted at a local community level.

The challenges faced during the teaching programmes include long hours of travel by dermatologists to the areas, being away from home for extended periods of time, and the costs of running the programme, and transporting nurses and doctors from rural areas and back. However, the AWDS executive committee is committed to delivering these updates on an annual basis, across different provinces within the country.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.asdvafrica.org](http://www.asdvafrica.org)

To read more about the African Women's Dermatologic Society, visit [www.facebook.com/AfricanWDS](https://www.facebook.com/AfricanWDS)



*Prof NC Dlova and Prof A Mosam and local doctors at the AWDS, Eastern Cape*

# American Academy of Dermatology

*The mission of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) is to promote leadership in dermatology and excellence in patient care through education, research and advocacy.*

## National Healthy Skin Month

**Theme:** Access to healthcare

To recognise and promote skin health around the world, the American Academy of Dermatology will participate in World Skin Health Day, a joint project of the ILDS and the ISD (International Society of Dermatology).

Every year in November, the Academy conducts an initiative called 'National Healthy Skin Month' to educate the public about taking good care of their skin and remind them that dermatologists are the recognised experts in skin health. The initiative provides tips and tools to promote skin health and to educate the public about the role of Board-certified dermatologists to diagnose more than 3,000 skin, hair and nail diseases — including skin cancer, acne, eczema and psoriasis — and provide effective medical and surgical treatment.

This year, the Academy will focus one day during National Healthy Skin Month on conducting extensive promotion of World Skin Health Day through social media. The AAD will promote World Skin Health Day broadly on all its social media channels, with a call to action to all members to share a story about how they are celebrating the day. The AAD will encourage activities such as conducting skin cancer screenings, sharing a story of their work with underserved communities or advancing access to dermatology in their communities.

As part of this initiative, the AAD will promote a common hashtag, #WorldSkinHealthDay and ask AAD members to tag this campaign when posting their stories. The Academy will also tag [www.WorldSkinDay.org](http://www.WorldSkinDay.org) in AAD posts. The AAD will kick off this campaign early in the month by posting to @aadmember on Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest

and Facebook, and we will follow along all of November with member posts, retweeting and tagging members who participate. Throughout the social media campaign, the AAD will also direct members of the public to seek additional resources to maintain healthy skin on its website.

## Resources

For the 2017 National Healthy Skin Month, the AAD produced an infographic to provide tips to the public on good skin care. The infographic, along with additional tips for maintaining good skin health, is available at [www.aad.org/public/skin-hair-nails/skin-care/national-healthy-skin-month](http://www.aad.org/public/skin-hair-nails/skin-care/national-healthy-skin-month)



If your skin could talk, would you listen? What would it have to say about your habits? [bit.ly/2HlwRe2](http://bit.ly/2HlwRe2)



4/13/18, 11:25 AM

*An example of the social media outreach the Academy will conduct during National Healthy Skin Month*



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# American Society for Dermatologic Surgery

The American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) is the largest specialty organisation exclusively representing dermatologic surgeons. More than 6,400 ASDS members meet not only standards in recognised certification of medical specialists, but also standards of skill, experience and merit. ASDS core members are board-certified physicians who are specifically trained to treat the health, function and appearance of the skin and soft tissue, with both medically necessary and cosmetic procedures, using both surgical and non-surgical methods.

The mission of ASDS is to foster, promote, support, augment, develop and encourage investigative knowledge in dermatologic surgery; to promote the highest possible standards in clinical practice, continuing education and research in dermatologic surgery; to promote the highest standards of patient care and promote the public interest relating to dermatologic surgery; and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and methodology for dermatologic surgery and related basic sciences.

## International Dermatologic Surgery Fellowship Recognition Programme

**Themes:** Training and education;  
The future of dermatology

As a leader in dermatologic surgery educational excellence, the ASDS is committed to advancing the specialty by promoting high-quality training and practice standards worldwide.

The ASDS International Dermatologic Surgery Fellowship Recognition Programme assists international fellowship directors in starting and maintaining successful fellowship training programmes by providing guidelines and credentials instrumental in paving the way when approaching their countries' medical regulators.

The programme utilises ASDS resources, the abilities of ASDS member dermatologic surgeons and the willingness of those surgeons to give their time, and the Society's capabilities and energies to assist international physicians in developing and implementing dermatologic surgery fellowships.

All candidate programmes will be reviewed on site on the basis of suitability for ongoing dermatologic surgery training. Any physician accepted into the Fellowship Programme shall be licensed and trained in dermatology via a residency programme which meets the criteria for the country of origin.

Three certificate options – each requiring a specified minimum number of cases – are available:

1. General Dermatologic Surgery Certificate
2. Mohs Surgery Certificate
3. Cosmetic Dermatology Certificate

The ASDS-recognised International Fellowship Programmes are established to be academically rigorous training programmes led by individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to dermatologic surgery as evidenced by consistent and ongoing curriculum review and external educational opportunities. International Fellowship programmes must be one or two years in duration and provide a minimum number of procedures. An ability to perform skin biopsy, cryosurgery and destruction of skin lesions is assumed and required. The office and/or institution sponsoring the fellowship shall be a licensed facility and must have appropriate safety equipment and planning commensurate with country, state and local regulations.

The review process recognises those International Fellowship Programmes that meet the standards established by the ASDS International Fellowship Recognition Work Group. A review of the applicant's credentials and evidence of procedural competency and safety will be evaluated during the application process.



Fellowship Director Dr. Pieter du Plessis, operating and teaching first Mohs Fellow Dr. Nivana Ramlachan

All candidate programmes will be required to host a site visit, and upon approval will receive a dermatologic surgery curriculum case log system.

ASDS provides:

- A curriculum of dermatologic surgery available to prospective training programme directors on the ASDS Quest digital knowledge network, which is updated annually
- A case log system
- An initial site visit and instruction by an ASDS mentor

- A review of the applicant's compliance with the recognition requirements, including the fellowship director's credentials, demonstration of facility readiness and ability to support the educational needs of each Fellow
- A method of ongoing, specific oversight – preferably from within the country of origin

To date, ASDS-recognised international training programmes have been established in South Africa, Romania and Pakistan.

## Resources

More information on the International Dermatologic Surgery Fellowship Recognition can be found in the *Currents* article, 'ITMP prepares for 2018 mentorships', available at [asds.net](http://asds.net)

# American Society of Dermatopathology

*The mission of the American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP) is to improve quality of life by advancing the theory and practice of dermatopathology. In the United States the ASDP serves as the hub of professional knowledge in the practice of dermatopathology. It promotes advances in the field, serves as a platform for vigorous debate, and provides best practice tools to fellow practitioners.*

## Dermatopathology Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)

**Themes:** Threats and opportunities

In recent years there has been an increase in new technologies and diagnostic tests available to dermatopathologists. With the accompanied increase in cost and the call for safer and more efficient care, dermatopathologists need tools to help them make appropriate decisions about care, while maintaining quality.

The ASDP has developed an initial set of dermatopathology appropriate use criteria (AUC). The developed AUC are based on the RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Methodology, established in the 1980s. In general, AUC are meant to be patient-centred and can provide physicians with guidance about diagnostic approaches for a variety of patients and scenarios that occur in clinical practice. AUC facilitate this decision-making by deriving appropriateness ratings that are based on examining the available scientific evidence with collective clinical expertise and review from a panel of physicians. AUC have been shown to lead to improvements in diagnostic yield, clinical outcomes and a reduction of overall cost and resource utilisation.

The launch of this initiative began in 2015, as a result of the vision of former ASDP President Dr. Dirk Elston and under the direction of Dr. M. Yadira Hurley.

As a result of the work of many task force members and expert panel raters, recommendations of appropriateness have been developed for 211 clinical scenarios involving 12 tests/ancillary studies used in dermatopathology. Following three rounds of expert rating, consensus was reached for 188 (89%) clinical scenarios, with 93 (44%) considered 'usually appropriate', 52 (25%) 'rarely appropriate', and 43 (20%) 'uncertain appropriateness'. This work has now been disseminated to dermatopathologists and dermatologists.

The ASDP feels strongly that the dermatopathology AUC are a necessary step forward in dermatopathology. They not only serve as a guide for individual physician-patient decision making, but also as a tool that can help shed light on practice patterns. In addition, they highlight areas where there is a need for future research.

The work of the AUC committee continues. Plans are already in place to review, reassess and refine the developed AUC and to develop additional AUC for other ancillary studies used in dermatopathology. Work has also commenced to use the developed dermatopathology AUC to create and promote best practice guidelines. As before, the continued goal of providing the greatest benefit to patient care and clinical decision making will be maintained. This is an exciting time for our society.

## Resources

More information can be found at [www.asdp.org](http://www.asdp.org) and in the following papers:

Brook RH, Vaiana ME. Using the Knowledge Base of Health Services Research to Redefine Health Care Systems. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2015 Oct;30(10):1547-56

Fitch K, Bernstein S, Aguilar MS, et al. The RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Method User's Manual 2001. No. MR-1269-DG-XII/RE:126. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corp; 2001

Kuntz KM, Tsevat J, Weinstein MC, Goldman L. Expert panel vs decision-analysis recommendations for postdischarge coronary angiography after myocardial infarction. *JAMA.* 1999 Dec 15;282(23):2246-51

Vidal CI, Armbract EA, Andea AA, et al. Appropriate Use Criteria in Dermatopathology: Initial Recommendations from the American Society of Dermatopathology. *J Cutan Pathol.* 2018 Mar 22



*Dr. Claudia I. Vidal is the current Chair of the AUC Committee of the ASDP*



*Dr. M. Yadira Hurley is the immediate past Chair of the AUC Committee for the ASDP*

# Angolan College of Dermatology and Venereology

The aim of the Angolan College of Dermatology and Venereology (CADV) is to promote the development of the discipline in Angola in order to increase the number of trained dermatologists and support skin-related investigations. The CADV is also responsible for monitoring the quality of training, exercise of clinical practice, as well as the equivalence of qualifications presented by dermatologists trained abroad.

## National Dermatologist Training

**Theme:** Training and education

The burden of skin diseases in Angola, a country of 28 million inhabitants, contrasts sharply with the low number of trained dermatologists. While it is recognised that some common skin diseases can be treated by primary healthcare providers, such health professionals are often unprepared to recognise and treat skin disorders, due to insufficient pre-graduate training and scant support from referral services.

The management of complex skin disorders, including genetic, inflammatory, neoplastic and infectious diseases, in particular the eradication of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) such as leprosy, filariasis and hemorrhagic fevers, requires the support of trained dermatologists.

From Angola's independence in 1975 until 2009, the training of Angolan dermatologists progressed slowly. By 2013, only eight specialists had been trained locally, all working in the capital city of Luanda. The CADV was founded in 2010 to promote the clinical and scientific development of the discipline and to increase the number of trained specialists. Further goals included monitoring the quality of training, ensuring good clinical practice and assessing the equivalence of qualifications obtained abroad. In the same year, the project to develop the discipline at a national level was launched, jointly supported by the Ministry of Health and the CADV.

In 2013, CADV dermatologists and partners organised a forum to update and harmonise the four-year training curriculum, subsequently implemented nationwide. Dermatology Services were opened in five Regional Hospitals affiliated with recently created Faculties of Medicine, offering improved conditions and opportunities for pre- and post-graduate training. The Services were equipped with surgical instruments, electro- and cryotherapy appliances, dermatoscopes, books and manuals. Phototherapy equipment and allergology tests were made available to the main referral service in Luanda.

As a result, the total number of residents in training increased to 14 in 2013, 31 in 2015 and 24 in 2017. The cumulative number of locally trained Dermatologists is expected to be 23 in 2019.

The presentation of clinical and epidemiological investigations by residents and dermatologists was encouraged at a first national symposium held in 2015, gathering 300 national and international participants. This project has consolidated the partnership between the CADV, the Angolan Medical Order, the Faculties of Medicine, and the Ministry of Health and fostered collaboration with dermatology centres in Portugal, Brazil and China as well as international organisations such as the ILDS.

In conclusion, Angola requires more skilled dermatologists and health professionals focused on skin diseases, including dermatopathologists and dermatology nurses. As a new ILDS member, the CADV is committed to promoting the expansion of dermatology services in all provinces of Angola, providing opportunities for training and research, supporting public health programmes for albinism and people living with HIV/AIDS, and promoting initiatives towards the elimination of leprosy and filariasis.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.ordemosmedicosdeangola.org](http://www.ordemosmedicosdeangola.org)

# Association of Italian Women Dermatologists

The Donne Dermatologhe Italia (DDI) was established to create an official network between Italian female dermatologists, allowing them to share up-to-date dermatological news and research, as well as professional experiences and clinical practices. The aim is to optimise 'female' dermatological activities within medical, scientific and cultural fields.

## Italian Algorithm on Rosacea Treatments

**Theme:** Evidence-based care

Rosacea is a common chronic inflammatory skin disease which primarily affects the face, and it has a high impact on quality of life, potentially causing embarrassment, stigmatisation, social anxiety, and depression. Fortunately, depending upon the symptoms and disease severity, several treatment options, both topical and systemic, are available for rosacea. Long-term treatment is often needed to control the disease, and the importance of general measures including avoiding triggers, encouraging daily use of sunscreens, and adequate skin care should not be neglected. Medical treatments should be symptom-oriented, patient-tailored and possibly consider combination strategies. Hence, rosacea treatment can be challenging, and some drugs are still used off-label. Therefore, a shared and generally accepted evidence-based algorithm should be adopted to guide dermatologists in the chronic therapeutic regimen for rosacea, leading to optimal treatment outcomes and patient satisfaction.

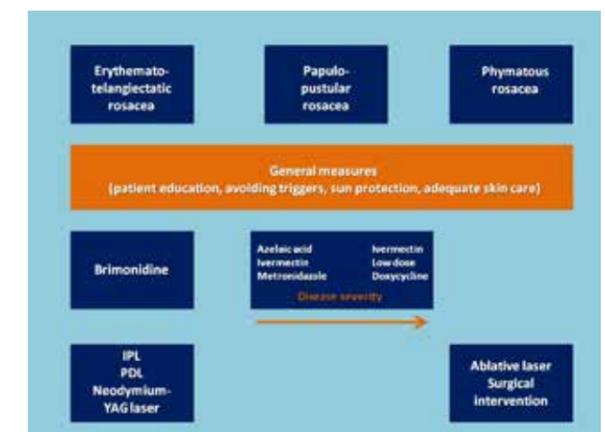
For all these reasons, an Italian board of dermatology experts, after a thorough review and analytical evaluation process of the literature, has prepared a document summarising the clinical and pathogenetic aspects of rosacea, as well as proposing a recommendation paper for rosacea therapy.

The study concluded that brimonidine represents the only approved topical

treatment for erythemato-telangiectatic rosacea, whereas both topical (metronidazole, azelaic acid, ivermectin) and systemic (low-dose doxycycline) are first-line treatments in papulopustular rosacea. Physical therapies such as pulsed dye laser and intense pulsed light are typically used and recommended for the treatment of erythemato-telangiectatic rosacea (type I), followed by neodymium-YAG laser, whereas ablation with CO<sub>2</sub> laser or erbium-YAG laser and surgical correction with dermabrasion or dermashaving are preferred for phymatous rosacea. However, since rosacea is prone to a chronic course and relapses, maintenance therapy is recommended for long-term improvement and better disease control. Further research is needed, in particular to clarify and standardise combination therapy as well as rosacea maintenance management. In addition, head-to-head studies are also desirable to definitively establish first lines of therapy. To our knowledge, this is the first up-to-date Italian algorithm on rosacea treatments created to support and guide dermatologists' decision in the long-term management of this disease, continuously aiming to obtain high standards of care.

## Resources

For a full description of the society and its activities, visit [www.donnedermatologhe.it/default.php?lang=2](http://www.donnedermatologhe.it/default.php?lang=2)



# Australasian College of Dermatologists



Andrew Miller and Cancer Council CEO Sanchia Aranda

*The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. It provides authoritative information about dermatology to government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.*

## National Skin Cancer Action Week

**Theme:** Training and education

Every year, the ACD partners with the Cancer Council during National Skin Cancer Action Week in November to remind Australians of the importance of sun protection. Two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. The incidence rate of melanoma in Australia has almost doubled between 1982 and 2016, increasing from 27 to 49 cases for every 100,000 people. 1,770 Australians die from skin cancer each year. Melanoma is the fourth most common cancer in Australia, accounting for 10.2% of new

cancer cases diagnosed. One person in every 120 will risk death from melanoma skin cancer by their 85<sup>th</sup> birthday with one in 18 being diagnosed with melanoma sometime before the age of 85.

The target audience and messaging for the campaign changes each year. The 2015 campaign was to inform the public that UV adds up, whether it is sunny or cloudy. For the 2016 campaign, the focus was on young people and showing that sun damage is cumulative. Ambassadors, such as Australian Olympic swimmer Stephanie Rice, participated in the campaign. In 2017, the focus of the campaign was on role modelling — adults protecting themselves as well as their children — with the theme of 'Join the SunSmart Generation'.

A press conference was held at the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club on Sunday 19 November 2017 to release new data from the Cancer Council 2016/17 National Sun Survey, which is conducted every four years. Dr. Andrew Miller was present as the spokesperson and president from the College. Key findings of the survey were as follows: 85% of Australians don't apply enough sunscreen; the proportion of adults using clothing to protect themselves from the sun has decreased from 19% to 17% in the last three years; the proportion of adults who get weekend sunburns hasn't improved and now sits at 17%, equivalent to more than 2.7 million adults; just 55% of Australian adults recognise that it's safe to use sunscreen every day, down from 61% in 2014; 17% of respondents were worried that sunscreens contain ingredients that are bad for your health; and 20% believed that using sunscreen regularly would result in not having enough vitamin D.

Several College Fellows agreed to assist the College for National Skin Cancer Action Week with media enquiries. This partnership with the Cancer Council is growing every year and helps increase the external public profile of the College and community awareness of dermatology. There was extensive coverage in both national and state-level media.



Andrew Miller at the 2017 press conference

The most challenging aspect of National Skin Cancer Action Week is raising public awareness of the need for constant vigilance with sun protection. This activity was successful as the strength of the Cancer Council brand attracts much more media attention to the issue than we could do by ourselves.

Key lessons from the 2017 event were to choose the media angle and source patient profiles earlier. For the 2018 campaign, we started this process well in advance.

## Resources

Campaign design files for Skin Cancer Action Week are available at [www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/campaigns-and-events/national-skin-cancer-action-week.html](http://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/campaigns-and-events/national-skin-cancer-action-week.html)

**The incidence rate of melanoma in Australia has almost doubled between 1982 and 2016, increasing from 27 to 49 cases for every 100,000 people.**

**1,770 Australians die from skin cancer each year.**

# Belarusian Society of Dermatovenereologists and Cosmetologists

*The Belarusian Society of Dermatovenereologists and Cosmetologists (BSDC) aims to promote scientific and practical activities, improve professional training of personnel in the field of dermatology and cosmetology, provide scientific, methodological and practical help to public health organisations of Belarus, participate in development of educational curricula and teaching programmes on dermatology and cosmetology for Higher Medical Education Institutions, and contribute to international scientific and practical cooperation.*

## Vitebsk Dermatological Day

**Themes:** Training and education; Evidence-based care

The latest activity of the BSDC within the framework of the World Skin Health Day campaign 2018 was the 7<sup>th</sup> National Science and Applied Research Conference with International Participation – ‘Vitebsk Dermatological Day’ – which was held on 6 April 2018 at Vitebsk State Medical University, one of the foremost centres of medical education in the Republic of Belarus.



*Speakers at the Vitebsk Dermatological Day Conference, 2018*

## A total of 240 dermatologists, cosmetologists, general practitioners, allergists and internists from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, and Israel participated in the forum.

The theme of the Conference, ‘Age-Related Aspects of Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology’, attracted a great deal of national and international attention. A total of 240 dermatologists, cosmetologists, general practitioners, allergists and internists from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, and Israel participated in the forum. The Conference programme included 42 presentations on a wide range of topics pertaining to skin diseases in neonates, children and adolescents, pregnant women and the elderly. The Conference participants discussed the epidemiological and medico-social aspects of syphilis as well as new approaches to diagnostics and prevention of this socially significant infection. Impressive presentations were given about pathomorphological skin changes as a special diagnostic method for skin diseases.

In addition to qualified dermatologists and venereologists, the conference was also open to university students, for whom it was a useful training seminar in dermatovenereology and an excellent opportunity to listen to reports from eminent scientists and professors from eight different countries.

Professor S.B. Koshkin from Russia specially aimed his report ‘Syphilis in Doctors’ Practice’ at students, clinical residents and aspirants of Vitebsk State Medical University.

Unique clinical cases from various branches of dermatology were presented by Professor Andris Rubens from Latvia. Doctor Ron Yaniv from Israel reported on current treatment modalities for solar keratoses, and Professor Külli Kingo from the University of Tartu in Estonia presented in her report the conception of psoriasis as a systemic inflammation. Professor Hans Wolff from the Clinic and Polyclinic for Dermatology and Allergology of Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany presented on ‘Hair Diseases in Children’.

The organisers of the conference aimed to provide new data and information which would be interesting for the more experienced professionals and encouraging for beginners. The conference materials were published in a special issue of the national journal *Dermatovenereology & Cosmetology*. The BSDC will continue the tradition, and invites doctors and students to participate in the next Vitebsk Dermatological Day which is to be held on 5 April 2019.

## Resources

Further information can be found in the *Dermatovenereology & Cosmetology* journal and at [www.bsd.by](http://www.bsd.by)

# Brazilian Society of Dermatology

The Brazilian Society of Dermatology (SBD), founded in 1912, is the only institution officially recognised by the Brazilian Federal Council of Medicine (CFM) and the Brazilian Medical Association (AMB) as a representative of dermatologists in Brazil. It is active in 23 Brazilian states through its Regionals, as well as in 85 accredited university hospitals.

## National Skin Cancer Campaign

**Themes:** Global volunteerism

For the past 18 years, the Brazilian Society of Dermatology has organised a national campaign to prevent skin cancer. Every year, we arrange a day of volunteering to reinforce the importance of daily sun protection, as well as to advise citizens that early identification of skin cancer increases the chances of cure and prevents significant damage. Since its implementation in 1999, the SBD has reached over half a million people.

On 5 December 2009, the SBD received certification by Guinness World Records for having promoted the world's largest medical campaign held in a single day, as well as the largest global campaign for skin cancer prevention, with more than 34,000 attendees in different regions of Brazil. Since 2014, this day has been part of a national campaign called 'Orange December', in which we promote a series of initiatives to raise awareness about the prevention and early diagnosis of skin cancer, including the importance of photoprotection as a means of risk reduction.

We run a digital campaign via educational Facebook and Instagram posts (reaching almost 23 million people last year), and we run a series of ads throughout Brazil. The campaign also has good coverage in traditional media, with more than 2,600 news stories in newspapers and on TV. The main goal of Orange December 2018 is to make the campaign global, in order to expand awareness worldwide.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.sbd.org.br](http://www.sbd.org.br)



Skin Cancer Prevention Campaign 2017



**Take part in World Skin Health Day 2018 and help raise awareness about the wide ranging impact of skin disease and support people in your local community.**

- A World Skin Health Day activity can take place on any date in 2018
- There is no specific day; you can pick whenever suits your organisation best

Visit [www.WorldSkinDay.org](http://www.WorldSkinDay.org) for more details.



World Skin Health day is a joint project of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and the International Society of Dermatology (ISD), World Skin Health Day's aim is to recognise and promote skin health around the world.



# British Association of Dermatologists

The main objective of the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) is to promote the knowledge, practice and teaching of dermatology. Our mission is 'Healthy Skin for All', and our core work focuses on achieving the highest possible standards – across service delivery, training and education, dermatology research and public information.

## Skin Support Website [www.skinsupport.org.uk](http://www.skinsupport.org.uk)

**Themes:** Unmet needs in dermatology

Our physical health and our emotional well-being are closely linked, and it is evident that the many difficulties of living with a skin condition can take a toll on a person's state of mind. What is less widely appreciated is that the causal link between mental health issues and skin disease is twofold – skin disorders cause psychological traumas, and conversely, psychological factors like stress can trigger or worsen certain skin diseases.

Skin diseases, and consequently their associated psychological effects, are numerous and widespread.

Despite this, psychodermatology services are extremely limited in the UK. Very few dermatology departments have direct access to general psychiatrists. Prior to commencing this project, it was identified that support materials and services directed specifically at skin disease patients were sporadic and disparate, and those in existence were not always easy to find or access. While there were excellent support groups, centered on individual skin diseases and also mental health charities, there was no centralised hub that provided coordinated resources to unite the specialties of dermatology and mental health, for which there exists a significant overlap.

To help address this issue, the British Association of Dermatologists – with funding from the governmental Department of Health (DH) – created a website that acts as a hub for psychological support specifically catering for people with skin disease. Skin Support ([www.skinsupport.org.uk](http://www.skinsupport.org.uk)) brings together a vast range of materials in one central, easily accessible location, and the BAD also creates bespoke materials to address gaps in information provision.

The Skin Support site has received over 73,000 visitors since its launch. There has been a dramatic increase in traffic to the site since January 2018, with the site now averaging about 2,000 users per month and this figure is steadily rising.

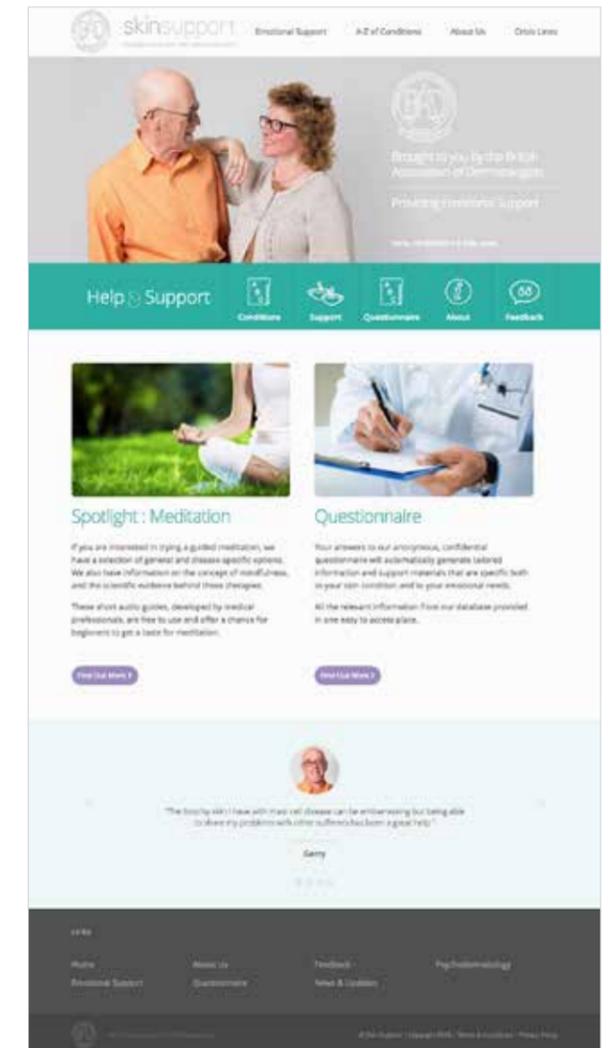
The self-help materials are a combination of leaflets, audio files and links, addressing an array of issues including anxiety, depression, social isolation and reduced self-esteem. The site also features in-depth information on over 100 skin disorders, including prevention and treatment advice, to educate patients on their disorder and to encourage compliance with recommended treatment options. Additionally, we provide links to resources specifically created for caregivers and young people, to help families and friends better understand the difficulties associated with living with a skin condition.

The most challenging aspects of the project were:

1. Knowing how best to manage the many complexities involved in providing advice to potentially vulnerable service users or those in acute distress.
2. Collating, evaluating and commissioning the profusion of materials required to render the service useful.

For these reasons, the BAD took the decision to form an Expert Advisory Panel, comprising professionals working in psychiatry, psychology and dermatology together with members of the public, to guide the project since its conception in 2013. The project was run by the BAD's Communications Department.

The BAD believes that providing people with access to self-help materials specifically tailored to their skin disease, as well as being signposted to appropriate support services, can help people to maintain control of their treatment and self-help options.



SkinSupport Website

This may help to break the vicious cycle of anxiety and depression exacerbating an existing skin condition and subsequently increasing psychological stress levels and worsening the problem. Whilst a website cannot replace specialist care, it may help to raise awareness of the services that are available and of resources for both patients and medical professionals that are specific to psychodermatology.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.skinsupport.org.uk](http://www.skinsupport.org.uk)



SkinSupport Website

# Canadian Dermatology Association

The Canadian Dermatology Association (CDA), founded in 1925, represents Canadian dermatologists. The CDA exists to advance the science and art of medicine and surgery related to the care of the skin, hair and nails; provide continuing professional development for its members; support and advance patient care; provide public education on sun protection and other aspects of skin health; and promote a lifetime of healthier skin, hair and nails.

## The Healthy Skincare Promise

**Themes:** Access to healthcare

As part of its mission to provide the public with excellent dermatological knowledge and patient advocacy, the CDA created the Skin Health Programme to help consumers find healthy skincare products for themselves and their families.

The Skin Health Programme was the result of an identified vacuum in the Canadian marketplace where consumers needed help navigating the plethora of skincare products and trusting the claims stated on the packaging to maintain skin health.

To visually aid consumers, a seal of recognition from the CDA was designed to be placed on skincare products to let people know that the product they are about to buy complies with the programme's criteria of being fragrance-free or unscented, having a low potential for irritation and not containing the most common contact allergens.

Products must pass a series of rigorous tests using the latest dermatological science to receive the seal of recognition. Evaluations must include non-irritancy and hypoallergenicity tests such as the HRIPT; a safety test, either MSDS tests or a Certificate of Safety issued by an independent laboratory; and non-comedogenicity tests for leave-on facial products.

An Advisory Board comprised of objective dermatologists oversees the Skin Health Programme. The Board reviews each product evaluation while also providing expert skin, hair and nails advice that the CDA can publicly promote.

Since its inception in 2013, the Skin Health Programme has experienced consistent year-over-year growth, with 14 new products coming on board in 2017 alone. This industry and publicly-recognised programme now has 89 products in its portfolio; so, when consumers see the CDA seal on the product, they can trust it to be fragrance-free or unscented with no contact allergens and low chance of irritation.

## Resources

For more information, visit [dermatology.ca](http://dermatology.ca)



CDA Seal of Recognition

# Chinese Society of Dermatology

The Chinese Society of Dermatology (CSD) was founded in 1937. During the Second World War and the initial post-liberation period, the CSD contributed to Chinese skin healthcare, and to the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and skin epidemics such as hair lice and tinea capitis. After the 1978 economic reforms the CSD united dermatologists from all over China, providing them with continuing medical education. It also serves individuals living in rural and remote areas, providing free treatments on a monthly or quarterly basis. The CSD aims to serve the 30,000 dermatologists and 1.3 billion people living in China.

## Dermatology Training and Skin Care Days

**Themes:** Access to healthcare; Training and education

The large caseload of patients in China requires corresponding numbers of dermatologists and medical centres. We cannot ignore the distance between rural and urban medical treatment centers, so the CSD focuses on the education of dermatologists in primary hospitals. Every year more than 150 dermatologists from primary hospitals receive free intensive medical education from university hospitals in each province.

Furthermore, the CSD organises multiple training projects. These include: continuing medical education; primary doctors' lectures; dermatology training week; young doctoral tutor overseas training week; and free volunteer consultations in remote areas. The 14<sup>th</sup> committee formed in 2015, under the leadership of Professor Jie Zheng, has successfully held several national academic annual meetings, bringing together 5,000 dermatologists from all over China, and helping the world understand the current status of Chinese dermatology.

Since 2007, the CSD has led an annual Skin Care Day on 25 May, focusing on a different theme every year.

For example, the theme in 2015 was 'Appropriate care for skin, avoiding chemical damage'. We included the departments of dermatology from more than 100 hospitals all over China and we offered free consultations and skin health education in rural areas, advising patients to avoid cosmetic products of inferior quality. In 2018, we will combine the 25 May Skin Care Day with World Skin Health Day.

We hope that Chinese dermatology will become known by our international colleagues, and that the CSD will make a valuable contribution to the lives of Chinese patients and dermatologists.

## Resources

For more information, visit [csd.cma.org.cn](http://csd.cma.org.cn)



A session at Skin Care Day in Xinjiang, a remote province in western China. This year, the theme was 'Appropriate care for skin, avoid chemical damage'



Professor Jie Zheng, President of the CSD, leads regular free-of-charge consultations hospitals in countryside of Zunyi

# Dermatological Society of Malaysia

*The Dermatological Society of Malaysia (DSM) aspires for Malaysia to be a centre of excellence in dermatology. We aim to become a national and regional resource centre for dermatology through information technology. We also aim to promote training and research, while networking extensively with leading centres worldwide, and to promote activities that would positively impact the skin health of the nation.*

## Project on Adolescent Skin Health

**Themes:** Training and education

Skin diseases are common among adolescents and many of them are related to physiological changes experienced during puberty. Some skin disorders such as acne vulgaris may first appear during adolescence. Given the highly visual nature of skin disease, the impact on quality of life can be enormous, especially during this psychologically vulnerable period. In addition, adolescents may have a tendency to not seek medical care but instead depend on local remedies or commercially available products. Moreover, most adolescents choose to get health-related information from the internet, which can be inaccurate and misleading.

The DSM is committed to providing accurate and up-to-date information about skin diseases to the public, including to adolescents. In 2017, the DSM took a step forward in establishing our first corporate social responsibility (CSR) project targeting skin health issues among adolescents in Malaysia. This project is known as PASH (Project on Adolescent Skin Health). The PASH committee was chaired by our president, Dr. Agnes Heng. This project aimed to provide skin health education among adolescents so as to increase their understanding of physiological skin changes and common skin diseases. This will then increase awareness and promote early diagnosis and treatment from qualified healthcare providers.

The first phase of the project was carried out in Ipoh, Perak, in collaboration with the Department of Dermatology, Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun. The target group was adolescents attending 15 secondary schools in Ipoh, Perak. Five teams, each comprised of a dermatologist, two medical officers and two nurses, were assigned to three schools each to provide skin health education to the students.

The first part of the project focused on acne vulgaris; a presentation on 'Ten common questions on acne vulgaris' was prepared by the PASH committee. The dermatologist in each team used this presentation to educate the students on acne and proper skin care. This was then followed by a question-and-answer session in which some students shared their personal experiences and battle against acne. PASH was successfully conducted from 21 September to 23 November 2017.

A simple student survey was also administered during these sessions to assess their perception of acne vulgaris and the psychosocial impact of acne vulgaris among the sufferers. A total of 2018 students participated in our first PASH project in Ipoh and 66.7% of these students had acne vulgaris. More than half of the students believed acne is worsened by peanuts, spicy food, fried food, stress and personal hygiene. 40% of those with acne vulgaris were concerned or miserable and depressed about their appearance. However only 12.86% sought treatment from doctors while the majority (81.35%) bought medication from the pharmacy and 15.63% were treated by beauticians.

Interestingly, this showed that misperceptions and delays in seeking treatment for acne vulgaris is common among secondary school adolescents. Therefore, PASH can serve as a platform for providing accurate information and strengthening the relationship between adolescents and healthcare professionals. We hope to work closely with our local education authority to keep this project moving forward and, if possible, to incorporate a skin health element into our education system one day in the future.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.dermatology.org.my](http://www.dermatology.org.my)

# Dutch Society for Dermatology and Venereology

*The Dutch Society for Dermatology and Venereology (NVDV) is the professional association for dermatologists in the Netherlands. Our main aim is to promote the study of skin diseases. Besides our scientific activities and ensuring that the society continues to flourish, we also have a public goal: to educate and inform about the best available prevention and treatment of skin conditions, and beyond that to act as a repository of expert skin health advice.*

## Knowledge Agenda Dermatology

**Themes:** Unmet needs in dermatology; Global volunteerism

The core of the medical specialist's field is to provide the best suitable healthcare to patients. The healthcare that patients receive on a daily basis is partly based on scientific evidence and partly on pathophysiological reasoning or experience. In a UK study on 3,000 commonly applied treatments, 43% were proven effective and 7% were proven ineffective. However, the degree of effectiveness of 51% of the analysed treatments appeared to be unknown. In medical guidelines more than 50% of the conclusions and recommendations are based on limited evidence (FMS, 2016). For the dermatology guidelines this is as high as 60%.

In 2017 the NVDV started a project called 'Knowledge Agenda Dermatology' (the first step in healthcare evaluation). In this project we aim to get an agenda of our most urgent knowledge gaps. With an inventory, all guidelines are reviewed (conclusions with a level of evidence of 3/4 or low/very low were adopted) and all NVDV members and stakeholders (such as representatives of patient associations and other scientific associations) have been asked to deliver knowledge gaps in dermatology. All these knowledge gaps (over a thousand) have been assessed by the project group and excluded on previously drawn exclusion criteria.

During a priority meeting, to which all stakeholders were invited, the knowledge gaps were prioritised to the top 35. The project group will still assess this and draw up a top 10. Also an exploratory literature search for the top 10 knowledge gaps will be carried out and described in the Knowledge Agenda Dermatology.

With the Knowledge Agenda Dermatology, we're able to make the next step in healthcare evaluation (planning and elaboration of studies). Recently the NVDV decided, due to the Knowledge Agenda to start up a nationwide consortium in which the knowledge gaps can be resolved. The NVDV has invited all eight academic centres and all 26 top-clinical hospitals (STZ hospitals) for a meeting to discuss this on 25 May 2018. The most challenging aspect in implementing the Knowledge Agenda and especially in starting a consortium is to create a broad support amongst all our members and dermatology practices in our country. Only then we can succeed in resolving the urgent knowledge gaps in dermatology.

Some examples of the knowledge gaps we identified are as follows:

1. Benefit of treatment of actinic keratoses / risk of squamous cell carcinoma
2. Value of screening for skin cancer (or focused screening) in the overall population
3. Effectiveness of urea in ichthyosis and atopic eczema
4. Monitoring the effectiveness and safety (long-term) of systemic therapy in children and adults with atopic eczema
5. Influence on the course of hidradenitis suppurativa by early diagnosis and treatment

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.nvdv.nl](http://www.nvdv.nl)

# European Dermatology Forum

The European Dermatology Forum (EDF) was founded in 1997 by senior European dermatologists dedicated to improving dermatology healthcare in Europe. The EDF lobbies governments and other agencies directly and by promotion of its 'White Book' that showcases dermatology to multiple stakeholders. The EDF is also active in European Guidelines development (including apps), health economics, harmonising undergraduate education, providing high-quality resident training, and pharma liaisons. The goal of the EDF is to use its network of experienced personnel and partners to continue to identify and address fresh challenges for the specialty and maintain the profile of dermatology and dermato-venereology in continental Europe and beyond.

## Continental Dermatologic Harmonisation

**Themes:** Threats and opportunities; Unmet needs in dermatology; Access to healthcare; Training and education; Evidence-based care; The future of dermatology

The EDF is a forum that brings together senior clinical academic dermatologists and dermato-venereologists to address important topics in improving healthcare for patients with skin diseases across Europe. The challenge is a broad one, with the EDF needing to harness potential stakeholders from clinical and academic dermatology, industry, regulatory agencies and lobbyists.

For 2018, the EDF has focused on a few key objectives: co-operation with industry, development of European Guidelines (including creation of practical apps), publication of its 'White Book' (an updated account of the scope and impact of skin disease in Europe), staging of a multi-stakeholder annual scientific meeting,



21<sup>st</sup> EDF Annual Meeting January 2018, St. Gallen, Switzerland

fostering interactions and collaborations between sister societies across Europe, harmonising undergraduate education in dermatology (online interactive training), providing high quality training courses for dermatology residents, and lobbying for the interests of dermatology.

The emphasis has been on making a difference for the specialty. The EDF is now 21 years old and its remit and impact continues to benefit several domains in dermatology.

## Resources

1. Harmonised undergraduate teaching in dermatology in partnership with DOIT (Dermatology Online Interactive Training): [www.cyberderm.net/en/home/start.html](http://www.cyberderm.net/en/home/start.html)
2. Guidelines App development e.g. for Psoriasis: [youtu.be/tYpWpP7xGUI](https://youtu.be/tYpWpP7xGUI)
3. The White Book, for lobbying stakeholders less familiar with skin diseases: [www.euroderm.org/edf/index.php/whitebook](http://www.euroderm.org/edf/index.php/whitebook)

# European Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation e.V.

The purpose of the European Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation e.V. (EHSF) is the promotion of science and research in the field of hidradenitis suppurativa/acne inversa (HS) by training physicians, patients and laypersons, through scientific meetings for continuing medical education, lectures and public relations. The EHSF also aims to raise funds for the promotion of public healthcare in the HS field.

## European Registry for Hidradenitis Suppurativa

**Themes:** Unmet needs in dermatology; Access to healthcare; Training and education; Evidence-based care

Hidradenitis suppurativa/acne inversa (HS) is a multifactorial, chronic, recurrent, debilitating, inflammatory skin disease, which can lead to severe scarring and disability and is associated with reduced quality of life, depression, working disability, pain, social stigmatisation and several cardiovascular risk factors. HS is an underrecognised and understudied skin disease. Many critical clinical and epidemiological questions remain unanswered. There is hardly any evidence on the benefit/risk ratio of treatments, both short- and long-term. Risk factors and the natural course of the disease are largely understudied. There is great variation in treatment offered on a European level. Recent data indicates that the disease is associated with occupational disability.

The development of a European registry of HS patients is an important and scientifically valid method to study many clinical and epidemiological hypotheses regarding HS. Such a registry will provide real life data. It will facilitate the development of predictive models, will lead to multiple benefits both on a clinical and research level, and will enhance European collaboration.

The objective is the development of a European registry for hidradenitis suppurativa patients (ERHS). The register recruits and enrolls all patients with hidradenitis suppurativa who are diagnosed and treated in the participating centres. The register will undertake the responsibility to deliver consensus reports, expert recommendations and annual updates, both from individual participating centres and on an international basis. A core data set of important variables, both physician- and patient-rated, will be collected at specific time points. A web-based system will be developed for data capture to ensure appropriate collection of data, monitoring, storing and valid reviewing.

In addition, a validated tool for the dynamic severity assessment of HS is lacking. The development and validation of a new dynamic scoring system to assess the severity of HS was undertaken. A Delphi voting procedure was conducted among the members of EHSF to achieve consensus towards an initial severity score system. Subsequently, a multivariate regression model calculated adjusted odds ratios for several clinical signs. Nodules, abscesses and draining tunnels resulted as the scoring variables. The resulting IHS4 score includes the number of nodules (multiplied by 1) plus the number of abscesses (multiplied by 2) plus the number of draining tunnels (multiplied by 4). A total score of 3 or less signifies mild, 4-10 signifies moderate and 11 or higher signifies severe disease. The new IHS4 is a validated tool to dynamically assess HS severity and can be used both in real-life settings and in clinical trials.

## Resources

For more information, visit [hidradenitissuppurativaawareness.org/hs/ehsf-european-hidradenitis-suppurativa-foundation](http://hidradenitissuppurativaawareness.org/hs/ehsf-european-hidradenitis-suppurativa-foundation)

# European Society for Cosmetic & Aesthetic Dermatology

The European Society for Cosmetic & Aesthetic Dermatology (ESCAD) aims to foster the highest standards of patient care in cosmetic and aesthetic dermatology, to facilitate continuing professional development and to offer a friendly forum for the sharing of scientific research and innovative techniques.

## ESCAD Spring Courses and Sub-Specialty Meetings

**Themes:** Threats and opportunities; Training and education

The ESCAD Spring Course and ESCAD Sub-Specialty Meeting at the annual EADV meeting represent two milestones where major experts of these fields meet to exchange their knowledge and to provide participants with innovative and updated information. These events represent an opportunity for industries to become active partners of our team.



Practical course on hidradenitis suppurativa for international dermatology residents in Dessau, Germany, Feb 2016. A cooperative educational activity of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology with the EHSF. Prof. C.C. Zouboulis teaches dermatosurgery for hidradenitis suppurativa to the participating dermatology residents

The latter are offered the possibility of presenting their companies and innovative products or techniques by sponsoring a presentation to be included in the scientific programme.

The main course primarily targets European dermatologists interested in learning more about new techniques in cosmetic dermatology.

The ESCAD Sub-Specialty Meeting held during the annual EADV meeting is always the most attended session. Around 500-600 individuals attend the four-hour session on the first day of the main congress. The ESCAD Spring Course is a completely different event, more intimate, with an attendance from 80 to 120.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.escad.org](http://www.escad.org)



Practical course on hidradenitis suppurativa for international dermatology residents in Roskilde, Denmark, February 2017. A cooperative educational activity of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology with the EHSF. In the middle of the front row (L to R): the course teachers Profs. Errol Prens, Veronique del Marmol, Gregor B.E. Jemec, Christos C. Zouboulis, Maurizion Podda

# German Society of Dermatology

The German Society of Dermatology (DDG) is the scientific society of German-speaking dermatologists. The goals of the DDG are the promotion of scientific and practical dermatology, venereology and allergology and their specialties such as andrology, phlebology and lymphology, proctology, dermato-oncology, dermatological radiotherapy, dermatological microbiology, occupational and environmental dermatology, dermatohistology as well as prevention and rehabilitation.

## Updated Mission and International Collaboration

**Themes:** Threats and opportunities; Unmet needs in dermatology; Access to healthcare; Training and education; Evidence-based care; Global volunteerism; The future of dermatology

The German Society of Dermatology (DDG) and the Association of German Dermatologists (BVDD) developed a new mission statement to be understandable for the public, politicians, journalists and health industry representatives. The Mission Statement is communicated via the DDG website, press conferences, and media publications, and it will be updated regularly.

The five principles of the mission statement are:

1. Rethinking dermatology: Dermatology as a systemic specialty open for interdisciplinary cooperation
2. Connecting research and practice: Dermatology and scientific evidence
3. Caring for needs: Dermatology and patient services
4. Shaping frameworks: Dermatology and politics
5. Providing nationwide care: Helping dermatologists work successfully

Since 1985, the DDG and the Sri Lankan College of Dermatology have had a continuing cooperation. In 1985, the Sri Lankan Dermatologists founded their first academic association, the Sri Lankan Association of Dermatologists (SLAD).

In 2005, the SLAD was officially converted to a college (SLCD). The first joint academic session together with the DDG took place in Colombo in 1986, followed by regular joint academic sessions in Colombo, Kandy and Dresden. In 2006 a Trilateral Agreement between the university of Sri Jayewardenepura, the German Dermatologic Society and the Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists strengthened the academic friendship, and, with this formal act, dermatology in Sri Lanka obtained the first university chair (professorship).

The DDG keeps close contact with the Regional Dermatologic Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshi, Tanzania. For more than a decade, a German group has attended the annual international academic meetings in Moshi. In addition, two courses in Tropical Dermatology were held at the RDTC, one of them as a joint course with the Austrian Society for Dermatology (ÖGDV). Several German lecturers provide regular teaching in dermatosurgery, dermatopathology and dermatoallergology at the RDTC.

The International Society for Dermatology in the Tropics (associated with the DDG) trains German dermatologists for volunteer work to enhance dermatologic care for people in tropical countries with limited resources, as well as travellers and refugees in Germany.

## Resources

For more information, visit [derma.de](http://derma.de)

# Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists

*The vision of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) is to provide quality skin healthcare for the community, continuing medical education (CME) and advocacy on behalf of the members, specialists and patients.*

## Vitiligo Research and Awareness

**Themes:** Unmet needs in dermatology; Access to healthcare; Training and education; Global volunteerism

The IADVL has been persistent in its effort to support research on vitiligo. A Special Interest Group (SIG) on pigmentary disorders has been formed to work on various pigmentary diseases and vitiligo is always the top priority. However, it is not possible for the IADVL to fund every project, but it has been regularly supporting research activities on vitiligo through various grants.

The IADVL has also recently completed a pan-Indian epidemiological survey, focusing on multiple key parameters, associated comorbidities and the psychosocial aspects of vitiligo. With its vast population size, the number of vitiligo patients in India is among the highest in the world. Moreover, being a country of mixed religion and races, it contributes the most diversified data. Once published, the results of this survey will provide a valuable record on vitiligo and will answer various crucial aspects about the disease.

World Vitiligo Day has been observed on 26 June all over the country and most members actively participate with great enthusiasm. Each state branch of IADVL conducts CMEs, seminars, workshops, and health camps.

One of the primary aims of this day is to reach out to the public to increase awareness regarding vitiligo and to diminish the psychosocial impact of the disease.



*Vitiligo awareness rally organized by IADVL Bihar branch*

Thus, patients are involved with most of these activities. Mass media is invited, road shows are organised, lectures are given, and recorded videos are played in the clinics and hospital outpatient departments. Patient information booklets are distributed. Banners and pamphlets display basic information on the disease in prominent locations within hospitals. On World Vitiligo Day 2014, a mass awareness programme was initiated, with 40 rickshaws and motor vans traversing the whole of Chandigarh city distributing free information leaflets.

In 2017, the IADVL Karnataka branch conceptualised a unique awareness programme to reach out to the community. A display van, which had banners and educative material about vitiligo called Vitiligo Rath travelled all over Karnataka covering 5,000km and all the districts for over 29 days.

## Resources

For further information, visit [www.iadvl.org](http://www.iadvl.org)

# Indian Society of Teledermatology

*The Indian Society of Teledermatology (INSTED) strives to deliver healthcare at home to its patients and to empower doctors to provide the best possible level of care in the most efficient way.*

## The Importance of Skin Health in India

**Themes:** Access to healthcare; Training and education; Global volunteerism

INSTED aims to educate medical and healthcare personnel as well as the general public on the importance of skin health. It operates a free skin health check-up camp to detect skin disorders in the general public and has organised a continuing medical education (CME) dermatology course to educate medical personnel on skin health. A Leprosy Awareness Meet that focused on disease awareness, reviewed the associated stigma, and provided practical information on guiding leprosy patients to treatment centres was arranged for school children in a government school in Chennai. This resulted in improved skin hygiene and awareness amongst medical personnel, the public and the school children.

The biggest challenge in all this was introducing the concept of World Skin Health Day – that is to say, emphasising the importance of skin health in a country where dermatological conditions are not seen as a high priority. Skin disorders are often not seen as serious in India, except when it is an emergency, or in the case of leprosy which still carries a social stigma.

Feedback from the doctors attending the CME course was unanimous that the event was very educational and had cleared a lot of their misconceptions about skin health.



*Dr Renuka R, Treasurer, INSTED conducting a Skin Health Camp*

The public, though not eager to attend a skin check-up camp, later participated eagerly as the word spread that education on skin hygiene and health was being imparted. The school children were very enthusiastic in learning about leprosy and eagerly took an oath not to discriminate against any leprosy patient, and also to guide them to the nearest treatment centre where free drugs would be administered.

INSTED has been observing World Skin Health Day from many years. This year it was conducted on a larger scale than ever. INSTED plans to continue to host similar educational CME events and skin camps on a regular basis, coordinating with local community leaders and teachers for better identification and implementation of such activities.

## Resources

For more information, visit [insted.in/index.php](http://insted.in/index.php)

# Indonesian Society of Dermatology and Venereology

*The Indonesian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (ISDV) aims to become a leading professional society in dermatovenereology on an international level, and to improve community health. Our mission is to strengthen the professionalism of all members, to build networks on a national and international level, to improve knowledge and community health in dermatovenereology, and to improve society management quality in the technological era.*

## Sexually Transmitted Infection Awareness

**Theme:** Training and education

In Indonesia, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are still on the rise and pose a problem nationally. It is also a threat to our country's most important asset: our future generation. The government is doing everything it can to address the problem, but it is our duty as dermatovenereologists to actively combat the problem and help prevent any further rise of the problem nationally.

As a national society of dermatovenereologists, we have 28 branches across the nation. During the most recent STI awareness month, several of our branches held social responsibility programmes in their area focusing on increasing public awareness about skin health, with a particular focus on STIs. The main target of this activity was the general population, especially those of reproductive age.

The activities involved all our society members, with several branches also collaborating with the local government or with the local members of the Indonesian Medical Association. Activities ranged from public talk shows or symposia to free consultations in public areas and free skin examinations. Several branches also shared information about general skin health, skin cancer and cosmetic dermatology diseases such as acne.

The event was conducted in various public places around each city, including on the main road during a car-free day, where people usually gather for a morning walk or exercise.

The most challenging aspect of the event was how to present our topic, which is still considered a sensitive subject in society and is not widely understood. We also had to be sure that our message was delivered appropriately for a wide range of ages. However, despite the sensitivity of the topic, active participation from the community was observed in most of the branches. Questions and comments from the audience were a good indicator that our message was being received and understood.

Going forward, we are considering holding the event nationally on the same day, which will be more impactful, and collaborating with TV and radio stations, and the press. To further pinpoint those of reproductive age we will tailor activities to specific groups – including hosting events in schools, colleges and universities.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.perdoski.org](http://www.perdoski.org)



*Free consultation with dermatologists on general skin health at local public places*

# International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology

*Since its founding in 1995, the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology (IACD) has played a significant role in advancing the discipline of cosmetic dermatology through its publications, meetings, and interchange of ideas. The goal of the IACD is to promote the concept of 'lookin' good'. While the physician may wish to treat the dermatitis, be it acne or psoriasis, or to eliminate the cutaneous malignancy, the patient may be more focused on his or her appearance. The disfigurement that can develop from picking an acne lesion; the embarrassment caused by the red, scaling plaques of psoriasis; or the scar that develops after cancer surgery can overshadow the dermatologic care that was actually successful. This mission has been addressed by joining together the various groups interested in the patient's well-being, ranging from the dermatologist to the cosmetic scientist in industry, as well as the researcher and the patient advocate.*

## Congresses and Awards in Cosmetic Dermatology

**Theme:** Training and education

The IACD contributes to the development of cosmetic dermatology and aids physicians-in-training to learn more about this aspect of dermatologic practice. From its inception the IACD has created international congresses and forums to provide the most up-to-date information about cosmetic dermatology and other aspects of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of skin disease. These include the following:

### Eugene J. Van Scott, MD Lecturers

A physician or cosmetic scientist who has made a major contribution to the field of cosmetic dermatology presents the Eugene J. Van Scott, MD Lectureship at each World Congress of the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology (IACD). Originally established in 2003 as the Gold Medal of the IACD, it was later changed to honour Dr. Van Scott for his many contributions to the field of dermatology and especially to the area

of cosmetic dermatology. Among his many accomplishments are the establishment of the skin turnover time and applications of the alpha- and beta- hydroxy acids for use in cosmetic dermatology.

### Edward L. Keyes Award

The Edward L. Keyes Award has been established to stimulate interest in cosmetic dermatology from dermatologists in training. Dr. Keyes might be considered the first cosmetic dermatologist for his invention of the Keyes punch to aid in removing traumatic carbon tattoos from a railroad worker.

## Resources

The IACD provides its membership with access to its three official journals, *Clinics in Dermatology*, *Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology* and *SKINmed: Dermatology for the Clinician*. For more information, visit [iacdworld.org](http://iacdworld.org)



*Neide Kalil-Gaspar (Brazil), Lawrence Parish (United States), Marcia Ramos-e-Silva (Brazil), Larry Millikan (United States), Tania Cestari (Brazil). Opening Ceremony of the World Congress of the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

# International Peeling Society

The International Peeling Society (IPS) is dedicated to:

- Advancing guidelines of care for the best and safest clinical use of peels
- Maintaining and promoting quality training and education in peeling methodology and techniques
- Supporting basic and clinical research in the field

## Promoting Standards for Chemical Peelings

**Theme:** Training and education

The IPS brings together medical and surgical professionals and academics from all over the world to share clinical practices, technology and exciting new ideas and concepts. As an IPS member, you'll join a global network of members who work, teach and study in the field, with a wealth of knowledge and experience not found anywhere else.

Becoming an IPS member can move your career forward by connecting you with high quality training, the latest approaches, leading-edge thinking and unparalleled peer networking. No other organisation offers you recognition among your colleagues and patients that you are an expert in performing chemical peels.

The International Peeling Society dedicates itself to: maintaining the highest possible standards of medical education pertaining to chemical peeling in aesthetic medicine and surgery; promoting the highest possible standards in clinical practice, education and research in chemical peelings; promoting the highest standards of patient care and encouraging public interest relating to chemical peels; providing a forum to develop relationships amongst chemical peel practitioners worldwide; and encouraging the exchange of ideas and research relevant to chemical peeling.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.peelingsociety.com/home](http://www.peelingsociety.com/home)



We had a fantastic peeling session at the IMCAS in Paris; from left to right: Dres. Uliana Gout, Sahar Ghannam, Gary Monheit, Claudia Borelli, Frank Muggenthaler, Tatjana Pavicic

# International Psoriasis Council

Founded in 2004, the International Psoriasis Council (IPC) is a dermatology-led, voluntary, global nonprofit organisation dedicated to innovation across the full spectrum of psoriasis through research, education and patient care. Our vision is a world free of psoriasis. The mission of the IPC is to advance the care of people with psoriasis worldwide, through education, research and advocacy.

## International Fellowship Programme in Psoriasis

**Theme:** Training and education

Aiming to increase the number of scientists and clinicians who focus on treating and researching psoriasis, the IPC has launched the International Fellowship Programme to provide training and real-world practice for early career dermatologists or junior faculty who have completed their training within the last five years. Awarded fellows will be paired with IPC Board Members or Councilors to observe and participate in clinical practice and laboratory research of psoriasis patients. This opportunity will provide real world practice in the investigation, diagnosis, and development of treatment plans for psoriasis. In addition, the programme will provide an opportunity for IPC Fellows to develop on-going relationships with key opinion leaders by participating in IPC programmes and activities throughout a one-year period.

The programme's goals are to:

1. Encourage and educate early-career dermatologists to treat psoriasis as a systemic disease with significant comorbidities
2. Expose early-career dermatologists to key opinion leaders and encourage their participation in projects and dialogue that furthers the advancement of psoriasis research and treatment globally
3. Connect and strengthen early-career commitment to the field of psoriasis research and treatment



The IPC is pleased to announce our 2018 International Fellows Dr. Daniela Armijo, Chile; Dr. Jiaqi Chen, China; and Dr. Filip Rob, Czech Republic

In addition to the on-site observational portion of the fellowship, each Fellow will receive funding to attend a major scientific congress such as annual meetings of the American Academy of Dermatology or the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology. Fellows will also participate in IPC activities including working groups and symposia and have an opportunity to attend the IPC Think Tank.

Chosen from a highly qualified international field of young dermatologists, IPC's 2018 International Fellows represent the future of psoriasis leadership and the organisation's commitment to growing expertise in the field. You can learn about the 2018 fellows at [www.psoriasisCouncil.org/fellows\\_2018](http://www.psoriasisCouncil.org/fellows_2018)

## Resources

In 2019, we intend to expand the number of Fellows selected to participate in this programme. The application period for 2019 candidates will open in September with all application details available at [www.psoriasisCouncil.org](http://www.psoriasisCouncil.org)

# Israel Society of Dermatology and Venereology

The Israel Society of Dermatology and Venereology (ISDV) is dedicated to maintaining and nurturing excellence and innovation in the treatment and prevention of dermatologic disease. As part of our vision for the future, we seek to provide state-of-the-art education for dermatology residents and experts.

## Position Papers, Website/Apps, and Scholarships

**Themes:** Access to healthcare; Training and education; Evidence-based care

The Society has undertaken three main projects:

1. Preparing official position papers addressing important contemporary dermatological issues
2. Building a designated ISVD web/mobile app
3. Establishing a scholarship programme to improve dermatology practice and research in Israel

All three projects are aimed at ISDV members. The projects were largely organised and implemented by the board of directors of the ISDV, with intermittent assistance from other Society members on specific issues.

The position papers focus on leading-edge topics selected by the ISDV board with the aim of providing dermatologists with professional guidelines for their daily practice. The topics covered during the last two years include teledermatology, diagnosis and treatment of leishmaniasis, monitoring patients under oral retinoid treatment, hydroquinone treatment for pigmentation disorders, as well as the practice of paediatric dermatology.

By creating a designated web/mobile app, the ISVD can offer dermatologists the optimal combination of leading-edge technology and up-to-date professional knowledge.



Israel Society of Dermatology and Venereology Board

The development of the app was sponsored by the Israel Medical Association. It is intended to supply dermatologists with regular updates on 'hot' dermatology topics and keep them abreast of the latest advances in the field. It also allows members to enroll in the ISVD and pay their annual membership fees, keep up with the Society's board protocols, read updates and position papers, receive legal advice, report incidents of violence against physicians, and more.

The ISVD academic scholarship programme is three-pronged. First, funding will be directed towards enabling dermatologists to participate in continuing education programmes or fellowships abroad. Increasing the number of physicians who gain worldwide experience in major medical centres will greatly contribute to the level of dermatology practice in Israel. Secondly, funding will be directed towards promoting dermatological research and, thirdly, to increasing participation in conferences abroad.

## Resources

For more information, visit [skin.mednet.co.il](http://skin.mednet.co.il)

# Italian Group for Lasers in Dermatology

The aim of the Italian Group for Lasers in Dermatology (GILD) is to promote and improve laser therapies and procedures in dermatology, following evidence-based practice and the national and international guidelines. This activity includes education based on theoretical and practical courses focusing on how to select lesions that require treatment and how to treat them. The group organises master's degrees, congresses and produces high-quality scientific publications.

## Lasers for Scars

**Themes:** Training and education; Evidence-based care; The future of dermatology

It has been estimated that nearly one hundred million people worldwide have surgical scars, due to more than 55 million scheduled surgeries and about 25 million post-trauma surgeries. Moreover, post-acne and post-burn scars affect more than 10% of the global population. Given the huge prevalence of this very common problem, we decided to start a campaign to improve social awareness. We support this activity through open days, meetings, workshops and congresses open to specialists and non-specialists (patients and other non-professionals) twice a year.

This activity has been supported by a medical team with different specialisations including lab operators, dermatologists and pathologists.

There is a high demand for scar treatment and therefore it is important to improve public awareness about all the effective techniques available for good aesthetic and functional results. In fact, laser therapy is considered a non-invasive, safe procedure with the potential for very impressive outcomes. Visible and far-infrared emissions spectra can modify scars via progressive reorganisation of the fibrous tissue and at the same time modify the thickness, width, colour and tension of lesions. Even the subjective

feelings of pain and itching are significantly reduced.

Thanks to the inflow of patients on our open-days, we screened a large number of subjects and we were able to organise a study population. Our study aims to investigate the possible mechanisms of action that lead to an evident improvement of scar tissue and, at the same time, to understand the reasons behind a lack of response in similar conditions. The study also evaluates the response of scar tissue to laser treatment in different sites.

The therapeutic path requires a long time and patients' collaboration and motivation. In our opinion the specific scar features need to be analysed and modified during the wound healing process. Today we need to focus our attention on correct treatment procedures that include different laser sources, but we also need to broaden our efforts to include the prevention of abnormal scarring to ensure a better quality of life.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.gild-ftp.it](http://www.gild-ftp.it)



National Congress 2016

# Nigerian Association of Dermatologists

*The main aims of the Nigerian Association of Dermatologists (NAD) are to promote public awareness on skin health, act as an advocacy group against the stigmatisation of Nigerians with skin disorders, provide continuing medical education in dermatology for various cadres of healthcare workers, and assist the government in formulation of policies that will help enhance the health of Nigerians.*

## Care for Internal Displacement of Persons

**Themes:** Access to healthcare; Global volunteerism

Internal Displacement of Persons has been a recurring problem in Nigeria since before independence, arising from both natural and man-made disasters. Attacks by the militant group Boko Haram and the military actions to stop them have led to large-scale population displacements both within and across Nigeria's international borders with resultant Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and refugees respectively. The majority of the displaced peoples within Nigeria are those from vulnerable rural communities who move into the more protected urban centres of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and other neighbouring or accommodating states.



*The team leader (yellow shirt) with the Dalori camp clinic and SEMA staff after the second intervention clinic*

These massive influxes of people led to the establishment of IDP camps within the hosting urban centres. The IDP camps, apart from being overcrowded, also have poor housing, inadequate water and food supplies, poor sanitary conditions and absent or overstretched healthcare delivery systems. These conditions have led to specific challenges in these types of camps all over the world, some of which are dermatological.

The Nigerian Association of Dermatologists, through a grant received from the ILDS (DermLink Grant) and with support from the Borno State Ministry of Health, set out to identify and treat dermatological diseases found in the IDPs in some of these camps and also to set up intervention at the personal and community level. These measures included:

- General health education on personal hygiene and health-seeking behaviour of the IDPs for primary prevention of dermatological disorders as the community level intervention
- Disease-specific health education and counseling for secondary prevention of the disease at the individual level



*The whole team on the first day of intervention*

Selected IDP camps where the intervention was carried out were Bakassi camp, Gubio Road camp, Teachers Village Camp and Dalori Camp, all in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. The logistics for the visit to each camp were worked out with individual camp clinic coordinators. People involved in the intervention visits were selected members of the Nigerian Association of Dermatologists and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). Others were the Camp Health Clinic staff, working with the Primary Health Care Development Agency under the Borno State Ministry of Health and Voluntary Community Mobilisation teams in the camp.

All the IDPs with diagnosed dermatological conditions were treated with available drugs and given health education on secondary preventive measures. The commonest skin diseases seen during the intervention were fungal infections. This is not surprising considering the high humidity and temperature in the area with associated overcrowded facilities and poor sanitary conditions.

The most challenging aspects of the intervention were finances (this was largely obviated by the grant received from the ILDS), administrative, logistics and security issues for those who were involved in the visits. Although follow-up visits to some of the camps were not possible, the intervention was largely successful. The key learning from this intervention visit was the importance of multisectoral involvement and collaboration across different sectors of the healthcare industry to ensure a successful outcome in disease management.

A follow-up intervention at other IDP facilities not previously covered is envisaged and plans to reach out to pharmaceutical companies and non-governmental organisations are in the pipeline.

## Resources

More information about past and present DermLink projects and the grant application process is available on the website: [ilds.org/our-foundation/ilds-dermlink](https://ilds.org/our-foundation/ilds-dermlink)

For more information on the Nigerian Association of Dermatologists, visit [nad.org.ng](https://nad.org.ng)

**The IDP camps, apart from being overcrowded, also have poor housing, inadequate water and food supplies, poor sanitary conditions and absent or overstretched healthcare delivery systems.**

**These conditions have led to specific challenges in these types of camps all over the world, some of which are dermatological.**

# Philippine Dermatological Society

The Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) is an organisation of humane and service-oriented dermatologists observing the highest ethical professional standards and promoting knowledge through information dissemination, training and research. It aims to be a highly-recognised society, locally and globally, striving towards excellence in the attainment of healthy skin for all.



First National Eczema Fair

## National Eczema Fair and Skin Museum

**Themes:** Access to healthcare

The Philippine Dermatological Society, comprised of 1,107 board-certified members, takes pride in being the country's DermAuthority. As it celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> year of service and commitment to skin health for all Filipinos, the PDS embarked on two passion projects aimed at promoting skin appreciation and wellness for all.

In celebration of World Skin Health Day, the 65<sup>th</sup> PDS Anniversary and the National Skin Week Free Clinics, the PDS held the first National Eczema Fair on 23 July 2017 at the Robinson's Place Manila Atrium. Entitled 'Sama Sama Laban sa Eczema' (All-together Against Eczema), the PDS took an innovative step in raising awareness amongst the Filipino populace with regards to this skin condition. Gathering all its forces, from its 11 accredited dermatology training institutions and its nationwide membership, together with pharmaceutical industry partners, the Fair was able to reach many Filipinos who have an interest in eczema or are sufferers of eczema themselves.

The set-up was festive, with the pharmaceutical booths giving away educational pamphlets, gifts or samples. A big skin clinic was also run by the PDS membership, offering free skin consultations. A programme was set, intended to impart knowledge on the different aspects of eczema. After a welcome address by the PDS President, Dr. Maria Angela Lavadia, several lectures were delivered by PDS dermatologists on the importance of skin protection against the sun, the relation of eczema to the psyche, environment, occupation and sports, and on practical aspects of eczema control. Added to this was a fun Game and Talk Show event, highlighting facts and fallacies about eczema.

Our society was able to fulfill its goal of reaching out to the populace through an effective medium, helping the Filipino nation gain enough knowledge on simple and effective ways on how to deal with their eczema.

The Skin Museum, a pop-up exhibit showcasing SKINteractive and contemporary art, was open to the public from 15 to 17 December 2017 at the Covered Canopy, Bonifacio Global City, bringing the wonderful world of skin, hair and nails to the public with a delightfully new twist. It allowed audiences a first-hand experience of everything about human skin, hair and nails with Instagram-worthy photo walls, exciting installations, fun trivia, plus tips and tricks in taking care of one's skin. This first-of-its-kind exhibit was well-received by the public, with audiences coming in as late as midnight. Participants posted photos of the installations on social media using the hashtag #PDSSkinMuseum, to win surprise gifts and services from PDS. The Skin Museum Facebook page even had a total page reach of 44,234, with an engagement of 9,998, increasing and widening the public's awareness of PDS.



The Skin Museum - all about the SKIN - with PDS Officers Dr. Cecilia Rosete, Francisco Rivera and Lourdes Palmero

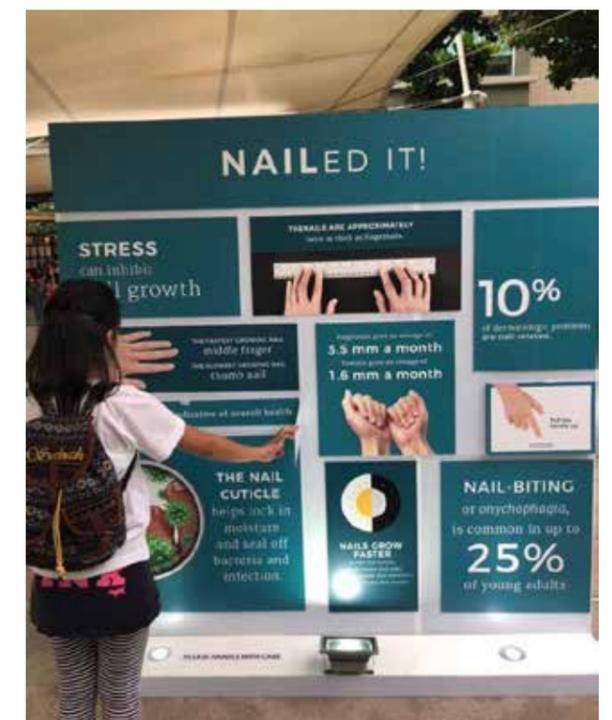
As a result of this success, Eczema Fairs, including the Skin Museum are ongoing since February of 2018 in all parts of the Philippines.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.pds.org.ph](http://www.pds.org.ph)



The Skin Museum - with PDS President, Dr. Lavadia



The Skin Museum - NAILED IT!

# Royal Belgian Society of Dermatology and Venereology

The Royal Belgian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (SRBDV) aims to increase quality of care in our profession by providing education, stimulating research, and creating consensus, and to make our quality visible to diverse stakeholders (citizens, policy makers, industry). In Belgium, there are currently 814 dermatologists and 669 of them are members of our society. Our Board has 10 members, with a parity in the Dutch and French language, and equal numbers of academic and non-academic members.

## Conferences, Research, Grants & Prizes

**Themes:** Training and education

Our activities, 2018-2019:

- Organisation of the yearly Belgian Dermatology Days: On 22-24 February 2018, the topic of our national congress was 'Evidence and Experience in Dermatology'. Keynote lectures on Guidelines in several dermatoses were given. We also hosted the first Belgian Laser Group symposium, and the fifth Dermatology Nurse Forum. The next meeting will be from 14-16 February 2019.
- Awarding prizes: At this meeting we awarded the five-yearly JM Naeyaert Research Prize (15,000 EUR), and the SKIN best picture Prize (1,250 EUR).

- Webinars: We will extend our educational events with the organisation of a webinar (29 Nov) and a multihub meeting in 2019. Procuring fellowship and congress travel grants: Any member will be able to submit a request for funding for either participation in a particular meeting or a three-week learning period in a specialised department.
- 'Smart collaboration' with our Sister Societies: Belgium counts more than seven subspecialty societies, also with longstanding and high-quality programmes. We are exploring how we can support each other in terms of resources and visibility.
- Elaboration of two national projects: 'Profiling of biologicals and small molecules in psoriasis: which drug for which patient?' (Oct 2018-June 2019) and 'Translation of international atopic dermatitis guidelines to our national situation through the ADAPTE tool' (Jan 2019-Sept 2019) For these projects, a team of experts will be composed, and the outcome of each will be a publication.
- Innovation of our website [dermanet.be](http://dermanet.be) with the aim to create more visibility and impact.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.dermanet.be](http://www.dermanet.be)



Board from L to R: Julien Lambert, Marjan Garmyn, Stephanie Ryckaert (secretary), Jo Lambert (president), Josette André (past president), Mark Vandaele (treasurer), Véronique del Marmol (vice president), Bernard Bouffieux, Jan Gutermuth. O Vanhooteghem not in picture

# Society for Pediatric Dermatology (USA)

The Society for Pediatric Dermatology (SPD) aims to promote, develop and advance education, research and care of skin disease in all pediatric age groups. The organisation holds meetings twice a year to educate physicians about advances in pediatric dermatology, help them support children with dermatological diseases and improve the care of these children.

## Overseas Volunteerism in Pediatric Dermatology; Patient Perspectives

**Themes:** Training and education

Under the direction of the nonprofit organisation, Health Volunteers Overseas, the Society for Pediatric Dermatology launched a new pediatric dermatology project in partnership with the Dermatology Institute Skin Health and Referral Center (DISHARC) in Kathmandu, Nepal. As part of this unique project, volunteers serve as mentors to three dermatologists-in-training who seek to develop expertise in pediatric dermatology.

These three trainees comprise a pediatric dermatology committee established by Dr. Jha, the founder and chairman of DISHARC, and head of the dermatology department at Nepal Medical College. In the coming years, the committee hopes to launch a new pediatric dermatology clinic, train other providers - including pediatricians and dermatologists - to recognise and treat pediatric skin conditions and establish a national pediatric dermatology society.

In addition to working with the members of the pediatric dermatology committee, volunteers will provide clinical and didactic training to residents at both Nepal Medical College & Teaching Hospital and Kathmandu Medical College & Teaching Hospital. Volunteers may also provide continuing education and professional development opportunities to faculty and staff at these two institutions.

Volunteers must be board-eligible or certified with a current license to practice dermatology (active or retired) and must also be board-certified in pediatric dermatology or have special expertise in that area. Volunteers with expertise in hemangiomas and vascular malformations, or pediatric dermatology surgery, in particular, are encouraged to apply. Assignments are one to four weeks.

To date three SPD members have volunteered to assist in pediatric dermatology training in Nepal: Drs. Neil Prose, Anita Haggstrom and Irene Lara-Correles.

The SPD has also created a series of informative handouts, called Patient Perspectives, on common skin conditions seen in children and teens, for use by providers and families and they are available on our website. Several educational videos are also available. They are in English with several being translated into Spanish and French. Handouts are currently available on the following topics: acne; pediatric skin cancer; alopecia areata; propranolol for infantile hemangiomas; atopic dermatitis (eczema); psoriasis; hemangiomas; pulsed dye laser for port-wine stains; hives (urticaria); pyogenic granuloma; isotretinoin; risks of indoor tanning; moles & melanoma; scabies; molluscum; sun protection; nevus sebaceus; tinea infections; papular urticaria; vitiligo; perioral dermatitis; and warts.

## Resources

For more information, and to access the Patient Perspectives handouts and videos, visit [www.pedsderm.net](http://www.pedsderm.net)

# Society of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists of Nepal

The main aim of the Society of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists of Nepal (SODVELON) is to provide the best possible care for skin diseases among the Nepalese people.

## OPD-Healthcamp

**Themes:** Access to healthcare; Training and education; Global volunteerism

The second World Skin Health Day was celebrated on 1 April 2018, following several months of preparation. We had a hugely successful mass health camp and public awareness campaign throughout the country on the same day.

People with skin health concerns were our target. We involved almost all the dermatologists working in the medical colleges and the major hospitals throughout the country. There are 19 medical colleges across Nepal and at least one big hospital in each province. We distributed banners and pamphlets with educational messages to all participating institutions. Most of the participating dermatologists agreed to provide free evaluations for their patients. There was enormous enthusiasm for the project among both the patients and the doctors. Almost 5,000 patients were treated in a single day. The patients' family members were also included in the counseling regarding healthy skin. Pamphlets were distributed to all who attended the outpatient departments (OPDs) at the hospitals. This event was covered by several national newspapers.

This proved to be a very good attempt to educate the patients. The targeted counseling to the families of the skin patients was more fruitful than a general health campaign.



Nepal Medical College, Kathmandu. Sitting from Left: Dr. Diptara Pathak, Dr. Shristi Shrestha (president of SODVELON), Dr. Smita Joshi. Standing in Apron: Resident doctors. Remaining: support staff.

Marking a normal OPD day as a health camp was an interesting idea for the participating health personnel as well. Last year we campaigned for healthy skin by organising a huge rally in the streets of Kathmandu. We also distributed pamphlets to everyone we met during the rally.

We will continue to run the OPD-Healthcamp in the future, but this year we also want to channel our energy differently. We are always looking out for the best way to distribute information regarding better skin health to our public. Due to a difficult geopolitical situation in Nepal, we cannot reach a large section of the population who need this information. Our plan for the future is to find ways to reach those patients, as specialist dermatologists cannot reach all who need them, especially when we number just 160 in a country with 30 million. In the future our society has planned to activate local health personnel all over the country to disseminate our agendas of healthy skin for all.

## Resources

For more information, visit [sodvelon.com](http://sodvelon.com)

# Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists

The mission of the Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists (SLCD) is to advance knowledge, and to promote research and communication between dermatologists nationally and internationally.

## Tropical Dermatology Conference

**Themes:** Unmet needs in dermatology; Training and education

From its inception in 2005, the SLCD has been responsible for organising annual conferences and regional meetings in various outreach hospitals around the country.

The college identified an increase in the prevalence of tropical dermatoses in the region. As 40% of the world's population live in the tropics, the burden on health systems due to these diseases is enormous. Furthermore, with widening international travel and migration, dermatologists residing outside the tropics also encounter tropical dermatoses in their practice.

The SLCD took the initiative of organising the first ever international conference on tropical dermatology from 11 to 14 August 2016 with the aim of creating a forum for an exchange of ideas and sharing of knowledge and experience, thereby creating avenues towards improving patient care. 46 renowned clinicians and scientists from 12 countries attended and shared their knowledge and expertise on the theme of 'topics from the tropics'. A total of 230 delegates from 24 countries including delegates from non-tropical countries attended the conference. On the first day, pre-congress sessions were followed by the grand inauguration ceremony, which was graced by the president of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) as the chief guest. The academic programme consisted of plenary lectures, symposia, advances, guest lectures, free papers and posters covering a wide array of core issues related to tropical dermatology.



1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Tropical Dermatology, Sri Lanka, 2016

Scholarships were also offered with sponsorship from the ISD to selected delegates upon abstract submission. This was followed by a clinical meeting organised at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo, which provided a unique opportunity for the participants to examine a wide array of patients with tropical dermatoses.

As this is the first time we had organised a conference of this nature, it was a difficult task. The most challenging aspects were fundraising and establishing links to international expertise. These challenges were successfully overcome with the kind support of Prof P. Kumarasinghe, one of the past presidents of the SLCD, as well as the ISD and WHO. Attracting delegates to the conference was also a challenge. However, our energetic, dedicated organising committee was able to make this congress a successful and memorable experience.

Many old friendships between international delegates were renewed and many new friendships were established. Several participants have already started planning work on new collaborative scientific research. Considering the great success we had with the ICTD 2016, the SLCD is already planning to hold the next Tropical Dermatology Conference in 2020.

## Resources

For more information, visit [ICTD2016.org](http://ICTD2016.org)

# Tunisian Society of Dermatology and Venereology

The aim of the Tunisian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (STDV) is to gather dermatologists and to progress dermatological knowledge through training, conducting research, and organising meetings.

## Psoriasis Awareness and Treatment

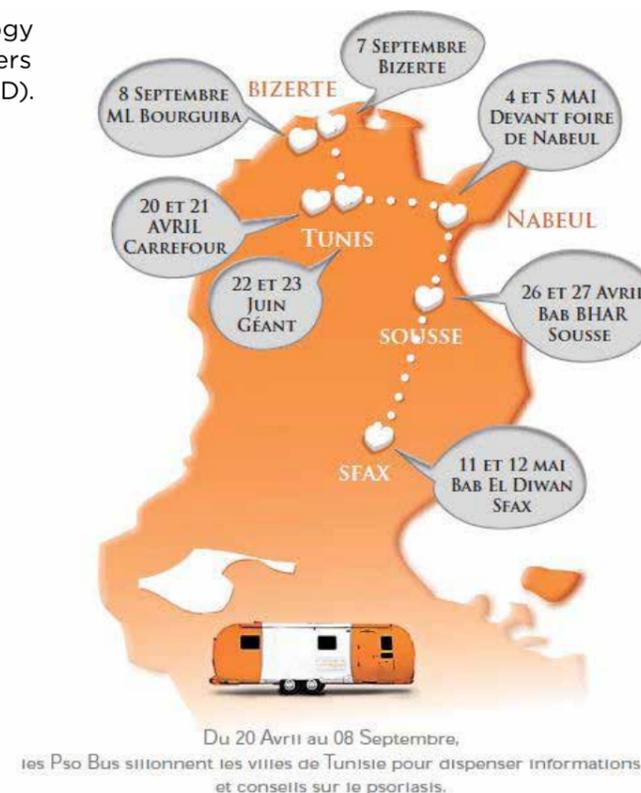
**Themes:** Threats and opportunities; Unmet needs in dermatology; Access to healthcare; Training and education; Global volunteerism; The future of dermatology

In 2013 we completed an observational multi-centric study called TUNIPSO which was directed by the psoriasis group of the STDV. The aim was to study the epidemio-clinical and therapeutic characteristics of psoriasis and its impact on quality of life (Dermatology Life Quality Index: DLQI) and mood disorders (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale: HAD).

Between 20 April and 12 May 2013, we carried out free consultations to raise awareness about psoriasis in four cities (Tunis, Sousse, Nabeul and Sfax). We included in our study every patient suffering from psoriasis, regardless of age, sex and psoriasis severity. 56 voluntary dermatologists and one psychologist participated in this action. We assessed 876 patients overall, but we need to extend the study on a larger scale to assess the preliminary results revealed by TUNIPSO. In addition, we need to establish a multidisciplinary strategy that includes dermatologists, psychologists and rheumatologists.

## Resources

For more information, visit [stdv.tn](http://stdv.tn)



TUNIPSO study

# Vietnamese Society of Dermatology and Venereology

## Conferences

**Theme:** Training and education

The Vietnamese Society of Dermatology and Venereology (VSDV), in cooperation with the National Hospital of Dermatology and Venereology (NHDV), organised an enlightening tripartite event in Hanoi from 30 November to 2 December 2017 that included the following three conferences:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Indochina Conference of Dermatology
- World Health Academy Dermatology Summit
- Vietnamese Society of Dermatology Annual Meeting

This tripartite programme brought together dermatology luminaries from 21 countries. VSDV President Dr. Trần Hậu Khang opened the conference. Plenary session lectures were given on the following topics: Dr. Torello M. Lotti proclaimed the value of low-dose cytokine therapy in dermatology; Dr. Daisuke Tsuruta (Japan) covered management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis; Dr. Robert A. Schwartz (USA) focused on Kaposi's sarcoma; Dr. Stephan Lautenschlager (Switzerland) adroitly detailed the etiologies of genital ulcers; and Dr. Steven Kim Weng Chow emphasized the need to avoid acne scarring.

The additional presentations were superb. Indonesian Society of Dermatology President Dr. M. Yulianto 'Wawan' Listiawan documented the value of utilising the vascular laser; Cambodian Dermatology Society President Dr. Chan Vicheth delineated challenges in acne therapy; Drs. Xing-hua Gao and Hexiao Wang (China) documented that HSBP1 deficiency sensitises melanoma cells to hyperthermia-induced cell death; Dr. Giuseppe Micali (Italy) stressed the hidradenitis suppurativa clinical spectrum; Dr. Agharid El-Gammal (Egypt) advocated treating psoriasis with a special combination of aloe vera and proplis; Dr. Christian Diehl (Argentina) covered plant-derived therapies for vitiligo; and Dr. Davinder Parsad (India) described recent advances in vitiligo treatment.



VSDV President Trần Hậu Khang opening the conference

Yan Valle (Canada) brought United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3) to the forefront with its declaration on the human rights of the disabled, prioritising chronic dermatologic diseases. Dr. Michael Tirant (Australia) targeted the role superantigens in treating psoriasis; Dr. Boudda Bounmyviset (Laos) noted acetaminophen as a cause of Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis; Dr. Francois Niyonsaba (Japan) discussed the role of the skin-derived antimicrobial peptides; Dr. Magnus Unemo (Sweden) expressed global concerns regarding antimicrobial resistance of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*; Dr. Giang Nguyen Huong (Vietnam/USA) provided an update on cutaneous lymphoma and its rare variants; Dr. Jason CH Yang (Formosa) highlighted management of stasis dermatitis; Dr. Manu Jain (United Nations) demonstrated the value of reflectance confocal microscopy in inflammatory cutaneous lesions; and Dr. Rungsima Wanitphakdeedecha (Thailand) delved into Asian concepts of beauty.

## Resources

For more information, visit [www.nhdv.vn](http://www.nhdv.vn)



International League of Dermatological Societies  
Willan House, 4 Fitzroy Square, London, W1T 5HQ, United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 7388 6515 • [info@ILDS.org](mailto:info@ILDS.org) • [www.ILDS.org](http://www.ILDS.org)  
Company No. 05466148 • Registered Charity No. 1111469