



International League
of Dermatological Societies

ILDS Member Initiatives Directory 2025

A community approach to advancing skin health

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A message from the ILDS President

As we present the fourth edition of the ILDS Member Initiatives Directory, I am delighted to share with you a remarkable collection of 48 articles contributed by 46 ILDS Members from across the globe. This edition is a testament to the incredible work being undertaken by our unique community, and we are humbled by the dedication and passion that our members demonstrate in their efforts to improve skin health for people worldwide.

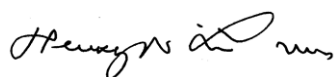
2025 marks a significant milestone in the field of dermatology as we celebrate the adoption of the historic resolution, "Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority," at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA). This monumental decision underscores the critical importance of addressing skin health issues on a global scale and highlights the need for concerted efforts to transform access to dermatological services. Through our global society, we look forward to working together to implement this resolution, further advancing our mission to make skin health services accessible to all.

The initiatives featured in this directory exemplify the tireless commitment of our members to this cause, and we are proud to showcase their innovative projects and accomplishments. Each article in this issue relates to one of the following dermatological 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
8. Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

With immense gratitude and admiration for the contributions of our ILDS Members, I invite you to explore the inspiring initiatives within this directory. Together, we are driving change and making a lasting impact on skin health across the world.

With warm personal greetings,



Prof Henry W. Lim

President, ILDS



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Albanian Society for Cosmetic and Aesthetic Dermatology



Shaping the Future of Aesthetic Dermatology in Albania

THEME: Training and education

The Albanian Society for Cosmetic and Aesthetic Dermatology (ASCAD) is a national professional organisation committed to improving standards in dermatologic and aesthetic care through training and education.

As Albania's first dermatologic society with a focus on both clinical dermatology and cosmetic science, ASCAD has become a key player in promoting lifelong learning, professional development, and regional and international collaboration. ASCAD plays a leading role in advancing aesthetic dermatology in Albania through education, research, and innovation.

Co-founded and led by Dr Brunilda Bardhi and Prof Monika Fida, the society thrives with the support of experts PhD Erjona Shehu, PhD Orjana Janushaj, and PhD Irena Savo, who together drive its mission to elevate standards and empower professionals in the field.

The Society organises national conferences, scientific seminars, and workshops to ensure the ongoing education of dermatologists in Albania and across the region. In doing so, ASCAD fills a critical gap in the country's dermatologic training, where access to subspecialty education has historically been limited. Through annual congresses and public lectures, it also fosters public awareness and promotes ethical standards in practice. Updated protocols and patient consent forms were prepared by ASCAD in the Albanian language, which was a great help to every dermatologist and plastic surgeon. ASCAD supports young professionals with research opportunities, scholarships, and platforms to present their work, thereby creating an academic culture that motivates inquiry and innovation.

The Annual Congress and Practical Workshops

One of ASCAD's hallmark events is its annual congress, which draws international faculty and Albanian professionals together in Tirana for two days of intensive learning. The 2025 congress, which took place on 14-15 June, included 12 internationally recognised speakers and 4 interactive workshops covering injectables, lasers, and evidence-based treatments for common dermatologic conditions. These hands-on workshops offered practitioners real-time exposure to advanced techniques, bridging the gap between theory and practice. ASCAD also encourages research presentations from local dermatologists, providing valuable peer feedback and promoting clinical investigation. This emphasis on practical, evidence-based learning is in line with ILDS-supported initiatives to increase the global standard of dermatologic education through member-driven activities.



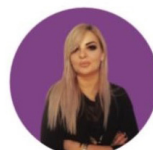
Brunilda Bardhi
President



Monika Fida
General Secretary



Erjona Shehu
Vice-President



Orjana Janushaj
Board Member



Irena Savo
Board Member

Raising Standards in Aesthetic Practice

Beyond its congresses, ASCAD is actively building a scholarly foundation for dermatology in Albania. It encourages scientific publication and facilitates institutional collaborations to support clinical research. Topics explored by ASCAD members have included acne treatment protocols, new biologic treatments in dermatology, botulinum toxin applications, and Mohs surgery applications, demonstrating the Society's broad commitment to both aesthetic and medical dermatology. In collaboration with European experts and societies such as EADV and IMCAS, ASCAD brings international research and protocols into Albanian practice, ensuring that local professionals stay informed and competitive in a rapidly advancing field. Through its educational model, ASCAD aims to raise the competency and safety standards of aesthetic practice throughout Albania.

In conclusion, ASCAD represents a progressive and visionary model for dermatologic education in a developing healthcare system. As the organisation continues to grow and evolve, ASCAD is poised to become a regional leader in dermatologic education, setting a standard for other emerging societies and contributing meaningfully to the global advancement of the field.

American Academy of Dermatology



Launching a Clinical Image Collection

THEME: What are the truly unmet needs in dermatology?

This year, the American Academy of Dermatology launched a new Clinical Image Collection.

With the help of AAD members, this free member benefit was developed in collaboration with the Skin of Color Society in response to the lack of images of darker skin in professional education, which had been identified as a barrier to proper treatment and medical training.

To continue providing members with resources that can help with our commitment to excellence in patient care, the AAD Clinical Image Collection addresses the critical gap of images representing dermatologic diseases in all skin types and tones, including dark skin tones, in professional education resources.

As the chair of the Clinical Image Collection Workgroup, Vinod Nambudiri, MD, MBA, FAAD, said:

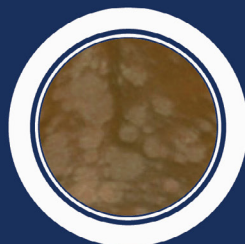


The images are freely available for AAD members to incorporate into presentations — such as at meetings and conferences within our specialty and beyond — to enhance the educational impact of such endeavours. By incorporating a diversity of images into professional dermatology education materials, we can empower dermatologists and other clinicians to improve their diagnostic skills and enhance patient care for all.

Thanks to submissions from over 100 AAD members, the Clinical Image Collection consists of over 850 diverse images as of early June, with more images being added every day. All images are reviewed by the Image Collection Workgroup and tagged with keyword identifiers to facilitate searching through the collection. Hundreds of members have already made use of the collection. The ultimate goal is for the AAD Clinical Image Collection to become the largest and most-trusted source for skin disease images shown on the full range of skin tones.

Members are encouraged to submit images taken during dermatologic screenings at their practice. Interested in submitting images? [Click here](#) to visit the AAD Clinical Image Collection website. If you have several images that you would like to submit in bulk, reach out to aadcme@aad.org and members of the Academy staff can help you get started.

AAD Clinical Image Collection



Advancing Dermatology with Diverse Images

American Dermatological Association



The ADA: Leadership, Innovation, and Engagement in Dermatology

THEME: The future of dermatology: threats and opportunities

The American Dermatological Association (ADA) is a society of leaders whose purpose is to recognise, discuss, and develop solutions for problems in dermatologic health care, research, and education in North America and worldwide. This mission guides the elected members of our organisation to advance the care and treatment of patients with skin disease.

During the past 149 years, our independent, non-profit, self-funded organisation has provided objective analyses and recommendations regarding the complex challenges related to dermatology healthcare. Our goals are achieved through stewardship and collaboration with other organisations committed to the ongoing process of advancing the field of dermatology in the House of Medicine.

[Click here to learn more about the history of the ADA.](#)

Dermatology of the future stands at the intersection of technology, policy, global engagement, and clinical innovation. Focusing on these areas opens opportunities for our members through engagement, leadership, and care to pursue new directions but also counteract threats.

Priorities include discussing and promoting policies to combat medical misinformation, while also responsibly integrating artificial intelligence (AI) as a tool. Examples include virtual scribing, AI-powered visit documentation, point-of-care testing, and non-invasive histology. With the proper guidance, these innovations can enable a higher level of efficient, comprehensive healthcare. At the same time, healthcare policy and global engagement are becoming increasingly critical as the landscape of healthcare delivery continues to evolve.

Private equity, multi-specialty practices, private practice, and academic medicine are rapidly evolving landscapes that require innovative strategies to protect our workforce and to maintain access to both care and therapeutic resources. Healthcare delivery models that provide access to treatments such as CAR-T and AI-guided melanoma screening will be critical to cancer care and surveillance in the future. Importantly, innovative research will remain essential for the continued advancement of medical care.

Our official publication

The [Archives of Dermatologic Research](#) provides an opportunity to share information about important advances and developments in dermatology, not only in the United States but across the world.

Our annual meetings

Our annual meetings feature a presentation from an early career young physician leader as well as from physician researchers who are in training or recently graduated.

The Presidential Address highlights topics of particular importance that provide an opportunity to serve the public.

Past official ADA position statements have included:

- “The Voice of the American Dermatological Association: 2025 Official Policy Statement on Climate Change”
- “Optimizing Access to Rural and Inner-City Dermatology Services”
- “Screening, Surveillance, and Prevention of Skin Cancer and Skin Infection in Patients with Solid Organ Transplants”
- “Statement on Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and Patient Access to Affordable and Appropriate Medications”
- “Recommendation on Herpes Zoster (Shingles) Vaccination for Patients 50 Years and Older”

and recommendations on HPV vaccination - available on the [ADA website](#).

The ADA's Envisioning Committee has embarked on strategic planning as well as engaging and involving new members via service on committees and collaborating with similar organisations in other specialties.

We are committed to identifying and addressing threats and opportunities in dermatology that affect our profession and the wider world. Integration of artificial intelligence into practice is an area of great interest.

The Dermatology Practice of the Future is the theme of our upcoming annual meeting where we will showcase the latest dermatologic research, renew acquaintances, and discuss new concepts that enhance the health of our patients and the population in general. We will develop and propagate position statements designed to improve the well-being of the public. In addition, members of the ADA have been at the forefront of caring for patients of all races, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations, and improving dermatologic outcomes for people of colour. We will stand side-by-side to bear the weight of future generations of dermatologists who will take our specialty to greater heights.

We teach. We research. We lead.

We are committed to training the future leaders of dermatology, increasing diversity and upholding justice and equality within the House of Medicine and society in general.



4th ILDS World Skin Summit

Making Treatment Accessible and Affordable Worldwide

Cape Town, South Africa | 23 - 25 October 2025

The ILDS World Skin Summit (WSS) is an exclusive invite-only event that is held regularly to bring the leaders of our Member and Partner organisations together to discuss the challenges, share experiences and develop strategies to improve skin health at local, national, regional and global levels.

Following the recent adoption of the historic resolution '**Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority**' at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA), it has never been more important to hold these discussions. The WSS will provide a platform for ILDS Members to work together to identify key issues and draft a strategy to guide the implementation of the resolution and transform access to skin health services globally.

With representatives from over 90 ILDS Member organisations scheduled to attend, along with representatives from key partner organisations, we look forward to sharing updates and outcomes from the event with the wider dermatological community.



American Society for Dermatologic Surgery



COSMETIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE EXPERTISE
FOR YOUR skin health and beautySM

Mentorship and Continuing Education for International Dermatologic Surgeons

THEME: Training and education

For over 50 years, the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) has been committed to providing dermatologic surgeons with skill-based clinical education, advancing the specialty through scientific research and cultivating camaraderie among members. ASDS encourages the exchange of information between international colleagues in over 40 countries by facilitating meaningful continuing education throughout members' careers.

ASDS Annual Meeting

The [ASDS annual conference](#) is the premier dermatologic surgery meeting of the year, providing comprehensive procedural education in the areas of cosmetic, Mohs, reconstructive and general dermatologic surgery, as well as realistic practice management information. The ASDS Annual Meeting offers hands-on experiences, live patient and cadaveric demonstrations and compelling session topics with actionable advice from renowned expert faculty who teach techniques that prioritise patient safety and minimise complication risks.



ASDS Annual Meeting attendees get hands-on experience with facial anatomy at a cadaver lab

Attendees gain perspective from peers' experiences, network with global colleagues, discover the latest technological advances and meet with industry representatives.

- **Lawrence M. Field, MD, Honorary Lectureship**

This session, named in recognition of Dr Field's lifelong contributions to international dermatologic surgical education, features exemplary speakers who have shown a commitment to dermatologic surgery, education and excellence that mirror the accomplishments of Dr Field outside of the U.S. and Canada.

- **ASDS International Traveling Mentorship Program (ITMP) Session**

Content in this session highlights the Society's global stewardship of safety and evidence-based practice. Lecturers are internationally renowned experts who share their knowledge and experiences with the dermatologic surgery community, fostering mutual learning through the exchange of real-world experiences.

- **Diverse Topics**

ASDS Annual Meeting sessions discuss how dermatologists can bridge practice gaps in cultural competence and healthcare equity, facilitating prospective research and training collaborations, and empowering better outcomes for all within increasingly diverse patient populations. Session content focuses on advancing structured training and international dialogue within the dermatologic surgery community, with global safety standards as the standard.

- **Networking Opportunities**

Camaraderie and networking are consistently listed as attendees' favourite aspects of the conference. With dedicated time for social receptions and visits to the Exhibit Hall, international colleagues have the opportunity to reconnect with mentors and build new relationships with peers who share similar daily challenges.

ASDS International Preceptorship Program

Since 2011, ASDS has facilitated educational mentoring opportunities by providing a monetary grant to international dermatologic surgeons visiting an established surgeon in the U.S. for one to three weeks.

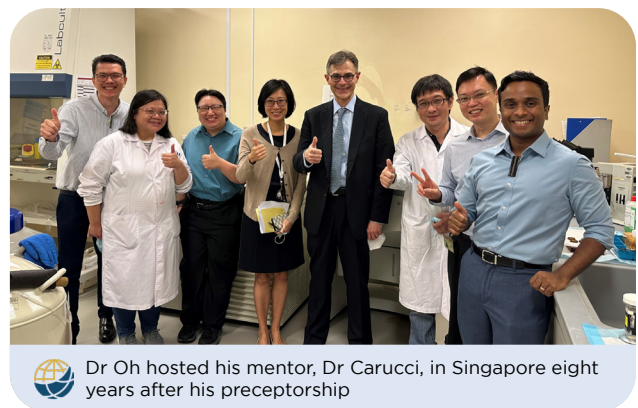
The [International Preceptorship Program](#) encourages the exchange of information and education to expand international members' knowledge of advanced procedures and techniques not currently available in their country.

“ *My International Preceptorship was an incredible experience that reignited my motivation and realigned my focus on my dermatologic surgery career path. I gained invaluable knowledge and developed crucial skills that I know will serve me well as I continue to grow in my career. ASDS has been an irreplaceable bridge that has allowed me to develop excellent professional connections and friends.*

Leyla Elmas, MD, Türkiye



 2023 International Preceptee Dr Leyla Elmas and Dr Neil Sadick



 Dr Oh hosted his mentor, Dr Carucci, in Singapore eight years after his preceptorship

ASDS International Travelling Mentorship Program

The [International Traveling Mentorship Program](#) (ITMP) enhances the exchange of information and body of knowledge of dermatologic surgery between the U.S. and the international community of dermatologic surgeons. ITMP hosts an educational and networking session at the ASDS Annual Meeting and assists dermatologic surgeons with visiting a host institution in another country for a defined period of teaching, surgical demonstrations and table-side exchange.

Digital Education

[ASDS Learn](#) is an online education platform that provides evidence-based educational content to enhance patient care. The live and on-demand content is balanced, independent, objective and based on scientific rigour. ASDS education offerings are focused on improving patient safety and outcomes through the newest techniques and technology options. From hands-on training demonstrations and interactive webinars to self-guided courses and free resources, ASDS is committed to providing continuing education that improves dermatologists' clinical competency and patient outcomes.

Online Community

[ASDS Connect](#) is a members-only online discussion forum that engages members across the world in all stages of their careers. This community is your go-to place to network, share insights and learn from peers' experiences. Collaboration and unity among dermatologic surgeons have never been more important, and ASDS Connect is the conduit to bring them together.

Resources

- [ASDS International Programs](#)
- [ASDS Membership](#) or email membership@asds.net
- [ASDS Annual Meeting](#) or email education@asds.net

Association for Psychoneurocutaneous Medicine of North America



Unmet Needs in Psychodermatology

THEME: What are the truly unmet needs in dermatology?

The Association for Psychoneurocutaneous Medicine of North America (APMNA) is a pioneering organisation dedicated to exploring the intricate connections between the skin and the mind.

Founded in 1991 by a small group of dermatologists and psychiatrists, APMNA was established to address the growing recognition that psychological factors play a significant role in various skin disorders.

Mission and Vision

APMNA's mission is to promote the highest quality of care for dermatology patients by advocating for a holistic approach to chronic skin diseases. The association aims to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas in the field of psychocutaneous medicine and to advance psychocutaneous education and research. The organisation's vision encompasses a collaborative effort among dermatologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and allied health professionals to study and understand the skin-mind connection. This interdisciplinary approach underscores the importance of integrating mental health considerations into dermatological practice.

Activities and Initiatives

APMNA organises annual meetings and conferences that serve as platforms for professionals to discuss recent advancements, share research findings, and collaborate on best practices in psychodermatology. These events facilitate networking and foster a community committed to enhancing patient care through a comprehensive understanding of psychocutaneous interactions and multidisciplinary approach to treat these patients.

APMNA regularly contributes and organises psychodermatology sessions in all major dermatology meetings such as AAD, EADV, world congresses and international congresses. The association also emphasises education and research, aiming to bridge the gap between dermatology and psychiatry. By promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, APMNA strives to improve patient outcomes through integrated care models that address both the physical and psychological aspects of skin diseases. While the field has grown significantly in the past 10 years, several unmet needs remain:

Limited Access to Specialised Care

- Shortage of trained professionals: *Very few dermatologists and mental health professionals are trained in psychodermatology or psychocutaneous medicine.*
- Geographic barriers: *Specialised services are mostly concentrated in academic centres or large urban hospitals.*

Fragmented Care Models

- Lack of integrated clinics: *Most healthcare systems separate dermatologic and psychiatric care, leading to disjointed patient experiences and suboptimal outcomes.*
- Poor coordination: *Communication between dermatologists and mental health providers is often inconsistent or non-existent.*

Stigma and Underdiagnosis

- Patient reluctance: *Patients may be unwilling to accept the psychological component of their skin disease due to stigma.*
- Clinician bias or lack of awareness: *Dermatologists may overlook or inadequately assess psychological symptoms, especially in time-limited consultations.*

Research Gaps

- Limited high-quality evidence: *There is a lack of robust clinical trials evaluating psychodermatological interventions.*
- Biopsychosocial mechanisms poorly understood: *The neuroimmune and neuroendocrine pathways linking skin and psyche are still being elucidated.*

Educational Deficits

- Insufficient training in medical curricula: *Medical students and residents receive little education on the psychological aspects of dermatology.*
- Continuing education gaps: *Practicing clinicians often lack opportunities to update their knowledge in psychodermatology.*

Insurance and Reimbursement Barriers

- Coverage limitations: *Mental health interventions for dermatological conditions are often not reimbursed.*
- Administrative burden: *Integrating care across specialties can be difficult under current healthcare billing structures.*

Paediatric Psychodermatology Needs

- Lack of age-specific approaches: *Children and adolescents with psychodermatological conditions have unique needs that are rarely addressed in a systematic way.*

Patient-Centred Tools and Resources

- Scarcity of tailored resources: *Educational and support materials for patients that address both skin and mental health are limited.*
- Digital tools underdeveloped: *Apps and telehealth platforms are not yet optimised for psychodermatology care.*

Impact and Future Directions

APMNA's efforts have significantly contributed to the recognition of psychodermatology as a vital subspecialty within dermatology. Through its initiatives, the association has fostered a deeper understanding of how psychological factors influence skin health, leading to more comprehensive and effective treatment strategies.

Looking ahead, APMNA continues to advocate for the integration of mental health considerations into dermatological practice. The association's ongoing research and educational endeavours aim to further elucidate the skin-mind connection, ultimately enhancing patient care and advancing the field of psychocutaneous medicine.

[Click here](#) for more information about APMNA and its activities.

Association of Academic Cosmetic Dermatology



Advancing Academic Cosmetic Dermatology Education and Collaboration

THEME: Training and education

Over the past year, the Association of Academic Cosmetic Dermatology (AACD) has continued to advance its mission to support education, mentorship, and collaboration among academic dermatologists who teach cosmetics and lasers to dermatology residents. Several initiatives developed this year may resonate with ILDS member societies focused on building structured training, academic engagement, and equitable practice in aesthetic dermatology.

Collaborative Learning Through Journal Club

AACD's virtual journal club remains a cornerstone of its educational programming. Open to all, this monthly series features faculty and trainee-led discussions on topics such as laser safety, skin of colour considerations, and evolving approaches to aesthetic care. The format encourages cross-institutional learning and broad engagement. All are welcome to join.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Roundtable Initiative: Shared Dialogue on Systemic Challenges

To further support faculty in academic settings, AACD launched a roundtable discussion series this year, led by President Dr Jeffrey Orringer. These confidential, faculty-only forums provide space to discuss shared challenges, such as compensation structures and institutional regulations around cosmetic procedures like neurotoxin use. The series promotes transparency, problem-solving, and shared advocacy across institutions.



Dr Bianca Kang, Mr Jeremy Orloff, Dr Murad Alam, and Dr Kira Minkis at the 2024 AACD Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.



Dr David Orentreich, Guiding Dermatologist for Clinique, at the 2024 AACD Annual Meeting, where he presented the Norman Orentreich Excellence in Research Award, named in honour of his father.

Faculty-to-Faculty Mentorship

AACD also continues to support an active mentorship programme that connects residents and junior faculty with experienced mentors in academic cosmetic dermatology. This initiative fosters career development, peer networking, and long-term engagement in academic cosmetic practice.

Academic Contributions and Publications

AACD members have co-authored several peer-reviewed publications over the past year, addressing key issues in procedural dermatology education, equity, and training access:

- Practical guidance for teaching cosmetic and laser procedures to dermatology residents, with contributions from multiple institutions (Dermatology Online Journal, 2024).
- A trend analysis of gender diversity in leadership across procedural dermatology fellowships over the past decade (Dermatologic Surgery, 2024).
- A national survey characterising the use of injectables and device-based treatments in medical dermatology, including resident involvement (Dermatologic Surgery, 2024).
- Strategies to overcome barriers to hands-on cosmetic and laser training during residency (Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, 2024).
- Development of an Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skills (OSATS) tool for sclerotherapy through broad expert consensus (Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, 2024).
- A national survey evaluating resident hands-on training in injectables, lasers, and energy-based devices across U.S. dermatology residencies (Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, 2024).
- A cross-sectional study of cosmetic dermatology directors' perspectives on current ACGME procedural requirements (Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, 2024).

These studies reflect AACD's commitment to strengthening academic infrastructure, advancing equitable access to training, and supporting research-driven improvements in cosmetic dermatology education.

Looking Ahead

AACD remains committed to fostering a well-supported, collaborative environment for those engaged in aesthetic dermatology within academic systems. We welcome dialogue with ILDS member societies pursuing similar goals.

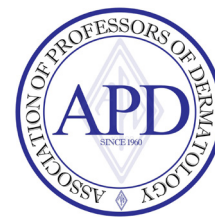
Learn more

[Click here](#) for additional information.



Dr Ronda Farah received the 2024 Rising Star Award from Dr Diana Bolotin

Association of Professors of Dermatology



Embracing Change in an Evolving Academic Environment

THEME: Training and Education

In 2025, the importance of a strong professional community has never been more important than in the face of a rapidly evolving and turbulent national landscape. The Association of Professors of Dermatology (APD) is an organisation committed to staying true to its missions of upholding excellence in medical education, research, and clinical care in dermatology, and being a leading voice of academic dermatology. Comprised of a broad member base representing diverse institutions here in the United States, the APD has member sections including residency programme directors, dermatologic surgeons, dermatopathologists, paediatric dermatologists, and academic administrators, all under the dedicated board of directors.

In an evolving environment, it is imperative to optimise the pillars of education, research, and clinical care in order for academic departments to thrive. One key strategy is to stay abreast of the latest innovations and trends, and also to hear updates from leaders of other organisations in dermatology. Towards this end, the 2025 APD Program Committee held this year's annual meeting on 19-20 September 2025 in a new location: The Omni Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. This meeting's theme of "Embracing Change" was highlighted in 4 plenary sessions: Leadership Development, Education, Clinical Operations, and Research. Talks and panels on the evolving landscape of leadership, artificial/ augmented intelligence in education and clinical practice, innovative clinical workflows, research funding were discussed. Based on prior meeting attendee feedback, the programme included additional time for networking and encouraged active audience participation in discussions.

The Lowell Goldsmith lecture was given by Julie Freischlag, MD FACS, CEO of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, who lectured on leadership. The title of this lecture, "Daring to Do Great Things," addressed the challenges and opportunities of leading change. The meeting also featured speakers from key dermatology and medical education organisations who provided updates on their work, including AAD, ABD, AMA, ACGME, AAMC. There was a unique opportunity to have 1-on-1 meetings with Eileen Anthony, Executive Director for the ACGME Review Committee, who was available to answer individual questions

relating to accreditation decisions (i.e., clarity on current citations or areas for improvement) or other Committee activities. There were smaller break-out sessions for programme directors, dermatologic surgeons, dermatopathologists, department chairs, and paediatric dermatologists on Friday 19 September, with the chance to hear reports of the break-out session highlights that were presented on Saturday 20 September.

We were pleased to pair this meeting with the 2025 AAD Diversity Champions Workshop (DCW), which took place the day before the APD meeting. The DCW led by Sacharitha Bowers, MD and Klint Peebles, MD, provided participants with an opportunity to share success stories, discuss outreach programs and initiatives, and exchange ideas. This workshop featured different panels on a variety of diversity and inclusion related topics intended to shed light on some of the most powerful tools available to residency programmes to recruit and support a diverse trainee group. Each panel was led by a knowledgeable and diverse group of doctors and medical students. A breakfast session was held before the start of the APD meeting to provide additional opportunities for exchange and connection.

There was an amazing line-up of speakers for this meeting, providing a dynamic and informative programme.

Author: Kanade Shinkai, MD PhD (Meeting Program Chair) on behalf of the 2025 APD Program Committee: Sewon Kang, MD (APD President) Matilda Nicholas, MD PhD Marta Van Beek, MD MPH Frank Wang, MD F. Clarissa Yang, MD MBA.



The APD Conference in September 2025

Australasian Society of Cosmetic and Procedural Dermatologists



Australasian
Society of
Cosmetic and
Procedural
Dermatologists

Unmet Needs in Procedural Dermatology

THEME: What are the truly unmet needs of dermatology?

Like dermatology in general, cosmetic and procedural dermatology has many unmet needs. Aesthetic issues are important in patients' lives especially if they are a result of disease or injury. Yet we are less than perfect in our treatment options. It is our mission at the Australasian Society of Cosmetic and Procedural Dermatologists (ASCPD) to address as many of these needs as is possible. We are an organisation dedicated to the education of practitioners and solving patients' issues by application of knowledge and technology, yet we still have challenges. In diseases such as scarring (both atrophic and hypertrophic), disorders of pigmentation such as melasma and post inflammatory hyperpigmentation, vascular anomalies including port wine stains, field sun damage and anti-aging remedies, we unfortunately accept partial responsibility. We owe it to our patients to strive for optimal treatment, but in the meantime to teach all practitioners the best standard of care and treatment.

As much as is possible, this universality of care should be without patient boundaries of gender, skin type, age and economic status. In energy-based devices and similar technologies, we seem to have stalled. Great advances like ablative laser resurfacing, Q switched lasers, laser hair removal, high powered vascular lasers, intense pulsed light, photodynamic therapy and fractionation are over 20 years old. Improvements have occurred in their application and technology, with Pico lasers, assisted drug delivery, in-motion technologies, newer devices utilising fractionation and combining treatments, but we are really waiting for a breakthrough technology to be developed to assist us in better patient outcomes. Similarly with injectable agents such as tissue fillers and neuromodulators, we are seeing slow progress.

Better safety standards and protocols have been developed, but the agents seem to have largely remained the same or similar for over 30 years. Botulinum toxin A and hyaluronic acid are still our mainstay and have been since the mid 90s with little sign of major change on the horizon. It is true that we have seen improvements in fat transfer, polylactic acid, and calcium hydroxyapatite as well as combining agents and superficial fillers and hydrators, but no staggering changes appear likely soon. There are real concerns about safety of injectable agents and energy-based devices and regulatory authorities appear to be struggling to control their application. Regulatory agencies have issues worldwide with the rapid growth in consumer awareness, desire for treatment and psychological issues that drive this appetite in some patients. On the provider side regulatory bodies worry about the financial incentive to treat, less than optimal risk analysis, insufficient consenting, inaccurate or misleading advertising, medical entrepreneurship, poorly trained practitioners and the incidence of adverse reactions.

Cosmetic techniques and practitioners may be held to a higher level of care than other fields of medicine because of the discretionary nature of services, the vulnerability of patients and the severity of possible complications and embarrassing cosmetic outcomes. In all the cosmetic aspects of dermatology there appears a requirement to regularise training, develop expertise and deliver best practice to our patients. How to do this seems elusive. Do we advocate a very formal education such as a post graduate requirement or a lesser level but certainly we need something that will act as a reassuring circuit breaker to help diffuse community, practitioner and regulators concerns that there is a minimum standard being displayed by the industry?

Conferences are valuable and continuing professional development (CPD) is essential, yet it is often the motivated practitioners who attend, while the ones who most need this education are the least likely to participate. A minimum standard to practice would be a welcome change. However, this is not the only area that needs reform. Pharmaceutical companies should be diverting their resources to research and development to improve the safety of their products. Examples include better start safe settings in energy-based devices, better training in their use and fillers that lack or limit embolic potential. Regulatory authorities also need to reform. There are many bodies with an interest in these areas and too many different approaches to reform across countries. It seems incongruous that the same procedures and access to medications and technologies is still so disparate between jurisdictions. This may impede safety and advances in knowledge and procedures.

We at ASCPD are committed to improving all facets of application of current knowledge through education but we do lament the unmet needs we see in our field.

Bangladesh Academy of Dermatology



Humanitarian Efforts of the Bangladesh Academy of Dermatology: Providing Food and Medical Aid to Flood-Affected Communities

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

Bangladesh is situated at the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta, Asia's largest and the world's most populated delta.

Deltas are called cradles of civilisation. They are formed by the interaction of rivers and tidal processes, resulting in the sedimentary deposits in the world. These are very fertile lands for agriculture. But low-lying deltas like Bangladesh are highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change and suffer from frequent natural hazards like tropical cyclones and storms, river and coastal flooding, landslides, and drought.

In the third week of August 2024, the country experienced the worst flood in 34 years, affecting about 5.8 million people. The most affected districts were Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, and Cumilla.

The displacement of flood-affected people and overcrowding at temporary shelters resulted in significant health issues and disease outbreaks.

To help these flood-affected people, the Bangladesh Academy of Dermatology (B.A.D.) organized a free health camp in flood-affected areas in Feny and Cumilla districts. Health care services, medicine and food were provided for more than five hundred flood-affected men, women and children.



Free health camps provided to flood-affected areas.

A group composed of general physicians, dermatologists, community healthcare providers, and nurses, under the supervision of Prof Md. Shahidullah Sikder, had carried out the task successfully.

World Skin Health Day

This year, the Bangladesh Academy of Dermatology also received an ILDS Grant as part of World Skin Health Day to provide health care for the climate refugees of the country, and also to provide training on common skin diseases to primary health care providers.



Providing health care to climate refugees on World Skin Health Day

ILDS Membership

Not an ILDS Member?

Discover the benefits of ILDS Membership

Membership of the ILDS brings together national, regional, and international dermatology societies from around the world to create a global community dedicated to our vision: Skin Health for the World.

Our Members are at the heart of everything we do - delivering care, training, and helping shape our strategic goals.

As a Member, you gain valuable benefits: global networking, the chance to nominate colleagues for prestigious ILDS Awards, discounted registration to global events, opportunities to showcase your work worldwide, and a voice in shaping global dermatology through our connection with the WHO.



Being a part of our unique community provides many opportunities to your society **and** to your members. We encourage ILDS Members to engage with us as we share, learn and improve the provision of dermatological care together to achieve our joint goal of skin health for all.



Find out more about ILDS Membership

Scan the QR code



Visit our website



www.ilds.org

Contact the ILDS
Membership Officer



membership@ilds.org

Brazilian Society of Dermatology



Bridging Inequities in Dermatologic Care: Insights from Brazil's National Skin Disease Survey

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

Skin diseases affect millions globally and are among the top reasons for medical consultations. In a country as socioeconomically diverse as Brazil, understanding who accesses dermatologic care—and under what circumstances—is essential to advancing equitable healthcare policies. In 2024, the Brazilian Society of Dermatology (SBD) conducted a comprehensive nationwide survey to map the epidemiological profile of dermatologic consultations. The results offer not only a clearer picture of disease burden but also highlight significant disparities in access and outcomes across public and private healthcare sectors.

A National Effort to Understand Dermatologic Needs

Using a probabilistic two-stage sampling method, 370 dermatologists from both public and private services reported on over 26,000 patient consultations. The study included all patients seen during a reference week and was weighted for regional and institutional representation. Despite a 24.2% response rate, strategic adjustments ensured sufficient national coverage.

Key Findings on Access

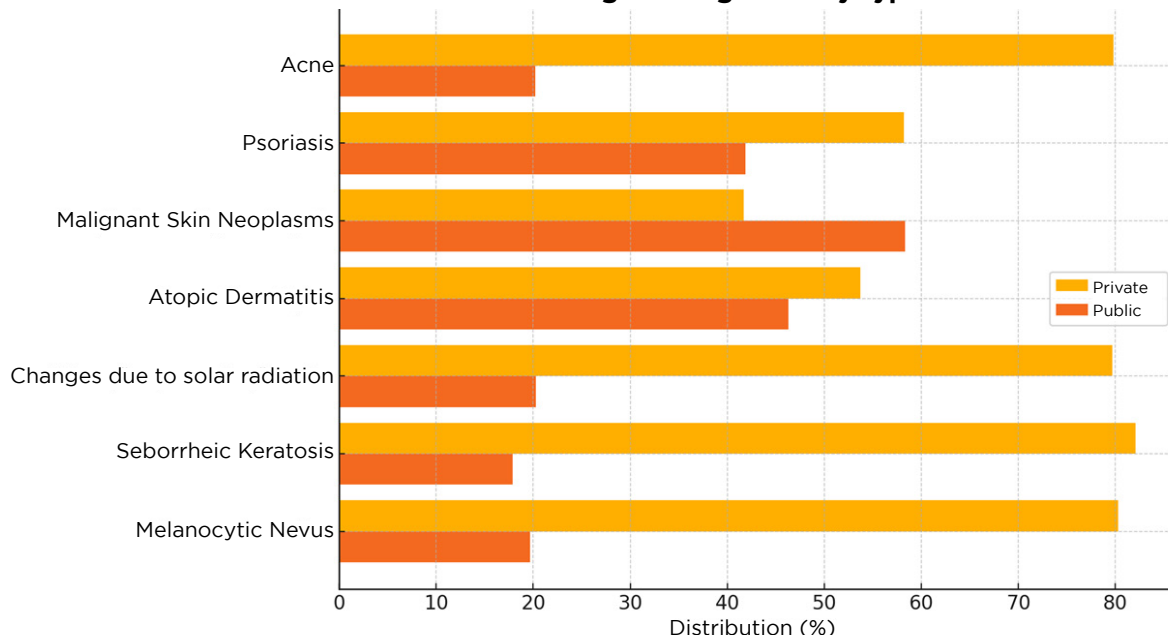
Of all dermatologic visits, 65% occurred in private clinics, with only 35% in the public health system (SUS). Women comprised 61.8% of patients, and 68.2% identified as white. This already suggests disparities, but the gap becomes clearer when stratified by educational level and race.

Patients with higher education levels overwhelmingly used private services—90.2% of those with a university degree were seen in private settings. In contrast, individuals with primary education or less relied heavily on the public system. Racial disparities were equally striking: while 74.7% of patients in private care were white, 42.7% of public patients were Black or Brown.

Disease Distribution and the Role of Public Care

Acne was the most frequent diagnosis (9.5%), followed by psoriasis (7.1%) and malignant skin neoplasms (6.9%). Interestingly, while acne cases were mostly seen in private services (79.8%), 58.3% of malignant skin tumours were diagnosed in the public sector. This highlights a crucial role of the SUS in the detection and management of more severe and complex conditions.

Distribution of the main dermatological diagnoses by type of service



Implications for Policy and Global Health

These findings raise critical questions about the nature of equity in dermatologic care. The data shows that while private services dominate in volume and cater to higher socioeconomic groups, the public system plays an indispensable role in treating severe diseases and vulnerable populations. Access to dermatologic treatment in Brazil is thus not just a matter of geography or service availability—it is intrinsically tied to race, class, and education. These disparities mirror global trends but are particularly pronounced in large, diverse nations like Brazil. Addressing them will require multi-sectoral strategies, including:

Expanding dermatologic services within the public sector.	Strengthening early detection programs for skin cancer.
Integrating dermatology into broader primary care efforts.	Training healthcare professionals to recognise and reduce implicit biases.

A Call for Ongoing Surveillance and Action

The 2024 national survey underscores the value of robust epidemiologic surveillance in dermatology. By identifying who receives care, for what conditions, and under which circumstances, we are better positioned to design policies that close the access gap. As the global dermatologic community strives for universal skin health, experiences from Brazil serve as both a mirror and a map. They reflect persistent inequities, but also guide us toward targeted, data-driven interventions.

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British Association of Dermatologists



**BRITISH ASSOCIATION
OF DERMATOLOGISTS**
HEALTHY SKIN FOR ALL

British College of Dermatology Education Hub

THEME: Training and education

Our primary objective

Dermatology, is a small specialty with a big reach. In England, 3.1million outpatients use dermatology services.

Last year, 400,000 requests from primary care went to hospital dermatologists for advice about patients' conditions. These services are delivered by only 699 full-time equivalent consultants in the UK, along with their support teams. Meeting patient demand for dermatology care requires general practitioners (GPs) and pharmacists in primary care to be educated in common skin conditions.

The British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) set up the British College of Dermatology (BCD) as the home of dermatology education. Our strategic objective is to educate those involved in skin healthcare.



**British
College of
Dermatology**

Since launching our Education Hub, an online learning platform, in 2023 we have seen benefits for our subscribing members and for a key target audience of primary healthcare professionals. We have focused on providing GPs and community pharmacists with dermatology education, supporting them in their vital work with skin patients.

Our interactive, multimedia, evidence-based, online courses are accessible to the UK's 54,000 GPs and 64,400 pharmacists, improving their diagnosis, management or referral of dermatology patients. Offering self-paced learning to a large workforce enables our small organisation to support skin health education in an economical and efficient way.

Our in-house development team creates and updates courses. Our content is also accessible to all healthcare professionals and dermatologists both in the UK and internationally.

Implementation

Our activities to achieve a robust, accessible platform, rich with 50+ pieces of content included:

- Tailoring our Moodle workplace platform to include an e-commerce app, a single sign on with our website and pushing data into the customer relationship management app for a seamless learning experience
- Improving the look and feel of course templates and streamlining learner navigation, giving immediate access to our online learning packages
- Collaborating with stakeholders to showcase their content, for example a surgical training series by the British Society for Dermatological Surgery, avoiding duplication of effort and achieving buy-in from stakeholders
- Using clinicians to author and peer review our content which gives it credibility and ensures it speaks to the target audience.

Innovation

We employed three notable innovations in the design of our content. The first connects educational content for GPs with our [referral guidelines and algorithms](#), bringing these to life with patient case studies, clinical images and quizzes, for example our Vitiligo course. This builds the capability of GPs to identify, diagnose, and refer patients.

Secondly, we have capitalised on the NHS England strategy of Pharmacy First. This service frees up GP appointments for patients who can now be seen for selected conditions by a pharmacist. Our training package for pharmacists includes a module on Management of Skin Infections for Pharmacists, citing Pharmacy First.

Our third innovation is to include patients' voices in our online learning content. These can be a video, voiceover or quotation. We want their experience of dermatology services to be at the heart of our training for clinicians and powerful messages come from patients.

Effectiveness and impact

Our success metrics are very encouraging:

- we now have over **3,000** users who give us impressive ratings
- **92%** rate our content as excellent or good
- **91%** think completion of the course will have a positive impact on their patient care
- our net promoter score rating is **60**.

Our content is image-rich and inclusive which makes our courses stand out. We include images of patients with black or brown skin to enable our healthcare professionals to see conditions in a range of skin types.

Positive feedback from users includes:



This is a perfect short course for GPs who are interested in gaining a better understanding of the general approach of melanoma skin cancer.

GP on Melanoma course



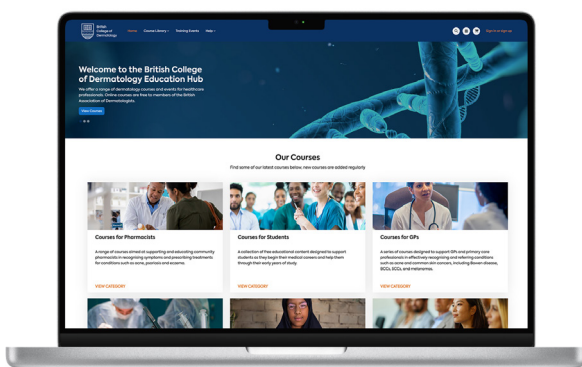
It was a very good and informative course.

Nurse on Biopsy Techniques course

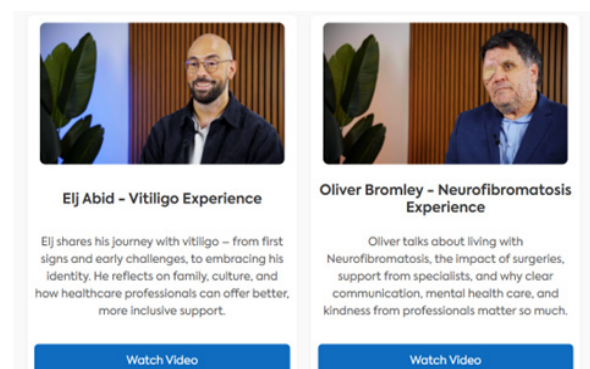
The strong engagement by users demonstrates our content is reaching the wider dermatology workforce. Courses are modestly priced and packages offer discounts.

Members benefitted from access to the Education Hub which offers them all courses at no extra cost. There has been a cultural shift for members in using our online content, we previously offered live events or courses and open learning has extended our offer.

Our next step is to increase the number of our international users, including through collaboration with international partners to share our high-quality dermatology resources.



BCD Education Hub



Patient Voices section on the Education Hub

Resources

- [British College of Dermatology Education Hub](#)

Author: Barbara Mason, Director of Education, BAD

British Dermatological Nursing Group



The Future of Dermatology Nursing in the UK and Ireland: Global Collaboration, Digital Innovation, and Professional Leadership

THEME: The future of dermatology as a discipline

Dermatology nursing in the UK and Ireland is undergoing a transformative evolution. From enhanced clinical leadership and digital education to meaningful global engagement, the specialty is rapidly expanding its reach and impact.

At the heart of this progress stands the British Dermatological Nursing Group (BDNG), whose commitment to member development, professional standards, and international collaboration is shaping a bold new future for the profession.

One of the most forward-looking developments is the creation of the BDNG Member and International Liaison Lead - a role that signifies a clear commitment to raising the profile of dermatology nurses on the global stage. This role not only ensures members' voices are heard both nationally and internationally but actively fosters relationships with dermatology nursing networks across Europe, America, Asia, and beyond.

As the international face of the BDNG, the Liaison Lead plays a pivotal role in shaping collaborative initiatives and participating in landmark events such as the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) and the World Congress of Dermatology (WCD). At these global gatherings, the BDNG contributes through sister society meetings and educational sessions - bringing the expertise, innovation, and clinical excellence of UK and Irish dermatology nurses to an international audience. These sessions foster shared learning on critical topics including psoriasis management, skin of colour, psychodermatology, and more. They also provide a platform to highlight the unique contributions of dermatology nurses in delivering holistic, patient-centred care - particularly across chronic skin conditions that demand multidisciplinary input and long-term management strategies.

The BDNG's commitment to education also extends powerfully into the digital space. Through its dynamic education team, the BDNG offers a wide array of online learning opportunities that support both domestic and international members. These include:

- E-learning modules on key dermatological topics and treatments.
- Live and recorded webinars featuring expert speakers, clinical updates, and case-based learning.
- Certificates of completion to support nurses' professional development.

The digital education makes it easier than ever for nurses around the world to connect with BDNG resources, regardless of geography or time zone. International members benefit from access to high-quality content and the opportunity to engage with a vibrant, experienced network of peers.

At a national level, the BDNG continues to champion the role of dermatology nurses within the broader healthcare system. The BDNG Role Descriptors serve as a vital tool in defining professional competencies, supporting nurses at all levels, whether they are just beginning their dermatology journey or are progressing into advanced roles such as independent prescribing, nurse consulting, research, or academic leadership.

Dermatology nurses contribute significantly to the patient pathway. They provide direct care, education, advocacy, and psychological support across the entire spectrum of dermatological disease. Their presence in clinics ensures timely assessment, continuity of care, and improved patient satisfaction. In specialist areas like phototherapy, biologics, paediatric dermatology, and skin surgery, they are often the key drivers of innovation and quality.

Looking forward, digital transformation and international collaboration are set to redefine the scope of dermatology nursing. Teledermatology, AI-supported diagnostics, and virtual clinics are becoming increasingly prevalent. BDNG nurses are already leading in these areas, developing protocols, educating patients, and mentoring peers through digital channels.

As the profession grows more connected globally, so too does the potential to influence standards of care and education across continents.

The BDNG's leadership in hosting educational events at global congresses, alongside its expanding digital reach, is fostering a new generation of dermatology nurses who are as comfortable contributing to an international panel as they are leading local clinics.



 Katherine Mansfield Events Manager, Susan Maguire CEO, Lynne Skrine Member and International Liaison Lead at the BDNG award ceremony 2025

Looking Ahead

The future of dermatology nursing in the UK and Ireland is one of global leadership, continuous learning, and integrated care. Through the combined efforts of the BDNG, the education team, and the Member and International Liaison Lead, dermatology nurses are not only shaping national practice, they are contributing to a more collaborative, innovative, and equitable global dermatology landscape.

Dermatology nurses or dermatology nurse organisations interested in collaboration, please contact: lynne@bdng.org.uk.



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Chinese Society of Dermatology



Dermatology - A New Era

THEME: The Future of Dermatology: Threats and Opportunities

The field of dermatology stands at a pivotal juncture, shaped by rapid technological advancements and shifting global health priorities. As the President of Chinese Society of Dermatology, I envision a future where dermatology embraces innovation while addressing systemic challenges. Outlined here, are the key threats and opportunities that will define our specialty in the coming decades.

Opportunities

1. Telemedicine and Digital Health

Telemedicine has revolutionised access to dermatologic care, particularly in underserved regions. High-resolution imaging and secure platforms enable remote diagnosis and management of conditions like psoriasis and eczema, reducing wait times and improving equity in healthcare delivery.

2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Precision Diagnostics

AI-powered tools are transforming diagnostics, with algorithms outperforming humans in detecting melanoma and other skin cancers. Future applications include predictive analytics for disease progression and personalised treatment plans based on genomic data.

3. Personalised and Genomic Medicine

Advances in genomics allow dermatologists to tailor therapies to individual genetic profiles, enhancing outcomes for chronic conditions like atopic dermatitis and psoriasis.

4. Sustainability and Eco-Friendly Practices

The integration of sustainable practices, such as reducing waste in clinics and adopting green technologies, aligns dermatology with global environmental goals.

Threats

1. Data Privacy and Ethical Challenges

The rise of AI and E-health platforms raises concerns about patient data ownership, privacy breaches, and algorithmic bias. Robust regulations and transparent AI models are critical to maintaining trust.

2. Workforce Shortages and Training Gaps

Global disparities in dermatologist density, exacerbate access gaps. Expanding telemedicine and AI-assisted diagnostics can mitigate this, but require updated training curricula.

3. Misinformation and Commercialisation

The blurring line between medical dermatology and cosmetic services risks prioritising profit over evidence-based care. Combating skin-related misinformation, especially on social media, is essential.

4. Chronic Disease Burden

Non-communicable skin diseases (e.g., psoriasis, eczema) now surpass infections like leprosy in prevalence. Multidisciplinary approaches are needed to address comorbidities (e.g., cardiovascular links to psoriasis).

A Call to Action | The future demands collaboration:

Policy Advocacy:

Support national skin disease programmes

Education:

Train dermatologists in AI, genomics, and cross-disciplinary care

Innovation:

Invest in ethical AI and sustainable practices

By embracing technology while safeguarding equity and ethics, dermatology can lead a new era of patient-centred, globally accessible care.

Author: Dr Xing-Hua Gao, President, Chinese Society of Dermatology | Professor of Dermatology, The First Hospital of China Medical University

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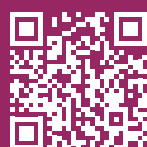
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Colombian Association of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery



Addressing the Gaps in Hair and Scalp Health for Afro-Colombian Communities

THEME: What are the truly unmet needs in dermatology?

Diversity in skin of colour is a global reality. As demographic shifts continue, the proportion of individuals with skin of colour is expected to increase, creating a more uniform distribution across populations. However, dermatologic education, skincare and haircare products, and artificial intelligence (AI) tools in dermatology remain predominantly developed for lighter phototypes. This inequity is especially evident in countries like Colombia, where approximately 9–10% of the population identifies as Afro-Colombian according to the national census, though some estimates place this figure as high as 15–26%. Despite this significant representation, the specific needs of these communities remain underrepresented in dermatologic care, training, and product development.

Dermatology in skin of colour continues to evolve, but major gaps persist, particularly in the area of hair and scalp health. One of the most neglected fields is the care of Afro-textured hair, which is deeply intertwined with identity, history, and social resilience. In Afro-Colombian communities, hair represents more than aesthetics; it is a cultural marker of resistance and pride. Yet, formal education on the structure and care of Afro hair is minimal in medical and cosmetology training, leading to inadequate support and frequent mismanagement.

From a young age, many Afro-Colombian girls begin using braids, extensions, relaxers, and various creams or masks, practices that are both culturally meaningful and, at times, harmful when not balanced with informed care. This can contribute to common but preventable conditions such as traction alopecia, seborrheic dermatitis, and allergic contact dermatitis. In addition, there is often psychological frustration associated with managing a hair type that is rarely represented positively in mainstream beauty standards. These challenges are compounded by Social Determinants Of Health.

Many Afro-Colombian communities are located in socioeconomically deprived areas, particularly along the Pacific coast, where access to specialised medical care is limited. These regions are also affected by high levels of violence, drug trafficking, and inadequate educational infrastructure. This context further deepens the barriers to dermatologic care, including early diagnosis and proper management of hair and scalp disorders. To address these complex and interconnected challenges, our Association is developing a multi-pronged strategy focused on inclusive education, awareness, and community empowerment.

Key initiatives include:

Educational workshops for healthcare providers, hairstylists, and community members focused on scalp health, hair disorders, and best practices for Afro-textured hair care.

Community engagement through social media campaigns, webinars, and podcasts to deliver culturally sensitive and evidence-based information.

Participatory research aimed at understanding local hair care practices, documenting the prevalence of scalp conditions, and measuring the impact of targeted interventions.

Advocacy for inclusive product innovation and AI diagnostic tools trained on diverse phenotypes, to ensure that emerging technologies in dermatology are equitable and representative.



Promoting the 'Heritage & Hair: Embracing Afro-Colombian Hair Health' World Skin Health Day 2025 event

Our central objective is to promote scalp and hair health without interfering with cultural identity. Instead, we aim to celebrate and preserve the beauty, meaning, and diversity of Afro hair while enhancing clinical outcomes. We believe this work must be culturally grounded, respectful, and built on partnerships with the communities we aim to support. Isolated local action is not enough. Broader global collaboration is essential to build equity in dermatologic care. We call on dermatology societies, academic institutions, policymakers, and industry leaders to join forces and promote education, resources, and research in underserved areas of dermatology, especially hair and scalp health in skin of colour. In summary, improving dermatologic care for Afro-Colombian communities requires a holistic approach that integrates science, culture, and public health. As dermatologists, we are responsible for ensuring that the tools, knowledge, and treatments we offer are relevant, respectful, and accessible to all populations. Through shared efforts, we can move toward a more inclusive and impactful global dermatology.

[Click here](#) for more information about AsoColDerma.



Heritage & Hair: Embracing AfroColombian Hair Health World Skin Health Day 2025 event brought together dermatologists, dermatology residents, physicians from the region, and 80 Black women from local AfroColombian communities.



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Dermatology Nurses' Association

Fostering Access to Dermatological Education and Care

THEME: Training and education

The Dermatology Nurses' Association (DNA) is a professional nursing organisation comprised of diverse individuals committed to quality dermatologic care to provide exceptional patient outcomes through sharing knowledge and expertise.

Competencies for dermatology nurses:

The DNA's desired future is to be the hub of a vibrant global network of dermatology care providers. Health care professionals from around the world access DNA's knowledge and expertise in dermatology care through a wide variety of high-quality educational resources. These include a premier journal, international conferences, technology, and shared research.

To meet this desire, the DNA has developed competencies for dermatology nurses and helping nurses to master these competencies through our Strategic Goals. Our nursing competencies must meet criteria provided by the American Nurses Association and is being reviewed and updated in 2025. Some of the competencies are related to:

- Public Awareness and Advocacy by being a resource of knowledge, expertise, and advocacy in dermatology, nurse practice, and healthcare.
- Education by being a leading educator for dermatology nursing worldwide.
- Professionalism by providing certifications and scopes and standards of practice.

Public Awareness and Advocacy:

In order to assist dermatology nurses worldwide in obtaining these competencies, the DNA participates in advocacy efforts.

Our Health Policy and Advocacy Scanning Council scans the environment and acts on relevant issues. We participate with other collaborative organisations to include advocating to our legislators in Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on issues such as access to care for patients and nursing legislation. In order to assist dermatology nurses worldwide in obtaining these competencies, the DNA provides education both at in-person meetings, webinars, and in our online DNA CE Center. This allows nurses from around the world to participate in and have access to current evidence-based practices while obtaining the needed competencies.

The DNA offers workshops to enhance nurses' skills, providing practical training and updated nursing care knowledge. Our Premiere Core Curriculum workshops include Dermatology Nursing Essentials, Phototherapy, Cutaneous Surgery, and Aesthetics. In-person meetings also include demonstrations and hands-on experiences.

Professionalism:

As a leader in the dermatology nursing world, the DNA has comprised competencies in our most current Scopes & Standards document that outlines competencies for dermatology nurses and advanced practice registered nurses. This document provides Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance of Dermatology Nursing.

In addition, the DNA has completed a Medical Assistant competencies document for working in dermatology to be published in 2025. In a partnership with our certification boards, the DNA also assists dermatology nurses to obtain competencies by providing a framework of study to prepare nurses to sit for certification exams. Certification provides an added credential beyond licensure and demonstrates by examination that the Registered nurse or Nurse Practitioner has acquired a core body of specialised knowledge and adheres to specialised nursing standards. It assures consumer protection and confers peer and public recognition to those individuals who prove proficient in their practice.

Resources: More information on the DNA Nurse Competencies, Strategic Goals, and other professional nursing development information and opportunities is [available here](#).



International Foundation for Dermatology

The International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) was created in 1987 by the ILDS to improve skin health in areas of low resource. It supports projects all over the world including Africa, Asia Pacific and South America. The IFD is critical to helping ILDS achieve its goal of **#SkinHealth4theWorld**.



Did you know...?

In 2024 alone, the IFD is distributing US\$500,000 in funding and worked with a global network of partners to support skin health initiatives in low-resource areas worldwide that are available, accessible and effective for all patients, regardless of ethnicity, disability or social background.

Key projects include the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Tanzania and the Community Skin Health journal, as well as Grants Programmes supporting projects across 14 countries, spanning Africa, North America, South America, and Asia.



Together with our Members, Partners and project leaders, we work to deliver projects that have a meaningful impact on the lives of dermatology patients around the world, particularly those in under-served communities.

Dr Claire Fuller, IFD Chair



Find out more:

Scan the QR Code



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Dermatology, Aesthetics, and Surgery International League



The Future of Dermatology in the Age of Artificial Superintelligence: Opportunities and Threats

THEME: The future of dermatology: threats and opportunities

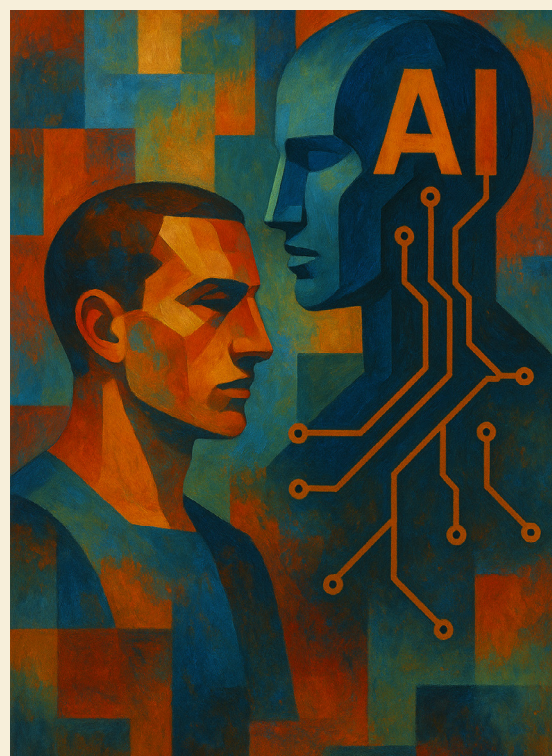
Dermatology, a medical field that relies heavily on visual assessment, is poised for transformation through artificial intelligence (AI).

The arrival of artificial superintelligence (ASI) systems is approaching rapidly, with the potential to outperform human capabilities not only in diagnostic tasks but also in complex treatment decisions. This brief manuscript explores the ethical, technical, and clinical challenges that this breakthrough may present, as well as the unprecedented opportunities it offers to enhance dermatological care worldwide.

Opportunities: Automated Diagnostics and Precision Medicine

The most immediate and practical application of AI in dermatology is the automated analysis of clinical and dermoscopic images. In their review, Young et al. (2020) explain that convolutional neural networks, when trained with large, labelled databases, have achieved diagnostic accuracy levels comparable to, and sometimes even superior to, those of certified dermatologists for both melanocytic and non-melanocytic lesions.

This advancement marks a significant breakthrough in the early detection of skin cancer and clinical triage, especially in areas with limited medical resources. Additionally, AI enhances personalised medicine by integrating extensive amounts of clinical, genetic, histopathological, and patient behavioural data. For instance, in the treatment of conditions such as psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, AI can assist in patient stratification and predict responses to biological therapies through complex pattern analysis (Tang et al., 2025).



Threats: Algorithm Biases and Health Equity

The implementation of AI in dermatology comes with significant risks. One major challenge identified by Young et al. (2020) is the inherent bias present in training databases, which often disproportionately represent individuals with fair skin. This algorithmic bias can result in misdiagnoses or less accurate diagnoses for patients with darker skin tones, perpetuating inequalities in healthcare.

Furthermore, Daneshjou et al. (2022) demonstrated that many commercially available AI systems exhibit decreased diagnostic sensitivity when analysing images of non-white skin. This highlights the urgent need for the development of more diverse and inclusive datasets.

Another concern is the potential dehumanisation of medical practices. Over-reliance on automated diagnosis and clinical decision-making could undermine the doctor-patient relationship, which is crucial not only for effective clinical care but also for the emotional well-being of patients.



Ethical Considerations: The New Regulatory Paradigm

The emergence of artificial superintelligent systems capable of performing complex clinical reasoning autonomously and adaptively is anticipated. This evolution raises significant ethical and legal questions: Who is responsible when an algorithm makes a diagnostic error? How can we ensure transparency in "black box" models? Young et al. (2020) propose the establishment of regulatory frameworks that ensure not only the technical and clinical validation of algorithms but also their ethical auditing, explainability, and accountability. The transition to artificial superintelligence in dermatology will require close collaboration among clinicians, data scientists, bioethicists, and policymakers at both national and global levels.

The Dermatologist of the Future: Adaptability and Technological Leadership

Rather than being replaced, the dermatologist of the future will need to integrate competencies in data science, artificial intelligence, ethics, and the validation of clinical technology. Superintelligent systems will serve as complementary tools to human clinical judgment, not replacements. In this context, dermatology professionals will need to play an active role in the design, validation, and oversight of intelligent systems, ensuring that technology serves the patient rather than the other way around.

Conclusion

The emergence of artificial superintelligence presents a unique opportunity to revolutionise dermatology. This includes advancements in early and accurate diagnosis, as well as personalised treatment predictions. However, this transformation also requires immediate attention to ethical, technical, and social risks. To ensure that everyone benefits equally from this technological advancement, it is crucial to implement strong governance, update medical training, and maintain a strong commitment to health equity.

Author: *Hector Leal Silva, MD, PhD Dermatologic Surgeon, President of the Dermatology, Aesthetics and Surgery International League, 2024-2026.*

Resources: For more information, visit the [DASIL website](#).

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Dermatology, Aesthetics, and Surgery International League



Unmet Needs in Dermatology and the Promise of Living Scar Free

THEME: What are the truly unmet needs in dermatology?

In the evolving field of dermatology, one silent but persistent issue remains under-addressed: scars. Be it from acne, trauma, surgery, or burns, scars leave more than just a mark on the skin, they imprint on self-esteem, identity, and mental well-being.

Despite technological advances, the journey towards effective scar care remains incomplete, highlighting a major unmet need in dermatology. Acne scars can remind someone daily of a painful adolescence. Surgical or traumatic scars may represent a life altering event. And in patients prone to keloids, scars can become a chronic stigmatising issue. Yet scar treatment is not routinely integrated into standard dermatologic care. Many patients are either unaware that safe, effective treatments exist or they have been dismissed with the idea that nothing much can be done.

This gap is what the DASIL Live Scar Free Initiative aims to close.

The DASIL Live Scar Free Foundation

Live Scar Free is a foundation committed to improving the quality of life of people who suffer from disfiguring scars. A large number of people live with scars left from accidents, surgeries, burns, wars, natural disasters, diseases such as acne, and acid attacks.



Across the globe, such scars are a major source of physical, functional, cosmetic and social debilitation for those who live with them. The founding members of the Live Scar Free Foundation believe that, through their expertise, experience, and commitment to a greater cause, they may be able to help scar patients heal physically and psychologically.

The work of the foundation is to educate people with scars regarding the treatment options available to them and to provide these treatments at an affordable cost by connecting them to experienced and motivated dermatologists and plastic surgeons.

The leadership of this foundation also aims to create awareness in the area of scar management through activities on the International Scar Free Day - which falls on the 11th of July every year. The month of July is also proposed as the scar free month to facilitate the organisation of events in different parts of the world.

The real champions of the Live Scar Free Foundation are our patients, who through their own stories, life experiences, and scar treatments can motivate others to seek help for the scars that have limited them.

VISION

The vision of the Live Scar Free Foundation is to provide medical and psychological help to people by liberating them from disfiguring scars that have limited their potential.

Through ongoing advances in surgery and technology, scars are treatable to a large extent and those who suffer from them can hope to break free from a life of stigma and isolation.

MISSION

We endeavour to give hope to the hopeless, and faith to those fighting against all the odds, by creating a community of scar experts in different parts of the world who will be able to treat scar sufferers, and eventually restore their confidence and dignity. Living with the emotional and physical burden of scars should not be inevitable. With evolving treatments and a patient first approach, Live Scar Free envisions a world where no one feels limited by a scar. Because when the skin heals, so should the spirit.

Information provided by DASIL Treasurer and Live Scar Free Founding Member Atula Gupta, MD
skinaidclinic@gmail.com Gurgaon, India. Visit the websites: [DASIL](#) | [Live Scar Free](#)



History has been made

78th World Health Assembly adopt a landmark resolution on **Skin Diseases as a Global Health Priority**

At the 78th World Health Assembly in May 2025, Member States adopted a landmark resolution recognising Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority.

This moment marks a powerful turning point for the 2 billion people worldwide affected by skin conditions.

We are proud to stand with our partners and the global community in this transformative step towards equity, access, and recognition for skin health.



This marks a historic milestone for people affected by skin diseases and for all those working toward the goal of Skin Health for All...

...This resolution is not only timely – it is transformative.

It gives long-overdue visibility and voice to people suffering from various skin diseases, which, if left untreated, can result in disability, stigma and discrimination.

Dr Ibrahima Socé FALL
Director, Global NTD Programme
May 2025



Get involved

Now we are calling on member states, regulators, NGOs, donors and other stakeholders to **work together** to implement the resolution and transform access to skin health services globally. ILDS Members play a **crucial role** and are needed to advocate for increased awareness, research, and resources to effectively address skin health issues in their regions. Their expertise and collaboration with global health organisations can **drive policy changes**, improve access to dermatological care, and support educational initiatives.

Find out more

European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology



Together for Better Skin Health: EADV's 2025 Advocacy Highlights

THEME: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

At the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), advocacy is a vital extension of our mission to improve dermatological and venereal health in Europe and beyond. Through meaningful dialogue with policymakers and collaboration with partners like ILDS, we are building a political and policy environment that truly prioritises skin health.

In 2025, our advocacy efforts have focused on three core areas: the prevention of skin diseases, stronger regulation of sunbeds, and the advancement of women's health. Skin conditions continue to be among the most common health problems worldwide, affecting millions and contributing significantly to the global burden of disease. We are working to ensure these issues rise on the European and global health agenda.



EADV Board of the Representatives, Prague, May, 2025

Engaging European policymakers on skin health and sunbeds

Since January, EADV has met with more than ten key Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from the Health, Environment, Women's Rights, and Consumer Protection Committees. These conversations have been crucial to highlight dermatology's role in public health—and the urgent need for EU action. Our focus on stricter sunbed regulation has been central to these exchanges. Drawing on strong scientific evidence, including research supported by EADV over recent years, we emphasised the harmful effects of sunbed use on skin health and the significant public health costs of preventable skin cancers.

A key milestone this year was our collaboration with the Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Health Committee. Together, we urged the European Commission to include a clear recommendation against sunbed use in the upcoming 5th edition of the European Code Against Cancer and to resume work on the Recommendation to limit UV radiation (UVR) exposure from sunbeds across Member States.

To amplify our message, we organised a high-level event at the European Parliament in May. Bringing together four MEPs and over 50 stakeholders from the cancer and dermatology communities, the event elevated the science behind our advocacy and demonstrated the broad, cross-sectoral support for stronger EU action on UVR exposure.

Our advocacy does not end with events or meetings. We are committed to sustained, strategic engagement with EU institutions to follow up on these commitments and translate them into policy change.

From global to local

Crucially, our work is in line with international momentum.. The recent adoption of the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution recognising skin diseases as a global health priority marks a historic turning point. It validates what dermatologists have long known: **skin health is a serious public health issue.**

At EADV, we are committed to translating this global milestone into regional action. We see the WHA resolution as a unique opportunity to push for ambitious dermatology policies at the EU level. Together with ILDS and partners across the dermatology community, we aim to ensure that the resolution's provisions are reflected in regional and national strategies.



 'Beyond the Glow' Event at European Parliament, Brussels, May, 2025



 EADV and Organisational Stakeholders outside the European Parliament at the 'Beyond the Glow' Event, Brussels, May, 2025

Advancing women's health in dermato-venereology

EADV is also placing a spotlight on women's health, a field where dermatological conditions often intersect with systemic health, quality of life, and social equity. From autoimmune diseases that disproportionately affect women to access issues in underrepresented groups, we are calling for gender-sensitive health policies that address these disparities. To this end, we have been working with an MEP from the European Parliament's Women's Rights Committee to submit a project proposal aimed at raising awareness of the impact of sexually transmitted infections among women and girls. While the project is still under assessment by the European Commission, we will continue working with committed stakeholders to improve health for every woman and girl in Europe and beyond.

Together for better

Looking ahead, our message is clear: skin health must be seen as a policy priority. Through prevention, smarter regulation, and inclusive care, we can significantly improve outcomes for patients, not only in Europe, but around the world. The path forward is one of partnership.

EADV is proud to work alongside ILDS and the broader global dermatology community to turn our shared vision into action.

Let's stand together for better.

European Society for Lasers and Energy-Based Devices



Illuminating the Future: Advancing Laser and Energy-Based Medicine with ESLD

THEME: Training and education

The European Society for Lasers and Energy-Based Devices (ESLD) is a leading professional organisation dedicated to advancing the field of laser and energy-based medical procedures. Founded to foster excellence in clinical practice and education, ESLD serves as a dynamic platform for dermatologists and medical professionals across Europe and beyond.

Mission and Core Objectives

ESLD's mission is to promote the safe and effective use of lasers and energy-based devices in dermatology and aesthetic medicine. The society aims to achieve this by:

- Providing high-quality education through hands-on teaching courses and virtual learning sessions.
- Facilitating scientific exchange and collaboration among professionals in the field.
- Summarising important scientific advances through videos and a bibliography.
- Establishing and disseminating best practice standards by regular online expert panels.
- Supporting the dissemination of research and innovation in laser and energy-based technologies by organising laser sessions at major conferences.

Educational Initiatives and Achievements

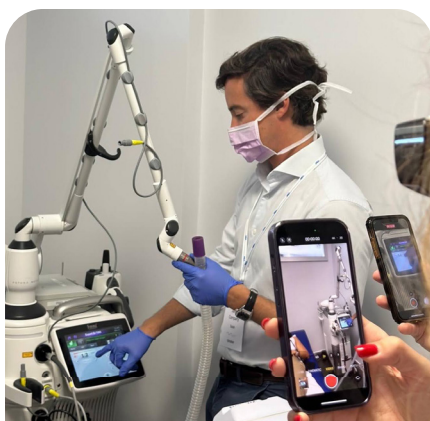
ESLD Teaching Courses

One of ESLD's flagship educational offerings is its hands-on Laser and Energy-Based Device (EBD) teaching courses. These courses are held twice a year, hosted in a European Capital or Big City University with European CME accreditation: Vilnius, Madrid, Amsterdam, Brussels, Sofia, Florence, etc. They cover a comprehensive range of topics such as selective and fractional photothermolysis, traditional ablative lasers, microneedling and radiofrequency, laser safety, vascular treatments, laser hair removal, and rejuvenation techniques.

The courses are designed to provide participants with practical skills and knowledge to enhance their clinical practice. The 12th edition of the course took place in Madrid, Spain in September 2024, and the 13th edition in February 2025 in Sofia, Bulgaria.



 Prof. Ashraf Badawi, ESLD President



 Hands-on training during the ESLD teaching course

ESLD Thursdays

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ESLD initiated the "ESLD Thursdays" virtual sessions to continue its educational mission. These sessions are held every 4 to 6 weeks on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00PM CET and feature expert panels discussing relevant topics in laser dermatology and energy-based devices.

The sessions are interactive, allowing participants to engage directly with experts. Recent topics have included laser-assisted drug delivery, complications in laser dermatology, rejuvenation techniques, and controlled cryotherapy.

Global Engagement and Conference Participation

ESLD actively participates in major international conferences, providing members with opportunities to engage with global leaders in the field. At the 2025 Aesthetic and Anti-Aging Medicine World Congress (AMWC) in Monaco, ESLD organised a session titled "Challenging Situations in Cosmetic Dermatology and Laser Practice," featuring prominent speakers discussing complex clinical scenarios.

Additionally, ESLD collaborates with the International Master Course on Aging Science (IMCAS) to organise specialised sessions. For instance, at the 26th IMCAS World Congress in Paris in January 2025, ESLD hosted a session on "Practical Pearls, Pitfalls & Updates in Lasers and EBDs," offering attendees insights into the latest advancements and best practices in the field.

ESLD also participate in the EADV Congress, 5 Continents Congress, AIME Congress, MEIDAM Congress, and other important conferences around the world.

Membership and Community

ESLD offers membership to dermatologists and medical professionals interested in laser and energy based treatments. Members gain access to a wealth of resources, including educational materials, recorded sessions from ESLD Thursdays, and exclusive content from conferences. The society fosters a collaborative community, encouraging knowledge sharing and professional development among its members.



Watch to find out more about ESLD and the benefits of ESLD membership: bit.ly/44P5r1p



Group photo at the end of the ESLD Teaching Course in Sofia, February 2025

[Click here](#) to find out more about ESLD.

European Women Dermatological and Venereological Society

Female Under-representation in Dermatological Research

THEME:

Traditional Clinical Trials

Historically, dermatological clinical trials have included fewer women or have failed to stratify outcomes by sex. In studies on psoriasis, alopecia, or skin cancer, aggregated data have obscured clinically relevant sex-based differences^(1,2).

Male-Centric Medical Evidence

Many clinical guidelines and therapeutic decisions are based predominantly on studies conducted in middle-aged white men. This overlooks critical factors such as hormonal influences, menstrual cycles, pregnancy, menopause, and sex-based pharmacokinetic differences⁽³⁻⁷⁾.

Recent changes (last decade)

Influence of Gender-Based Medicine

Precision medicine and gender-sensitive approaches have led to a renewed emphasis on sex as a key biological variable⁽⁸⁾.

Areas with Growing Focus on Female Populations

- Adult female acne⁽⁹⁾
- Melasma⁽¹⁰⁾
- Cutaneous autoimmune diseases (e.g., cutaneous lupus erythematosus)⁽¹¹⁾
- Dermatological conditions during pregnancy^(12,13)
- Hidradenitis suppurativa^(14,15)
- Female psychodermatology⁽⁹⁻¹³⁾
- Dermatoses associated with gender-based violence⁽¹⁴⁾
- Substance use disorders^(15,16)

Underrepresentation of women in highly cited scientific publications

Regarding authorship in scientific journals, women are underrepresented. This underrepresentation remains consistent in highly competitive articles that receive the highest citation rates, namely, those with numerous authors and those published in high-impact journals. Multi-author papers with male key authors are only slightly more frequently cited than those with female key authors⁽¹⁷⁻¹⁹⁾.

Representation of women dermatologists in leadership positions

Despite the increasing feminisation of the dermatology workforce globally, women remain underrepresented in high-level leadership and decision-making roles. Although more women are entering dermatology and excelling in clinical, academic, and research domains, they are still less likely to occupy top-tier positions such as department chairs, deans, presidents of dermatological societies, or editors-in-chief of leading journals^(20,21).



Joint meeting of the European Women Dermatological and Venereological Society (EWDVS) and the Egyptian Women's Dermatologic Society (EWDS).

The fight to defend the interests of women dermatologists

Dr María M. Durán played an active role in various international dermatological organisations. At the international level, Dr Durán held prominent leadership positions within the International Society of Dermatology (ISD), serving as Secretary-General from 1989 to 1999 and as Executive Vice President from 1999 until her passing in 2000. She was also an active member of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) International Affairs Committee, and the Board of the Foundation for International Dermatologic Education⁽²³⁾. These affiliations underscore her commitment to global collaboration and the advancement of dermatology worldwide⁽²²⁾.

In recognition of her legacy, the ISD established the María M. Durán Committee and Award, which includes the María M. Durán Medal, awarded to outstanding female dermatologists, and the María M. Durán Fellowship, aimed at supporting young female dermatologists, particularly from developing countries, in their training and participation in international dermatological congresses⁽²⁴⁾.

Recipients of the María M. Durán Medal

- **Dr Preya Kullavanijaya (Thailand)** – The first woman from Southeast Asia to receive the María Durán Medal, awarded in 2010. She has held prominent positions as Director of the Institute of Dermatology and President of the Thai Dermatological Society, significantly influencing dermatologic education and practice in the region⁽²⁵⁾.
- **Prof. Jasna Lipozeni (Croatia)** – She received the medal in 2011 for her contributions to dermatology, particularly in allergology, atopic dermatitis, and blistering diseases. She was the first woman to chair the Department of Dermatology in Croatia and was the founding editor of the journal *Acta Dermatologica Croatica*⁽²⁶⁾.
- **Prof Ncoza Dlova (South Africa)** – Awarded the María Durán Medal in 2020. Renowned for her research on central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia (CCCA), a leading cause of hair loss in women of African descent. She has also been instrumental in raising awareness about the dangers of skin lightening products and combating the stigmatisation of individuals with albinism⁽²⁷⁾.
- **Dr Rashmi Sarkar (India)** – Received the Medal in 2023. A professor of dermatology at the University of Delhi, she has served as President of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL). Dr Sarkar is a prolific author of dermatology textbooks and peer-reviewed publications, and a frequent speaker at international congresses⁽²⁸⁾.
- **Dr Carmen Rodríguez-Cerdeira (Spain)** – Awarded the María Durán Medal in 2025. She currently presides over the European Women Dermatological and Venereological Society (EWDVS). She has made significant contributions across various fields of dermatology, while consistently advocating for the recognition and advancement of women dermatologists. She has actively collaborated with other scientific societies of women dermatologists, most notably with the Egyptian society, with which she shares a strong professional affinity.

In addition to her academic and clinical work, she is involved with several NGOs focused on women's rights, including FARAXA, an organisation committed to freeing women from the grip of prostitution-related criminal networks. She has recently published a book on cutaneous dermatoses in women, further cementing her role as a leading figure in the field⁽²⁹⁾.



Dr Rodríguez-Cerdeira received the official diploma of the Durán Medal from the ISD President and the Chair of the award jury.

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ILDS



GLODERM

GLODERM is an initiative
by the International League
of Dermatological Societies

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Discover the benefits of GLODERM membership!

The International Alliance for Global Health Dermatology (GLODERM)'s mission is to connect dermatologists (and trainees) whose primary interests are focused on the advancement of skin health in resource-limited communities, locally and globally, through sustainable and integrated approaches to clinical care, education, research, policy, and advocacy.

Your participation as a GLODERM Member will help achieve our mission of Skin Health for Everyone, Everywhere.

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German Society of Dermatology



Translating the WHA Resolution on Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority in a Member State's National Health Policy

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

The German Society of Dermatology (DDG) is the scientific society of German-speaking dermatologists. The aims of the DDG are to promote scientific, clinical, and practical dermatology, venereology, and allergology, along with their related specialties. These include andrology, phlebology and lymphology, proctology, pruritus medicine, dermato-oncology, dermatological infectiology, occupational and environmental dermatology, dermatopathology, digital dermatology, as well as prevention and rehabilitation, all of which are covered by dermatologists in Germany.



The 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) where the resolution on "Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority" was adopted declaring skin diseases as a global public health priority

On 24 May 2025, the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted the Resolution on Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority. This resolution is an important further milestone in drawing global attention to the enormous impairment that people suffer because of skin diseases.



Now is the time for politicians to develop concepts to implement these binding WHO guidelines in this country.

DDG President, Prof Mark Berneburg

Politicians, ministries, health authorities, dermatological associations and patient organisations now urgently need to work together on the WHO agenda. This includes the further reduction of suffering and stigmatisation of people with skin diseases, better access to guideline-based care, an improvement in the care of people with severe skin diseases and a stronger patient focus. By such a joint effort we can turn the WHA resolution into a groundbreaking accomplishment for patients suffering from dermatoses.

Credit goes to ILDS, which, together with GlobalSkin, was a driving force in the process that led to the resolution. The major task is now not to lose momentum and translate what is intended with the resolution in the member states. Therefore, DDG, together with the national dermatological patient organisations and other societies, will address Germany's Minister of Health to call for strengthened national efforts to prevent, detect, treat, and manage skin diseases. Fortunately, there is a precedence for these intended way leading activities.



In response to the 2014 WHA Psoriasis Resolution, as the result of a similar combined national effort, the German Ministry of Health granted a large research and dissemination project on stigmatisation of patients with visible skin diseases (German ECHT study). It's the aim to continue to make improved care and translational research for dermatological patients a political issue, owing to the WHA resolution. Furthermore, again under the umbrella of the current resolution, with itch being a frequent and a cardinal torment for skin patients causing a tremendous quantity of DALYs (disability-adjusted life years) globally, DDG supports ILDS to harmonise international nomenclature on the spectrum of pruritic diseases at the occasion of the [13th World Congress on Itch](#).

Chronic pruritus-dominated skin diseases lack awareness, proper terminology and ICD codes with the consequence that database analyses do not reflect their real prevalence. Globally, treatment options in most chronic pruritus-dominated skin diseases are largely missing. Preventive and therapeutic intervention development is hampered by absent knowledge on clinics and defined clinical roadmaps.

The ILDS initiative on Pruritus & Prurigo Terminology and ICD codes aims to change this situation and to set standards towards an improved care and termination of suffering of millions of affected patients. Once an international consensus has been established, DDG will support ILDS' efforts to implement the achieved progress into guidelines and the ICD. In 2025, ILDS has been confirmed as a Non-Governmental-Organisation (NGO) in special relation with WHO until 2027.

Regarding ILDS' WHO workplan for this next triennium a major deliverable is "occupational health". In this context, in 2025, DDG and BVDD, the organisations representing the interests of primarily practicing dermatologists, again are funding and coordinating the annual national Week of Occupational Dermatoses (WOOD), a high impact public awareness campaign; slogan: **"Your skin. The most important 2m of your life"**.



WHO claims that globally every 3rd death by Non-melanoma Skin Cancer (NMSC) is due to occupational sun exposure. Therefore, DDG is participating with ILDS and other institutions in a "Global Call to Action to Protect Outdoor Workers from Skin Cancer by Solar Ultraviolet Radiation Exposure", which was formally declared at the occasion of the 4th Multistakeholder Summit on Occupational Skin Cancer under the umbrella of ILDS, EADV and EADO.

Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists



The Future of Dermatology in India and Globally

THEME: The future of dermatology: threats and opportunities

Introduction

Namaste from IADVL. Dermatology in India is undergoing a transformative phase, driven by advancements in research, technology, and patient care. Continued progress in the field relies on fostering innovation, enhancing education and training, and ensuring equitable access to dermatological services. The Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL), one of the world's largest dermatological societies with over 18,000 members, is at the forefront of this evolution.

Advancing Dermatological Training and Education

India's dermatological landscape is rapidly evolving, shaped by rising public awareness, urbanisation, and growing demand for skin health services. National conferences such as DERMACON, MIDDERMACON, and PEDDERMACON serve as pivotal platforms for knowledge sharing, research dissemination, and policy dialogue. IADVL fosters academic excellence through research, travel, and dissertation grants. Advanced certificate and observer programs in subspecialties - paediatric dermatology, trichology, aesthetic dermatology, dermatosurgery, and dermatopathology - ensure that dermatologists are equipped to address diverse healthcare needs.



IADVL EADV EC Leadership meeting at DERMACON Feb 2025, Jaipur, India

Addressing Unmet Needs in Rural and Marginalised Communities

Despite significant progress, dermatological care gaps persist in rural and underserved regions due to a shortage of specialists, limited awareness, and economic constraints. The proliferation of unqualified practitioners further hinders access to safe and effective treatment. IADVL addresses these disparities through impactful community outreach initiatives, including presidential projects targeting old age homes, orphanages, and underprivileged communities. Programmes such as "Chalo Pathshala" (Let's Go to Schools) and "Mission Prison" address the dermatological needs of children and incarcerated individuals, respectively. IADVL is also leading efforts to combat quackery across India by raising public awareness, sensitising its members, and engaging the media.

Implementing Evidence-Based Dermatological Practices

Evidence-based medicine is central to delivering safe, effective, and high-quality dermatological care. IADVL champions this approach through its academy and its activities through special interest groups (SIGs), and journals - Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology, Indian Dermatology Online Journal, and Indian Journal of Postgraduate Dermatology. The E-Library project and clinical guidelines curated by expert panels help bridge research and clinical practice, enhancing patient care across the country.

Expanding Global Influence through Volunteerism

Indian dermatology is increasingly gaining global recognition. A landmark achievement in 2024 - mobilising over 9,000 dermatologists to pledge ethical medical practice, earning a Guinness World Record - underscores IADVL's leadership on the world stage. Participation in international forums such as the World Congress of Dermatology (WCD), American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), and the Asian Society of Dermatology strengthens international collaboration.

Public engagement initiatives, such as a vitiligo-awareness postal stamp and an art calendar featuring member-created works, further reflect IADVL's commitment to community awareness and destigmatisation.

Fostering Innovation and Local Manufacturing

India's dermatological future hinges on innovation, collaboration, and self-reliance. Promoting local manufacturing of dermatological devices and biologics reduces dependence on imports and enhances treatment accessibility. Strategic partnerships among healthcare providers, academic institutions, and policymakers bolster IADVL's vision: "Healthy Skin, Healthy Body, Healthy World - Skin Health for the World."



During SARCD (South East Regional Conference of Dermatology) on 2nd May 2025, we raised awareness on the importance of Skin Health for the World by faculty with representation from 8 countries



Skin Health for the World Program with sister societies between 6th to 11th March 2025

We took a significant step in promoting the Skin Health for the World initiative, engaging with several sister societies, including Emirates Dermatology Association (EDA), MIEDAM, and the Chinese Dermatology Association (CDA). We urged each member to reach out to at least 10 others, spreading the crucial message of healthy skin, a healthy body, and a healthy world.

Conclusion

Indian dermatology stands on the brink of a new era. With visionary leadership, inclusive community outreach, robust global engagement, and dedication to evidence-based practices, the discipline is poised to redefine skin healthcare, both nationally and globally. By addressing rural healthcare disparities, nurturing innovation, and expanding educational opportunities, Indian dermatology can shape a future that is inclusive, technologically advanced, and globally influential. India is ready to showcase its expertise and excellence by hosting the World Congress of Dermatology (WCD) in the future.

Authors: Dr Rajeev Sharma LM/UP&UK/2251 President IADVL 2025 | Dr Bhumesh Kumar Katakam LM/TS/3891 Honorary Secretary General IADVL 2024-25

International Eczema Council



Advancing Eczema Care Globally

THEME: Training and education

The International Eczema Council (IEC) is dedicated to our mission to “improve patient care by promoting research, education, and best practices in treatment for atopic dermatitis in people worldwide.” Through various year-round activities, the IEC educates healthcare professionals around the world, regardless of their ability to travel or pay for education. Our work ensures that the latest advances in eczema care are accessible to all.

By convening a community of leaders in atopic dermatitis research, treatment, and prevention, the IEC provides a forum for sharing knowledge in accessible and inclusive ways. Freely available healthcare education is crucial to:

- Ensure all professionals, regardless of their location or financial resources, have access to the latest knowledge and best practices to deliver the best possible care to their patients.
- Promote continuous learning and professional development in a rapidly evolving field.
- Foster a global sense community among the clinicians and researchers working at the forefront of atopic dermatitis. This sense of community creates a network for knowledge sharing and advancements across roles and borders.

In-Person Symposia

One of the key complimentary educational offerings from the IEC is in-person symposia. These events are open to healthcare professionals with an interest in atopic dermatitis and are hosted in conjunction with major world conferences. In 2024, the IEC presented six new symposia and continues to do so this year. These live events:

- Typically are free to attend
- Last between 2-4 hours
- Feature presentations from a global faculty of experts.

The diversity of the faculty - including clinicians, such as dermatologists and allergists, and researchers - ensures that each symposium engages learners and offers a variety of viewpoints. Attending these events in person provides valuable opportunities for networking with attendees from around the world.



IEC Councillor and Board Member Carsten Flohr, MA MSc PhD FRCP FRCPC, presents during the IEC's symposium in conjunction with the World Congress of Pediatric Dermatology (WCPD) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

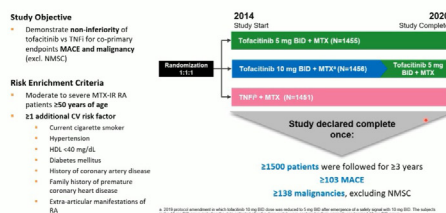
On-Demand Education

For those unable to travel to in-person events, the IEC records symposia so that professionals in the atopic dermatitis space can learn the latest breakthroughs for free, on their schedule, and at their own speed. As of 30 May 2025, the IEC offers 139 videos with more than 12,000 views on its YouTube Learning Center. This extensive content ensures education is accessible and inclusive.

Though attending live events is beneficial, our on-demand education enables healthcare professionals to access the latest research and clinical practices at their convenience. The IEC's YouTube Learning Center is particularly valuable for professionals in developing and underrepresented countries, helping to improve patient care globally.

The experience from clinical trials

ORAL Surveillance: Randomized, Open-label, Event-Driven Study in Risk Enriched RA Patients



IEC's YouTube Learning Center, IEC President Alan Irvine discusses clinical trials of JAK inhibitors, a presentation recorded at the IEC symposium at the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Congress 2024 in Valencia, Spain.

Council & Industry Meetings

The IEC also holds Councillor, Associate, and Industry meetings periodically throughout the year in conjunction with in-person conferences. Exclusively for members of the Council and industry partners, these events facilitate new connections.

Attendees receive exclusive IEC updates and research previews. In this intimate format, physicians and researchers connect over shared interests and work together to develop new projects for educating their global counterparts.



IEC Councillor Joseph Merola, MD MMSc FAAD FACR, presents updates on the IEC consensus initiative to define new treatment goals for patients with atopic dermatitis to IEC members and industry partners. The presentation was held during an IEC member and industry partner meeting ahead of the IEC symposium that was part of the American Academy of Dermatology's Global Education Day in Orlando, FL, USA.

Journal Articles

Some of the discussions from these IEC meetings are the seeds we transform into published journal articles. To date, the IEC has published 23 articles in major journals.

Together, IEC members identify gaps in the literature and then collaborate to address these gaps with new articles, providing educational content to teach clinicians and researchers worldwide.

Learn from the IEC

Take advantage of the full range of free learning opportunities by following the Council on social media:



[Click here](#) to visit the IEC website.

International Peeling Society



Advancing Standards and Education in Chemical Peeling

THEME: Training and education

The International Peeling Society (IPS) is dedicated to the maintenance of the highest possible standards of medical education and research in the field of chemical peeling in aesthetic medicine and surgery.

The members of the IPS are committed to promoting the highest possible standards of clinical practice, education and research in the field of chemical peels, promoting the highest standards of patient care and promoting public interest in chemical peels.

The IPS provides an expert forum for the development of relationships between chemical peel professionals worldwide and to promote the exchange of ideas and research relevant to chemical peels. The IPS regularly participates in major conferences with a world-renowned faculty and offers free webinars four times a year.

About the IPS

The IPS was founded in 2012 by a group of international physicians in Germany and has grown into a family with a global reputation and members in 70 countries around the world.

The society also develops new procedures and peelings in aesthetic medicine and surgery and is concerned with the scientific advancement and combined application of various procedures. The knowledge gained is to be published and made available to both physicians and interested laypersons. A further aim of the society is to inform physicians, patients and the public about quality standards, risks and new developments in the field of peeling applications.

The IPS promotes the training of medical professionals (dermatologists/plastic surgeons) in the use of chemical peels in workshops, meetings at international congresses and our successful webinar series.

IPS hot topics and goals:

- Peeling in dark skin types
- Safely performing deep chemical peels
- Peeling combined with laser, microneedling and abrasion techniques
- Peeling to remove wrinkles, hyperpigmentation, actinic damage and scarring
- The A-Z of superficial peeling for pigmentary disorder
- Standardisation of croton oil formulas for treating wrinkles and scars
- New peels and new indications
- Advancing guidelines of care for safe and effective use of peels
- Maintaining and promoting quality training and education in peeling methodology and techniques
- Supporting basic and clinical research in the field
- Moving the discussion of peels forward to increase awareness and recognition of its value among professionals and patients





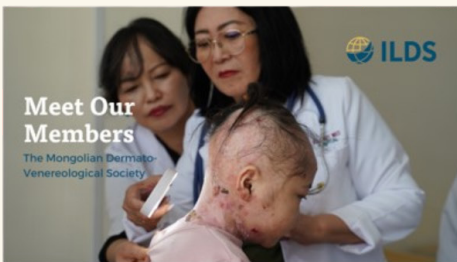
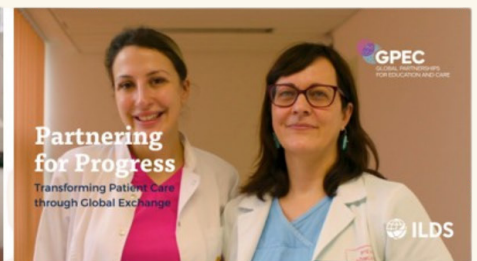
ILDS in Motion:

A Visual Journey of Global Skin Health

The ILDS in Motion continues to capture, celebrate and showcase the exceptional achievements of ILDS Members, projects and programmes through professional documentary-style video and photography. By doing so, we aim to promote knowledge sharing and inspire a sense of pride and community among our members.

Be inspired...

Capturing the passion and dedication of ILDS Members, projects and programmes from around the world, watch our growing library of compelling films that showcase the invaluable contributions of the ILDS community to the field of dermatology.



View all ILDS in Motion films on YouTube

bit.ly/4pZreqB



We want to hear from you!

If you are an ILDS Member with a current initiative that you would like to see as part of the ILDS in Motion project, and would like the ILDS to consider it, please get in touch!*

**Subject to funding and suitability - please be aware we may not be able to accommodate every request.*



Email us:

info@ilds.org

International Psoriasis Council



Visual Differences in Psoriasis on Diverse Skin Types: An IPC Education Initiative

THEME: Training and education

The International Psoriasis Council (IPC) recognises that psoriasis and its visual presentation differ dramatically across skin types. Yet most dermatology training materials remain anchored in lighter skin examples. This gap may drive delayed or misdiagnoses, may underestimate disease severity, and result in treatment inequities for patients with medium to dark skin types—an unmet need at the heart of clinical education.

Unmet Need: Recognising Psoriasis Beyond Pink and White

Traditional dermatology references describe psoriasis plaques as sharply demarcated, red or pink, with silvery scale. In darker skin types, however:

- **Erythema shifts hue.** In medium to dark skin, inflammation often appears grey or purple, rather than bright pink. Practitioners risk mistaking active plaques for post-inflammatory changes or entirely different conditions without seeing those subtler colour shifts.
- **Pigmentation changes persist.** After active lesions clear, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (dark spots) and hypopigmentation (lighter spots) can remain for months or years. Recognising these sequelae is essential to avoid unnecessary retreatment and to counsel patients on expected healing.
- **Scaling appears thicker.** Scale on darker skin can look heavy or more textured, sometimes mistaken for lichenification or chronic frictional changes. Early recognition prevents delayed therapy that leads to thicker plaques. Without a comprehensive, visual reference, these real-world presentations remain hidden from many clinicians' mental libraries, and patient care suffers as a result.

The IPC Solution: Diverse Skin Types Image Gallery

To fill this gap, the IPC launched its [Diverse Skin Types Image Gallery](#), a free online clinical education tool built around a global survey of practicing dermatologists and curated by IPC experts.

Contributors from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America provided high-resolution photographs illustrating a broad spectrum of psoriasis presentations across skin types.



Five core categories guide users through the gallery:

1. **Plaque Colour Variations:**

- a. Look beyond "bright red": Plaques may appear muted pink, slate grey, or deep purple in darker skin types.
- b. Clinical importance: Identifying the true edge of an active plaque affects both severity scoring and treatment boundaries.

2. **Post Inflammatory Pigmentation:**

- a. Observe areas of hyperpigmentation (brown to black spots) and hypopigmentation (white to light brown patches) that linger after clearance.
- b. Clinical importance: Distinguishing healed lesions from active disease avoids overtreatment and helps set patient expectations.

3. **Scaling Characteristics:**

- a. Note uneven, thick scales that can cover lesions or detach in large flakes.
- b. Clinical importance: A heavier scale may signal delayed recognition, prompting a review of diagnostic protocols.

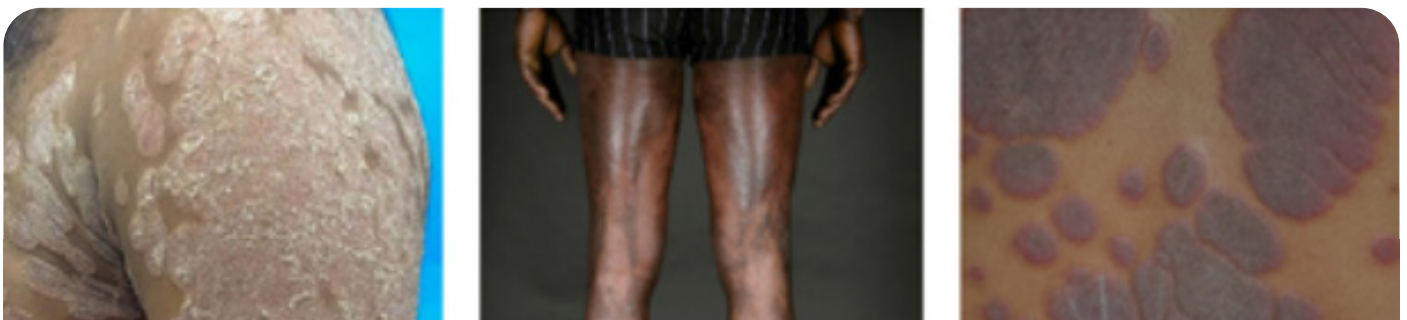
4. **High-impact Sites:**

- a. See how psoriasis affects the scalp, genitals, nails, palms, and soles, areas prone to functional impairment and psychological distress.
- b. Clinical importance: Targeted assessment of these sites guides both topical and systemic treatment decisions.

5. **Phenotypic Diversity:**

- a. Explore less common variants such as guttate, erythrodermic, palmoplantar, and pustular presentations across darker skin types.
- b. Clinical importance: Rare phenotypes carry higher morbidity and require prompt, accurate identification.

By showcasing real-world, and sometimes neglected presentations, the gallery gives learners the visual literacy they need to accurately assess psoriasis severity and body surface involvement across all skin types.



A further selection of the types of images included in the Diverse Skin Types Image Gallery

Embedding Equity into Dermatology Training

The IPC's Diverse Skin Types Image Gallery includes three built-in learning supports to make clinical integration seamless:

- **Filterable Image Sets:** Users can choose to filter by characteristic (plaque colour, pigmentation, scaling, high-impact sites, and phenotypes) to compare how presentations differ across skin types.
- **Downloadable Full-Resolution Images:** Clinicians may save individual images, complete with contributor details and clinical context, for use in lectures, case discussions, or personal reference, following IPC's terms of use.
- **Submit Your Own Photos:** A simple "Submit Photos" form invites practitioners worldwide to contribute de-identified clinical images, ensuring the gallery grows and remains globally representative.

Join the IPC in Advancing Equitable Psoriasis Care

Help us close the diagnostic gap. Visit the [Diverse Skin Types Image Gallery](#) today to explore case images, access training resources, and share feedback.

By engaging with this IPC initiative, you'll gain the visual expertise to recognise psoriasis in all skin types and contribute to a more equitable future in dermatology that prioritises accurate diagnosis and equitable access to treatment.

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International Society of Atopic Dermatitis

Misinformation in Atopic Dermatitis: A Call to Action

THEME: Training and education

In recent years, the International Society of Atopic Dermatitis (ISAD) has faced a growing challenge: the spread of misinformation about atopic dermatitis (AD), especially on social media. With around 300 million people affected with AD globally, misleading advice and unverified claims can have serious consequences. One especially confusing topic is “topical steroid withdrawal” (TSW), which is frequently misrepresented online and often misunderstood by patients⁽¹⁾. To address this, ISAD created a task force in 2024, bringing together young dermatologists who are active on social media. Their mission: to counter misinformation with clear, science-based information and to support patients in making informed decisions about their care⁽²⁾.

1. Clarifying What TSW Really Is

A major issue is the confusion between TSW and typical flare-ups of AD. Many patients stop using their prescribed topical steroids out of fear, based on online stories that misidentify normal symptoms as withdrawal. ISAD aims to provide a clear, medically reviewed definition of TSW—covering symptoms, duration, and which treatments are involved. This will be shared in patient-friendly formats like infographics, explainer videos, and written guides, helping to clarify the difference between a flare-up and a true case of withdrawal.

2. Meeting Patients on Social Media

Since much of the misinformation begins on platforms like TikTok and Instagram, ISAD is launching official accounts to post short, accurate, and engaging videos that debunk myths and explain treatments. These will be created and reviewed by experts in the field. Partnering with trusted influencers—especially those with lived experience of AD—can help amplify these messages. Where possible, such content will include disclaimers noting that it has been reviewed by medical professionals and encourage viewers to consult their doctors.

3. Curbing Self-Diagnosis

Many people attempt to self-diagnose TSW based on anecdotal content. To counter this, ISAD plans to create a simple online symptom checker to help users better understand their condition and prompt them to seek professional care when needed. The task force is also developing a campaign to explain the risks of self-diagnosing skin conditions and highlight the importance of getting a proper evaluation from a trained specialist.

4. Identifying and Correcting False Content

If time permits, ISAD’s social media team will monitor platforms for misleading posts and videos related to AD and TSW. When misinformation is found, experts will respond with clear, evidence-based explanations and direct users to reputable sources. Collaborating with organisations like the Eczema Foundation will also help promote accurate content more widely. These expert-backed materials can then be shared across networks to help improve public understanding.

5. A Trusted Hub for Patients and Professionals

ISAD is developing a dedicated section on its current site that brings together accurate, up-to-date information on AD and TSW. This will include FAQs, patient guides, treatment options, and myth-busting resources, all presented in clear language. The goal is to restore confidence and provide a reliable alternative to unverified information so often found online.

Looking Ahead

Combating misinformation is an ongoing effort that calls for clear communication, collaboration, and active engagement of doctors and medical societies. By meeting patients where they are and speaking with clarity and compassion, ISAD hopes to steer the conversation back to evidence-based care and foster trust between patients and professionals.

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International Society of Dermatology



Collaborative Initiatives to Promote Education and World Skin Health Day

THEME: Training and education

One of the unique features of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD), founded some 70 years ago, is the focus on hosting our meetings in locations that typically see few experts from leading centres in North America and Europe.

Usually, dermatologists from economically disadvantaged countries have to travel to expensive countries to participate in the latest education, at least until the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to many meetings enabling online attendance. However, the latter also costs money and does not allow for asking questions and presenting live patients.

Besides the quadrennial International Congresses of Dermatology (ICD), the XIVth edition of which took place in Rome as ICD2025 in June 2025, the ISD hosts biennial Continental Congresses of Dermatology (CCD). These are selected by a bidding process.

In addition, the ISD provides grants to approximately five 'regional' congresses per year, usually run by one or two ISD members who are leading dermatologists in these countries. There is a regional meeting committee which selects these. One or two ISD members or board members usually attend these meetings to lecture, as special guests.

In 2024, ISD held regional meetings in Tunisia (hosting the 4th African Society of Dermatovenereology Society), Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Hungary, Romania, and China. It also held its CCD in Wroclaw, Poland and several Sister Society meetings including at the American Academy of Dermatology, European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, and two successful events held in the United Arab Emirates: the Emirates Dermatology Society's Annual Conference and the 9th International Congress of Medical Excellence in Dermatology & Aesthetic Medicine (MEIDAM). In most cases, the individuals holding the positions at the time - Dr Nellie Konnikov (President), Dr Hassan Galadari (Secretary-General), and/or Dr Martin Kassir (Treasurer-General) - attended.

ISD grants support scholarships for local dermatologists to attend these events and also obtain ISD membership. It is also a requirement that ISD Regional Meetings hold events to support [World Skin Health Day](#), a collaboration between the ILDS and the ISD.

Uzbekistan's annual World Skin Health Day (WSHD) was held in October 2024 during the ISD Regional Meeting in Uzbekistan by postgraduate students, with the support of the ILDS, the ISD, members of the Association of Dermatovenereologists of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and volunteers. Over 250 people with skin problems were examined and consulted during the event, advised on preventing dermatoses associated with sun exposure, and given free samples of sunscreen.

Author: Professor Dedee Murrell, Chair, Global Outreach Task Force, ISD.



ISD Regional Meeting Tunisia 2024: Representatives of the ISD at the regional meeting in Tunis, Tunisia, 2024 with Leaders of the African Society of Dermatovenereology at their 4th Congress. L to R, Dr Mohamed Denguezli, Prof Dedee Murrell, Dr Mohammad Jafferany, Dr Moez Ben Salem.



ISD Regional Meeting Uzbekistan 2024: ISD President, Dr Nellie Konnikov and ISD Treasurer, Dr Martin Kassir with ISD Members from Kazakhstan at the ISD Regional Meeting in Uzbekistan.

International Society of Dermatology



Bridging Access and Training: Community Dermatology as a Catalyst for Skin Health and Medical Education in The Gambia

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

Introduction

Access to dermatologic care remains a critical public health challenge in many low-resource countries. In The Gambia, where an indigenous dermatologist has yet to be trained, this gap is acutely felt. To address both the dermatological needs of the underserved and the educational needs of future healthcare professionals, a collaborative outreach initiative was conducted by the Solo Skin Clinic at Edward Francis Small University Teaching Hospital (EFSTH) in 2024 and 2025, in partnership with the School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (SMAHS), University of The Gambia.

Supported by school administrators and local leaders, the initiative was led by Dr Nkechi Anne Enechukwu, a visiting Nigerian dermatologist who has taught dermatology to medical students in The Gambia for four years, alongside EFSTH staff, medical students, and alumni.

Community Outreach for Skin Health

In 2024, skin health outreach events were conducted at St. Theresa's Lower Basic School, Kanifing and Latrikunda Annex Lower Basic School, Latrikunda. In 2025, outreach clinics were held at the Arabic School in Brusubi Tranquil, the Campama Schools in Banjul, and the Latrikunda German Community. Each site was strategically chosen based on prior data indicating high prevalence of communicable skin conditions, particularly among children. Tinea capitis and scabies emerged as the leading dermatologic issues, accounting for 44.7% and 37.1% of diagnoses, respectively.

Over 290 individuals received free dermatological screening and treatment. Key interventions included on-site consultations, administration of ivermectin and antifungal medications, and the distribution of personal hygiene items like combs. Educational sessions emphasised disease prevention and hygiene practices, fostering sustainable health behaviour change.

Training Future Doctors Through Community Dermatology

This initiative went beyond clinical service - it also functioned as a high-impact teaching platform. Medical students from SMAHS were fully integrated into the outreach activity, engaging through patient evaluations, administering treatment, and delivering health talks. The hands-on exposure allowed students to appreciate dermatologic diversity in skin of colour and provided practical skills not often emphasised in classroom settings.

This aligns with ILDS's focus on capacity building through community dermatology, which emphasises "training future doctors to improve skin health" and "developing sustainable, locally embedded solutions" ⁽¹⁾. By embedding students in real-world dermatology practice, the project directly contributed to building local expertise and fostering interest in skin health as a medical specialty.



Dr Nkechi Enechukwu demonstrating dermoscopy on a Gambian school child while providing hands-on instruction to medical students in The Gambia



Dr Nkechi Enechukwu and her team engaging with Gambian school children during a community health outreach event, offering skin assessments and health education while mentoring local medical students.

Key Findings and Epidemiological Insights

The average age of attendees was 12.6 years, with nearly half being ≤ 10 years old. Scabies was significantly more prevalent among boys ($p < 0.01$), while acne was more common in girls ($p = 0.01$). Tinea capitis showed a strong association with age ≤ 10 years ($p < 0.01$), reinforcing the role of school-based interventions in controlling transmission. These findings corroborate previous studies suggesting that skin infections are among the top causes of paediatric outpatient visits in sub-Saharan Africa⁽²⁾. The data collected serves as a baseline for future dermatologic research in The Gambia, contributing to national health policy planning.

Challenges and Systemic Barriers

The outreach activity revealed systemic gaps: inadequate hygiene infrastructure in schools, limited public knowledge on skin diseases, and a shortage of healthcare personnel with dermatological training. The absence of a Gambian dermatologist remains a major obstacle to the continuity of care and research development. Moreover, managing skin conditions in individuals with darker skin tones requires specific training—yet most international dermatology curricula fail to address this adequately. This reinforces the need for community dermatology not just as a service, but as a training and advocacy tool that ensures inclusivity and equity in skin health.



Students of Campama Lower Basic School, Banjul, during a skin health outreach led by Dr Nkechi Enechukwu and the EFSTH skin clinic team, who provided education in local languages and conducted dermatological screenings to promote skin health awareness.

Conclusion

The Gambia skin health outreach model demonstrates how strategic partnerships and community-centred approaches can simultaneously improve access to care and strengthen medical education. By merging service delivery with student training, the initiative addressed two of the most pressing dermatological challenges in resource-limited settings: the care gap and the workforce gap. This effort exemplifies the core values of the ILDS Members' Initiative Directory—building local capacity, supporting community dermatology, and advocating for equitable skin care globally. It offers a replicable model for other low-resource countries seeking to embed dermatologic education within public health frameworks.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the EFSTH Skin Clinic team, Prof. Gabriel Ogun (Acting Provost, SMAHS), community leaders, school administrators, the participating medical students and alumni, and the International Society of Dermatology for their support and encouragement.

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ILDS Member Directory

Facilitating Worldwide Connections for ILDS Members

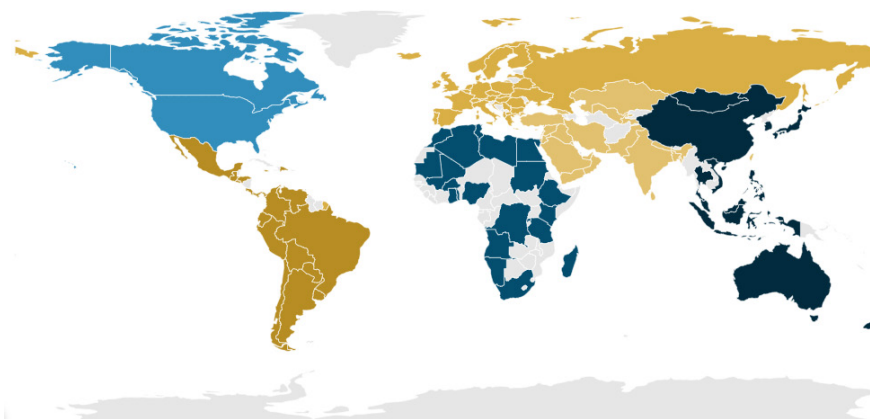
The ILDS comprises of **230** Member organisations* from **109** countries around the world.

Together with our Members, we are increasing awareness, cooperation and communication within the global dermatology community, promoting high quality education, clinical care, research and innovation that will improve skin health around the world.

Connecting Members, Empowering Communities

The ILDS Member Directory is an invaluable resource designed to foster connections and collaboration among ILDS Members across the six ILDS regions of the world.

Whether you're seeking to learn from experts, share innovative ideas, or network with peers, the ILDS Member Directory offers a user-friendly interface to connect with dermatological professionals who share your interests and goals.



Searchable by name or country, this comprehensive directory serves as a platform where ILDS Member organisations effortlessly find each other, facilitating meaningful interactions that span regions and transcend geographical boundaries.

**Correct as at 6 October 2025*



Connect with ILDS Members

View the ILDS Member Directory:

[Scan](#)
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Kenya Association of Dermatologists



Albinism: An Opportunity to Educate the Masses and Undertake Skin Cancer Screening

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

Background

In Kenya, 9,279 people were identified as living with albinism in the 2019 census⁽¹⁾. Albinism is an autosomal recessive genetic condition that results in absence or reduced production of melanin in the skin⁽²⁾. Melanin plays an important role in protecting skin cells from ultraviolet ray damage.

As a result, this condition increases the risk of sun damage to the skin, along with the risk of skin cancer.

Kenya's climate and proximity to the equator makes it crucial to practice sun safety measures especially for those whose natural sun protection mechanisms may be impaired.

Mission statement

The Kenya Association of Dermatologists is running an initiative to make a difference in this population through patient education and free skin examinations and cancer screenings.

The aims of this initiative is:

- To help reduce stigma against people living with albinism through educating the community
- To educate people living with albinism on sun safety habits
- To detect sun damage and skin cancer early through regular screening
- To help those who have skin cancer get early and appropriate treatment
- To educate the community on how to support those who live with albinism
- Distribute sunscreens and protective clothing to people living with albinism

Methods

We plan to achieve our aims in this initiative in the following ways:

- Holding camps during which we can directly address the community. We plan to hold a camp in June 2025 during the National Albinism Day celebrations.
- Producing brochures and pamphlets as well as the use of social media to sensitise the general population on albinism awareness, and issues related to skin and eyes protection.
- To work with schools and partner with the National Council of People Living with Disability Kenya in order to reach the affected persons.
- To partner with the pharmaceutical industry to provide sunscreen and after sun cream to skin camp attendees.
- To partner with hospitals with dermatologists in order to enhance access for those who need treatment using biopsy, cryotherapy and excision.

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International Albinism Awareness Day

Korean Dermatological Association



Korean Dermatological Association: Celebrating 80 Years of Leadership and Looking Ahead

THEME: The future of dermatology as a discipline

Leading Dermatology in Korea and Beyond

Founded in 1945, the Korean Dermatological Association (KDA) is the official organisation representing over 3,000 board-certified dermatologists across Korea.

With a steadfast commitment to advancing dermatologic science, education, and public health, the KDA plays a pivotal role both nationally and internationally. Under the leadership of President Hoon Kang, the 29th Executive Board is working actively across multiple sectors to further the association's growth and to support the professional development and interests of its members (Fig 1).



Fig 1. The 29th Executive Board of the KDA.

2025 Highlights

- **Commemorating 80 Years of Excellence:** In 2025, the KDA celebrates its 80th anniversary - a significant milestone that reflects eight decades of progress in dermatologic science, clinical excellence, and international collaboration.
- **77th KDA International Autumn Meeting:** To mark this historic occasion, the [77th KDA International Autumn Meeting](#) will be held from 18-19 October 2025, at the Westin Seoul Parnas (Fig 2). This special congress will bring together renowned scholars and dermatology experts from around the world to cover a wide range of topics. Presidents of the ILDS, WCD 2027, AAD, EADV, JDA, and other leading societies will attend to extend their congratulations and deliver lectures, offering a vibrant platform for academic exchange and international collaboration.



Fig 2. 77th KDA International Meeting



Fig 3. KOREADERMA2025

- **KOREADERMA 2025:** Following this milestone event, the Association of Korean Dermatologists (AKD) will host [KOREADERMA 2025](#) from 31 October to 2 November 2025, at COEX Magok, Seoul (Fig 3). Now in its sixth year, KOREADERMA has established itself as one of Asia's premier conferences in aesthetic dermatology, featuring in-depth sessions on K-beauty innovations, cutting-edge dermatologic technologies, evidence-based clinical practice, and extensive opportunities for international collaboration.

- KDA Honorees:** The ILDS Certificate of Appreciation Awards are presented annually to individuals nominated by ILDS member societies for their outstanding contributions to global dermatology - whether through international collaboration, education, research, or humanitarian service. The KDA is proud that many of its members have been honoured with this prestigious recognition, reflecting KDA's active role in promoting dermatologic advancement and public health on the global stage.
 The KDA Awardees: Young Pio Kim (2004), Joon Young Song (2005), Yoo Shin Lee (2006), Won Houh (2007), Baik Kee Cho (2012), Jae Il Yoon (2013), Hyung Ok Kim (2014), Jang Kyu Park (2015), Chul Heon Lee (2015), Si-Yong Kim (2019), Kwang-Hoon Lee (2023), Ai Young Lee (2023), You Chan Kim (2025).
 - Academic Network and Structure:** The KDA maintains a robust academic infrastructure through its 11 regional branches and 15 affiliated subspecialty societies, each contributing significantly to the advancement of dermatologic science in Korea.
 The affiliated societies represent diverse specialised fields of psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, hair research, dermatologic surgery, contact dermatitis/allergy, photomedicine, acne/rosacea, vitiligo/pigment, dermatopathology, skin cancer, laser, immunology, cosmetics, infection and nail diseases. These societies regularly organise independent symposia while actively engaging in clinical research, continuing education, and the development of evidence-based treatment guidelines.
 Meanwhile, the regional branches conduct local scientific meetings and community outreach programmes. Together, these bodies form a comprehensive academic network that promotes clinical excellence, fosters knowledge exchange, and enhances dermatologic care throughout the country.
 - Public Health Advocacy - 23rd Skin Health Day Campaign:** Since 2003, the KDA has spearheaded the annual Skin Health Day campaign to promote public awareness about skin disease prevention and to emphasise the essential role of board-certified dermatologists in maintaining population health. The 23rd campaign, conducted in 2025 under the inspiring slogan "Healthy Skin, Happy Life - with Dermatologists", focuses on raising awareness of chronic and serious skin diseases such as psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, vitiligo, alopecia, autoimmune blistering diseases, and skin cancers—conditions that profoundly impact patients' quality of life and health.
 To amplify this important message, a national press conference will be held on 11 September 2025, at The Westin Josun Hotel, Seoul, where leading dermatologists will deliver expert presentations addressing public misconceptions and reaffirming dermatology's central role in healthcare. Through strategic media engagement, comprehensive digital campaigns, and community-centred outreach, the KDA continues to serve as a trusted public health advocate and authoritative source of reliable information for patients and the general public.
 - Education, Innovation, and Digital Outreach:** To support continuing medical education and professional advancement, the KDA operates the [Online Education & Training Center](#). This comprehensive e-learning platform offers expert-led lectures, CME-accredited modules, and procedural training videos.
 In parallel, the KDA connects with the public through its [YouTube Channel](#), which delivers accessible, evidence-based videos on skin health and diseases. These initiatives reflect the KDA's commitment to innovation, digital accessibility, and its evolving role as both a scientific authority and public educator in the digital age.
- The KDA welcomes ILDS Members and international colleagues to be part of this transformative journey - shaping the future of dermatology through shared expertise, mutual respect, and a common mission to advance global skin health.

Libyan Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics



Advancing Dermatological Education and Practice Across Libya

THEME: Training and education

The Libyan Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics has undertaken various activities in several Libyan cities, including scientific days, forums, and workshops, to contribute to the development of doctors in dermatology and aesthetics while keeping pace with scientific advancements and learning about new techniques for diagnosing and treating skin diseases.

23-24 January 2025	At the Zayed Derma Conference 2025 in Cairo, Egypt, our society chaired three sessions and delivered four lectures on various dermatological topics.
14-17 April 2025	At Dubai Derma 2025 in the United Arab Emirates, we chaired four sessions and presented two talks titled "Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria Guidelines: What's New?" and "Heterogeneity of Atopic Dermatitis."
24-26 April 2025	At the 2nd Tripoli Dermatology Forum in West Libya, focusing on "Acne and Lasers," we presented multiple lectures and led hands-on workshops covering laser therapies, Botox injections, and the use of dermal fillers
7-8 May 2025	At the 14th International Congress of the Jordanian Society of Dermatologists and Venereology in Amman, Jordan, our society served as chairperson for two sessions and delivered two lectures.
August 2024	During two Scientific Days in Benghazi and Derna, East Libya, we conducted 12 lectures on the clinical diagnosis and management of dermatophytosis, leprosy, and vitiligo; the principles and uses of lasers in dermatology (including Excimer laser for vitiligo and rosacea); and the use of systemic steroids and retinoids in the treatment of skin diseases.
16-18 October 2024	At the 34th Conference of the Algerian Society of Dermatology in Algiers, Algeria, we contributed three lectures on pediatric psoriasis, extra-cutaneous manifestations of inflammatory bowel diseases, and a comparison of pregnancy dermatoses in primigravida versus multigravida.
20 October 2024	For Skin Cancer Day at the Misurata National Cancer Institute in Central Libya, we delivered 12 lectures covering tumours of skin appendages, the role of imaging in skin cancer management, histopathology of common skin cancers, dermoscopy of non-melanocytic tumours, melanoma risk factors and classification, new cancer therapies and adverse events, basal- and squamous-cell carcinoma, oncoviruses in skin cancer, and scar and keloid management.
23-25 October 2024	At the 31st Sharm Derma conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (in collaboration with PALD), we presented on JAK inhibitors in alopecia areata, the future of artificial intelligence in dermatology, heterogeneity of atopic dermatitis, paediatric leprosy, and low-dose pulsed oral isotretinoin for acne.
1-2 December 2024	At the Sebha Derma Forum in South Libya, we presented on a wide range of topics, including alopecia areata in children, painful and malignant skin tumours, injectable fillers and skin rejuvenation techniques, wound management, laser principles, white patches and vitiligo (including punch mini-grafting), porokeratosis and the sparing phenomenon, and a simplified approach to acne management.



Scientific Activities of the Libyan Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics in Tripoli, Libya.

During these meetings, a range of topics were discussed including:

- urticaria
- the evolving treatment landscape in psoriasis
- rosacea treatment and classification updates
- challenging cases in dermatology
- early onset of acne and endocrinopathy
- atypical presentation of acne and acneiform eruptions
- histopathology of pilosebaceous units
- infantile hemangioma
- Nagashima disease following bariatric surgery
- treatment guidelines for leishmaniasis
- scar management
- dermal fillers in acne scars
- subcision in acne scars
- lasers from physics to clinic
- fractional CO2 lasers with exosomes
- laser hair removal
- treatment of vascular lasers with lasers.

Libyan speakers who participated in these activities: Prof Gamal Duweb, Prof Mohamed Benghazil, Prof Ibrahim Almukahal, Prof Omran Bugrein, Prof Ramadan Buhajar, Dr Mesbah Kashlout, Dr Mohamed Alhashmi, Dr Abdeladeem Dabbus, Dr Bashir Al-Zendah, Dr Yahya Rahoma, Dr Tarik Enaairi, Dr Jamal Almesrati, Dr Abdelkareem Safour, Dr Kafia Alhafi, Dr Khairia Amontaser, Dr Fauzia Musbah, Dr Mustafa Manaa, Dr Abdulrahman Alsherif, Dr Abubakar Dalla, Dr Hala Triki, Dr Nada Alhashmy, and Dr Rida Elmntse.

International speakers: Prof Ibrahim Galadari (Emirates), Prof Assem Farag (Egypt), Prof Mohamed Banhawly (Egypt), Prof Khalid Sidik (Sudan), Prof Riad Mashal (Palestine), Prof Ashraf Hamza (Egypt), Prof Shady Mahmoud (Egypt), Prof Heba El-Sayed (Egypt), Dr Fatma Alkomi (Egypt), and Dr Marwa Eldeeb (Egypt).



Participation of the Libyan Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics in the Dubai Derma 2025 Conference, UAE.



One of the Libyan Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics' activities in Sebha, southern Libya

Malagasy Society of Dermatology



“Neglected” Dermatological Patients in Madagascar: A Step-by-Step Care Approach Throughout the Country

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

Madagascar suffers from a severe shortage of dermatologists with only about 15 senior dermatologists across the country. The Malagasy Society of Dermatology (Société Malgache de Dermatologie), not only strives to disseminate best practices based on recommendations adapted to the country's context, but also to improve continuing medical education among physicians and residents.

Over the past years, we have also put a stress on the management of ‘neglected’ diseases – regarding lack of national policies – as well as reaching remote areas without a dermatologist. In the period of late 2024 until June 2025, we focused on two points:

- Mass medical consultations in Amoron’Imania region (central southern part of the island) for diagnosis and management of skin Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), inflammatory skin diseases, followed by free continuing medical education for local physicians
- Celebrating locally World Lupus Day in the University Hospital of Antananarivo, capital city, and bringing together patients and their families and other involved medical/paramedics specialties, in order to share life experiences, reinforce therapeutic education. We also set up a patients’ association.

Our XXth International Congress of Dermatology, held on 1-2 July 2025 in Antananarivo, promoted World Skin Health Day, serving as a landmark event advancing dermatological education and innovation.

Mass medical consultations in Amoron’Imania region

Despite its high population density of 830,000 inhabitants, this mainly rural region has no permanent dermatologist yet. The region is a highly endemic sporothricosis area, as part of the central highlands, with 0.21 cases per 100,000 inhabitants prevalence reported during 2013-2017. We aimed to recruit as many cases as possible so that patients could be treated properly and local physicians could rule out many differential diagnosis with the help of trained dermatologists. This was made possible thanks to collaboration between public and private local healthcare facilities, and above all community workers who convinced patients from remote areas to join in. We managed to see 300 patients within two days. Half of patients seen presented with cutaneous infectious diseases, including cutaneous tuberculosis mimicking sporothricosis and a few cases of lymphocutaneous sporothricosis. The remaining cases were mostly cutaneous inflammatory diseases. We assume that a one-off medical mission will not resolve the huge shortage of dermatologists but we believe that the need should be addressed step by step. This medical mission was one of a kind in this area and contributed to giving hope to patients from rural isolated areas who often felt forgotten. We plan to carry on those medical missions for the next coming years throughout the country in order to sensitise health policy makers and the government on the huge burden of skin NTDs and to some extent promote skin health for all.



A 6-year-old meeting with a dermatologist for the first time during mass consultation in Amoron’Imania in November 2024

World Lupus Day 2025, University Hospital of Antananarivo

We celebrated World Lupus Day with about a hundred lupus patients at the University Hospital of Antananarivo. Family members were invited, as well as other involved caregivers. The floor was given to some patients willing to share life experiences with this invisible yet invalidating disease. Presentations on therapeutic education were the main focus, reinforcing the importance of photoprotection in Madagascar. The cost and difficulty of accessing immunomodulatory treatment and photoprotection were also discussed, as representatives of the Public Health Ministry were open to discussion. It was decided that formalising a patients' association could help advocate for the sustainability of the treatment and its improved accessibility. We believe that gathering patients, caregivers and health policy makers will positively impact soon on the improvement of 'care pathways' for lupus patients, though they might be a minority at the moment.



World Lupus Day, University Hospital of Antananarivo, May 2025



Founding President Prof. Rapelanoro Rabenja, SOMADER leading board members and officials for the opening ceremony

XXth International Congress of Dermatology

Under the theme “**Dermatology in the Tropics in the Age of AI**”, the aim of this congress was to bridge the gap between traditional dermatologic approaches and AI-driven advancements. A particular focus was placed on NTDs with skin manifestations, including:

- Chromoblastomycosis, sporotrichosis, mycetoma, scabies, leprosy, and cutaneous filariasis, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.
- Collaborative efforts with the International Society of Atopic Dermatitis (ISAD), African Society of Dermatology and Venerology, and World Health Organisation (WHO) to explore the inclusion of atopic dermatitis as a formally recognised skin NTD.

The new feature of this 2025 edition was **advocacy for people with albinism**, to actively address social stigma and health challenges, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where misconceptions and occult beliefs place affected individuals at risk, especially in some areas/ethnicities in Madagascar.

Through partnerships with global health organisations including international (ILDS, WHO, ISAD, Global Dermatology, European Union of Medical Specialists - European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education) and regional colleagues (Indian Ocean Dermatology and Venereology Society), SOMADER is working to provide medical support to ensure dermatologic care, sun protection, and community education programs against discrimination for better inclusivity.

AI and Dermatology Innovation: SOMADER is integrating AI-powered tools into diagnostics and treatment accessibility. Key objectives include training dermatologists in AI applications to improve early disease detection, and expanding dermatologic telemedicine platforms to reach underserved populations.



Resources

- [SOMADER website](#)
- [Global Dermatology](#), hosting SOMADER events.
- Photos from SOMADER field missions and congress, with patients' and parents' consent.

Mexican Academy of Dermatology



Integrating Digital Tools in Dermatological Education: A Path to Innovative and Inclusive Learning

THEME: Training and education

Among the challenges facing higher education worldwide, including our specialty, is the integration of digital tools using solid pedagogical and didactic principles as part of our daily educational lives.

To this end, it is essential to have the support of institutions for both faculty and students to access the necessary resources. Currently, there is a need for flexibility in educational spaces, whether face-to-face, hybrid, or blended, to make teaching dynamic and stimulate a thirst for dermatological knowledge, showcasing all the nuances of our specialty in institutional, private, and community practice.

Strategies, products, models, and digital materials need to be developed to favour distance education and provide support programmes for students in adverse socioeconomic conditions to increase educational coverage in our specialty. Additionally, the continuous and ongoing training of our faculty is crucial to improve and update their teaching skills in various educational modalities, enabling them to work with new generations that demand more interactive, collaborative, and personalised methods, moving away from traditional teaching methods.

The goal is to keep students eager for knowledge and surprise them with different ways of learning dermatology, covering all fields of our specialty and its connection with other specialties. This can be achieved through current methods based on project-based learning, problem-solving, games, and competitions.

Our students should have a meaningful learning experience that connects with their interests, know how to work in teams, and be adequately prepared for the future with the technological foundations mentioned earlier. The pillars of current teaching consist of fostering active participation, creativity, curiosity, and wonder to motivate interest and discovery in each student, generating critical thinking and problem-solving skills. We must teach them to evaluate online information adequately, help them develop the ability to overcome challenges, and learn from mistakes.

Another crucial point is to promote the writing of high-quality dermatological articles in languages other than English, as well as providing open and free access to articles that enrich our knowledge with quality information. It is also essential for our institutions to have projects that strengthen education in general, with the necessary human, material and technological resources, as well as the strategic alliances to support and boost our teaching groups. As professors, we must create a safe, inclusive, motivating, and close learning environment where our students feel comfortable learning and growing.

Finally, we must not neglect the continuous medical education of our primary care physicians, family doctors, and doctors from other specialties for the timely diagnosis, management, or referral of patients with dermatological diseases.



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Middle East International Dermatology & Aesthetic Medicine (MEIDAM) Association



MEIDAM Africa: Pioneering Excellence in Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

Introduction

The 1st African Congress of Medical Excellence in Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine (MEIDAM Africa), held under the auspices of the Kingdom of Morocco's Ministry of Health and Social Protection, marked the association's first-ever conference on the African continent.

Hosted at the Four Seasons Hotel – Kasr Al Bahr in Rabat on 2-3 May 2025, the two-day event brought together 16 national dermatology societies. The conference set the stage for deeper regional collaboration and a stronger collective voice internationally, focusing on expanding access to dermatologic care and advancing the fields of dermatology and aesthetic medicine across Africa.

Key Themes and Objectives

The MEIDAM Africa Conference, in collaboration with the Société Marocaine de Dermatologie (SMD), brought together dermatology professionals from across the continent and beyond to address the region's most pressing dermatologic and aesthetic challenges.

The conference focused on six key objectives:

- recognising Africa's unique dermatological needs
- introducing advanced aesthetic techniques
- promoting teledermatology for underserved areas
- encouraging cross-border collaboration
- driving innovation
- closing the equity gap in access to care.

With millions across Africa still facing limited access to dermatologic health services - due to financial barriers, infrastructure gaps, and a shortage of trained specialists - MEIDAM Africa served as a strategic starting point to push forward an agenda of collaboration, education, and innovation across the region.

The scientific program saw representation from 23 countries, including Morocco, Senegal, Egypt, Kenya, Tunisia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, UAE, KSA, Canada, and the United States, among others. A total of 54 faculty members participated, with the congress receiving 436 abstract submissions. From these, 72 posters and 52 oral presentations were selected for in-person delivery.

A standout moment was the hands-on workshop led by Dr Cyndi Yag Howard, former Vice President of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), on "Innovative Suturing Techniques for Optimal Surgical Outcomes." The session quickly became a highlight, with overwhelming attendance and calls for extended learning formats in future editions.



Dr Khaled Al Nuaimi, President of MEIDAM Association, giving a tour of the exhibition floor to the chief guests following the opening ceremony of the inaugural MEIDAM Africa Congress, held on 2-3 May 2025 in Rabat, Morocco.



A full house during one of MEIDAM Africa's dedicated scientific sessions, where live demonstrations and expert-led education empowered practitioners with the latest techniques in clinical and aesthetic dermatology

Scientific Collaborations and Partnerships

MEIDAM Association also signed a Memorandum of Agreement for Scientific Collaboration with seven African dermatology societies. These collaborations will ensure a diverse approach in addressing the challenges in global and national skin health through joint exchange programmes and fostering a multidisciplinary approach to dermatologic healthcare.



 Dr Mohamed Denguezli, Tunisia (STDV); Dr Emmanuel Kuotou, Cameroon (SODAF & SOCADERM); Dr Fathi ElKaseh, Libya (LSDCL); Dr Asmahane Soussi, Tunisia (ASDV); Dr Fatimata Ly, Senegal (SOSEDEV); Dr Fatma Mernissi, Morocco (SMD); Dr May ElSamahy, Egypt (EWDS); Dr Evanson Kamuri, Kenya (KAD); Dr Dasetima D. Altraide, Nigeria (NAD); Dr Khaled AlNuaimi, UAE (MEIDAM); Prof. Amal Said, Morocco (SMD); Dr Shimelis Nigussie Doni, Ethiopia (EDVS); Dr Husain Juma, Bahrain (MEIDAM & BDA)

MEIDAM Africa successfully received the support of collaboration from a network of esteemed dermatology societies and organisations, including:

1. President, La Société de Dermatologie d'Afrique Francophone & President Société Camerounaise de Dermatologie – Cameroon
2. President, La Société Béninoise de Dermatologie-Vénéréologie – Benin
3. General Secretary, African Society of Dermatology and Venereology - Africa-wide
4. President, Société Sénégalaise de Dermatologie et Vénéréologie – Senegal
5. President, Kenyan Dermatology Society – Kenya
6. President, Ethiopian Dermatology and Venereology Society – Ethiopia
7. President, Nigerian Association of Dermatology – Nigeria
8. President, Libyan Dermatology and Cosmetology Laser Society - Libya
9. President, Tunisian Society of Dermatology and Venereology – Tunisia
10. President, Egyptian Women's Dermatologic Society – Egypt

The Future of Dermatologic Healthcare in Africa

MEIDAM Africa is the beginning of a focused effort to reshape the future of dermatologic healthcare across the continent. Led by regional experts and institutions, and held under the auspices of the Kingdom of Morocco's Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the conference carried significant weight and credibility. This high-level support reflects the importance of the mission at hand. The event set in motion initiatives to influence policy, strengthen dermatology training programmes, and foster academic and scientific exchange.

By prioritising access to care, advancing professional education, and embracing innovation, MEIDAM Africa positions itself as a catalyst for lasting progress. As Africa moves forward in adopting modern dermatologic solutions, this platform stands as a symbol of regional collaboration, clinical excellence, and a shared commitment to improving skin health for all.

Moroccan Society of Dermatology



Bridging the Gap: Our Mission to Transform Access to Skin Care and Education

THEME: Training and education

The Moroccan Society of Dermatology (SMD) was established in 1978. It brings together all dermatologists working across the various healthcare sectors in Morocco: public hospitals, private practices, academic institutions, and the military health service.

Morocco currently has approximately 643 practicing dermatologists serving a population of over 36.5 million people—a ratio that highlights a significant shortage in dermatologic care. This mirrors a broader challenge across the national health system, which faces a general shortage of medical professionals.

To address this issue, the Moroccan government has, over the past decade, invested in expanding medical education, by opening additional public and private medical schools and university hospital centres. As a result, the number of dermatology residents in training has significantly increased. Currently, 254 residents are undergoing dermatology training in Morocco, which spans four years.

The Moroccan Society of Dermatology plays an active role in supporting and enhancing this training. Through its 19 specialised working groups, the SMD contributes to the education of residents by organising regular seminars, thematic workshops, and continuing medical education sessions, especially during its annual national congress. These events are key opportunities for young dermatologists to access high-quality, updated knowledge and clinical experience in the field.

The Society also promotes regional and international collaboration. In addition to training Moroccan residents, Morocco welcomes and trains dermatology residents from various countries, including Mauritania, Tunisia, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, and Jordan—strengthening South-South cooperation and capacity building in dermatology across the Global South.



Board meeting of the Moroccan Society of Dermatology



Collaboration between the Moroccan Society of Dermatology, MEIDAM, and African dermatology societies during the MEIDAM Africa Congress in May 2025 in Rabat

In October 2025, the Moroccan Society of Dermatology will host its 38th Annual National Congress in Rabat. The congress serves as a major scientific and educational event in the region, offering a platform for sharing innovations, clinical experience, and research findings in dermatology.

Through its efforts, the Moroccan Society of Dermatology is committed to:

- strengthening the dermatology workforce
- improving access to quality skin care across the country
- fostering training and education as pillars for advancing dermatologic health
- encouraging international collaboration to support underserved regions.

The Society will continue to advocate for dermatology as a priority within national and international health agendas, and for ensuring equitable access to dermatologic care in Morocco and beyond.



International Foundation
for Dermatology

Our Training Centres

Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) | Moshi, Tanzania

The Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshi, Tanzania, is a leading institution for dermatological education and healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa.

The RDTC was founded in 1990 as a joint enterprise between the ILDS and the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) to meet the region's dermatological needs. The centre excels in training dermatologists to address prevalent skin health issues.

The ILDS supports the RDTC through strategic partnerships and resource sharing, and helps advance education, research, and clinical care, preparing a new generation of dermatologists to enhance skin health in their communities.

To date, the RDTC has trained more than 290 graduates from 17 African countries in its Advanced Diploma in Dermato-Venerology (ADDV).



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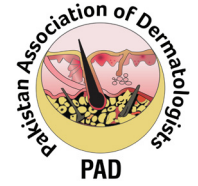
Pacific Dermatology Training Centre (PDTC) | Suva, Fiji

In 2025, the ILDS committed US\$1 million to advance dermatology training for the Pacific Island Nations. It has awarded the funds to Pacific Dermatology Limited, which supports the PDTC at Tamavua Twomey Hospital in Suva, Fiji.

The new funding is set to transform dermatology care across the Pacific Island Nations, including Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, and beyond. By enhancing training facilities and resources, the initiative aims to expand access to care and elevate the standard of treatment for individuals living with skin diseases throughout the region.

The ILDS funding will support the expansion of both the Diploma and Master's programmes, enabling PDTC to continue to train healthcare professionals and extend its reach within the region. The grant will be paid in instalments over the next four years.

Pakistan Association of Dermatologists



Reach to Unreach

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

Pakistan Association of Dermatologists (PAD) is the sole representative body for dermatologists in Pakistan, with around 1000 members. In a country with a population of 250 million, only one dermatologist is available for 250,000 people. As a third world country with limited resources and poor access to health care providers, specifically in rural areas, many compassionate societies, individuals and organisations strive to serve the communities to the best of their abilities. We are committed to transforming PAD into a beacon of innovation, compassion, and progress, addressing the most pressing dermatological challenges across our nation.

We continue to see an alarming rise in skin-related disorders. Conditions such as scabies, fungal infections, eczema, and psoriasis impact millions, particularly among underserved populations. These are not just medical concerns; they affect self-esteem, dignity, and the overall well-being of our communities. As dermatologists and healthcare leaders, we have both the power and the duty to respond. Our impact must go beyond clinics and conferences. We must reach the farthest villages, classrooms, and communities.

Our key initiatives are shaping our path forward - not just for this term, but for years to come.

Sehat Camp – Social Education, Health and Treatment

One of our proudest ongoing initiatives is the Sehat Camp (Social Education, Health and Treatment) conducted across Pakistan. PAD organised local camps providing free dermatological consultations and medications to patients in underserved communities. These camps are staffed by qualified dermatologists and designed to offer holistic care, raise awareness, and deliver professional-grade treatment to those who need it most. This model combines medical service and community education in a way that exemplifies PAD's commitment to equitable healthcare. We aim to expand this initiative further, ensuring it becomes a permanent pillar of PAD's outreach efforts.



Free skin camp in an orphanage - serving the most vulnerable

National Dermatology Awareness Drive

We have launched a unified national campaign to raise awareness of common yet neglected skin diseases. This includes conditions such as scabies, fungal infections, and eczema. Our drive involves interactive webinars, grassroots outreach to underserved areas, and educational material tailored to local languages and cultures. In collaboration with schools, NGOs, and community health workers, this campaign is already beginning to reduce stigma, improve early diagnosis, and empower our people.



Nationwide skin fungal infections awareness campaign

Patient-Centric Teledermatology Platform

To address the lack of access in remote regions, PAD is in the process of developing a teledermatology platform. This digital portal will offer free or subsidised consultations, expert advice, and educational content. It will provide vital support for underserved communities and help PAD build its reputation as a modern, inclusive association. We envision it as a tool for both patient care and professional development.

Workshops for Family Physicians

As family physicians are the backbone of any health system, we are arranging Continuing Medical Education sessions (CMEs) for family physicians throughout the country, especially in small towns. We have made comprehensive workshops available, providing booklets, lectures by renowned dermatologists, setting up interactive sessions with patients and lastly, providing them with multiple choice questionnaires to better understand their needs..

Conclusion

We are deeply committed to leading PAD with vision, unity, and purpose. The road ahead is ambitious, but with collaboration and support, it is entirely within our reach. Together, we can transform dermatological care in Pakistan and enhance the overall well-being of our



Training family physicians in common skin problems



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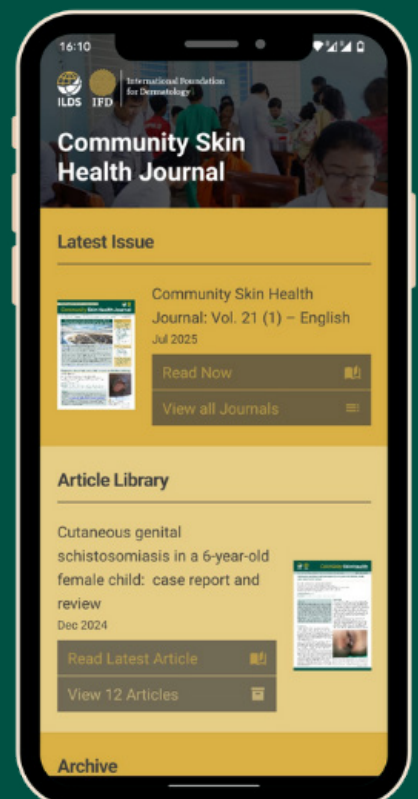
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Panamanian Association of Dermatology



Bridging the Dermatology Gap: Volunteer Care for Underserved Communities in Panama

THEME: Global volunteerism: Addressing challenges in global and national skin health

In the realm of dermatology, where early diagnosis is often critical, the absence of specialists in remote regions presents a pressing challenge. The Panamanian Association of Dermatology (APD), in partnership with national NGOs such as the National Association Against Cancer (ANCEC) and FUNDACANCER, has taken proactive steps to address this disparity through targeted outreach programmes. These efforts embody the spirit of global volunteerism - responding to unmet dermatological needs in underserved populations, often located in geographically isolated or marginalised communities.

Kindler and Cancer Care in San Félix

In 2025, the APD led a dermatological outreach mission to San Félix, a district adjacent to the Ngäbe-Buglé Indigenous Comarca, known for an unusually high incidence of Kindler Syndrome. Over a two-day campaign, 200 locals were seen, including 10 children identified with clinical signs of Kindler Syndrome. Remarkably, these children, brought in by their schoolteacher, had never received dermatological evaluation. Their cases were documented and referred for long-term follow-up. In addition to screening, our volunteer dermatologists performed vital in situ procedures - cryosurgery, skin biopsies, and oncologic excisions - enabling immediate management of precancerous and malignant lesions.

Six patients were identified with locally advanced skin cancers, for whom timely intervention was critical. Biopsies were taken, and with NGO coordination, transportation and referrals were arranged to ensure specialised oncologic treatment at tertiary centres.

Two-Day Mission for People with Albinism

A major 2025 initiative addressed the needs of people with albinism, a high-risk group for skin cancer. The two-day mission began in Panama City with consultations at Hospital Irma de Lourdes Tzanetatos for patients from Guna Yala. The following day, the team travelled to Ustupu, an island with one of the world's highest albinism rates.

The mission was led by ISDIN and SOS Albinos, with logistical coordination by the APD, and participation by volunteer dermatologists from Panama and abroad. Specialised care was provided, including treatment of actinic damage, skin cancer surgeries, and education on sun protection. Many patients had never seen a dermatologist. Sun-protective clothing, sunglasses, and high-SPF sunscreens were distributed to reduce future risk.

Early Skin Cancer detection in ANCEC Santiago

A third initiative took place this June in Veraguas, as part of an annual outreach effort led by ANCEC Santiago with ongoing support from the APD. Despite having hospital infrastructure, the province has only one public dermatologist. In this sixth campaign, more than 25 physicians participated, evaluating 500 patients and performing over 60 skin biopsies, excisions, and cryosurgery for suspected cancers—many in individuals with darker phototypes, highlighting an often-overlooked burden. APD dermatologists volunteered their time, reaffirming the specialty's commitment to equity in skin health.



Volunteers in San Félix providing free care to Ngäbe-Buglé Indigenous patients, who are pictured wearing their traditional clothing

Shaping the Future Through Prevention

Beyond direct clinical efforts, APD has spearheaded national-level initiatives in photoprotection and skin cancer prevention. These include advocacy for the integration of skin cancer into Panama's National Strategic Health Plan, emphasising early detection, robust school-based sun protection education, and the training of primary care providers to recognise skin cancer warning signs.

Additionally, APD supports the creation of community-based skin clinics, modelled on NGO experiences, that reduce the time from initial suspicion to diagnosis and treatment—from years to mere months—significantly improving patient outcomes.



 More than 500 patients gathered early at the ANCEC Santiago facility, where volunteer dermatologists provided free skin cancer screenings, biopsies, and surgical procedures



 Dermatologists from Panama and abroad provided two days of care to individuals with albinism. Pictured: volunteer team with children with albinism at Hospital Irma de Lourdes Tzanetatos

A New Vision for Dermatology

These volunteer-based activities are not isolated acts of goodwill - they are part of a growing movement to reimagine the future of dermatology as a discipline that prioritises equity and accessibility.

As we confront global health disparities and climate-related increases in skin cancer incidence, dermatologists must step beyond clinic walls and reach underserved populations. Volunteerism, when structured in partnership with community leaders and supported by sustainable logistics, becomes an engine for public health transformation.

Moreover, these efforts highlight the changing face of dermatology. No longer limited to aesthetic concerns or urban practice, dermatology today encompasses humanitarian, oncologic, and preventive roles. We believe the future of our specialty lies in interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. In Panama, we see this future materialising through every patient who gains access to care they never thought possible.

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Author: Dra. Shariel Saldaña, Dermatologist, General Secretary, Panamanian Association of Dermatology

Paraguayan Society of Dermatology



The Paraguayan Society of Dermatology - Our Journey and Challenges

THEME: Training and education

It is with great pleasure and honour that we introduce the Paraguayan Society of Dermatology (SOPARDER). For those unfamiliar with Paraguay, it is a small country of approximately seven million inhabitants, located in the heart of South America. Paraguay has two official languages: Spanish and Guaraní, the latter being an indigenous language widely spoken across all social sectors.

The Paraguayan Society of Dermatology was originally founded in 1946 under the name "Society of Dermatology, Syphilography and Leprology of Paraguay." It took on its current name in 1986.

The Society's objectives are to bring together all Paraguayan dermatologists, promote and support their ongoing education both locally and internationally, encourage local scientific research and actively contribute to promoting public health, particularly in the areas of infectious skin diseases, genodermatoses, inflammatory and autoimmune skin conditions, as well as skin cancer and sun exposure.

With only 150 active dermatologists for a population of seven million, Paraguay has a low specialist density—about 2.14 per 100,000 people—below the international recommendation of three to four. Addressing this gap requires expanding training programmes and improving regional distribution.

Dermatology Training in Paraguay

Dermatology residency training in Paraguay is carried out independently of the Society in three accredited institutions: the Hospital de Clínicas (Universidad Nacional de Asunción), the Gran Hospital Nacional de Itauguá (Ministry of Public Health), and the Central Hospital of the Instituto de Previsión Social (Universidad Católica de Asunción).

These programmes admit around six residents per year, with prior specialisation in Internal Medicine or Paediatrics needed. The three-year curriculum includes clinical, paediatric, surgical, oncologic, and aesthetic dermatology, as well as dermatopathology and research methodology. While SOPARDER is not directly responsible for training, it plays a key role in the professional development of residents, who become associate members from their first year. Society offers access to continuing education, national congresses, public health initiatives, publication opportunities, mentorship, and facilitate scholarships for international scientific activities.

Upon completing training, SOPARDER provides the certification required for official specialist registration with the Ministry of Public Health.



 Members of the Paraguayan Society of Dermatology at the 2024 National Conference



 SOPARDER Board Members 2025/2026 led by President Romina Contreras

Scientific Journal

SOPARDER publishes a peer-reviewed journal titled “Gaceta Dermatológica”, with continuous publication since 2012. The journal is edited by local dermatologists and aims to document national scientific production. Most contributions come from Paraguayan authors, with a focus on infectious and inflammatory skin diseases.

On average, 12.8 articles are published per year. Gaceta Dermatológica faces several ongoing challenges: achieving international indexation, attracting high-quality original research, increasing contributions from young authors and residents, maintaining a rigorous peer-review process, ensuring financial sustainability as an open-access publication, and expanding its digital visibility to reach a broader Latin American audience.

SOPARDER and Dermatology

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SOPARDER responded swiftly by establishing a contingency committee that coordinated protective measures, awareness campaigns, and the documentation of cutaneous manifestations. Teledermatology was successfully adopted as a vital tool for maintaining patient care throughout the crisis.

To summarise, the Paraguayan Society of Dermatology remains committed to advancing dermatologic care, education, and public health. Through ongoing scientific and outreach efforts, SOPARDER contributes actively to both national progress and global collaboration in dermatology.

Public Health Campaigns

SOPARDER plays an active role in community health through a range of public campaigns. Its most notable initiative is the annual National Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Campaign, conducted in referral centres with the participation of dermatologists, residents, and medical students. Between 2019 and 2023, over 2,000 cases of skin cancer were diagnosed and referred for treatment. Society also conducts leprosy screening campaigns in remote areas and supports additional outreach efforts, such as those organised in collaboration with CILAD. Since 2021, SOPARDER has also actively participated in World Psoriasis Day on October 29th, conducting national campaigns in partnership with specialised referral hospitals. These initiatives include webinars, live discussions, and public education activities led by dermatologists to raise awareness, dispel myths, and improve access to care for individuals living with psoriasis and its comorbidities.



Authors: MD Romina Contreras, MD Verónica Rotela

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Pigmentary Disorders Society



Harmony in Hues: Exploring Pigment Diversity

THEME: Training and education

The increasing number of patients presenting with asymptomatic as well as symptomatic pigmentary diseases gave rise to the need of a society focusing on these diseases specifically. To fulfil this need, the Pigmentary Disorders Society (PDS) was formed in 2012 to give a platform for in depth discussion of these diseases, encouraging scientific research and foster collaborations with other such societies in India and abroad. Since its formation, the society has seen an ever increasing membership including overseas and international members.

The PDS organises a conference every two years to update knowledge with the rich scientific content of academic program. It encourages the exchange of ideas with the experts in this field through the many panel discussions and debates. The workshops on the first day of the program are specially structured to provide training and education to the postgraduates and practitioners.

PIGMENTARYCON 2024, the 6th Biennial Conference of Pigmentary Disorders Society of India, was held on 21-22 September 2024 at Mangalore, India. It was jointly hosted by KS Hedge Medical Academy NITTE (deemed-to-be university) and Yenepoya Medical College in association with Karavali Dermatology Association.

The first day began with four half-day workshops on vitiligo surgery, lasers, dermoscopy and chemical peels. The workshops had a well curated scientific programme, experienced faculty and were very well attended and appreciated. The key note address on 'Harmony in hues – exploring pigment diversity' was delivered by Dr BS Chandrashekar who was facilitated by Dr Manjunath Shenoy, Dr Asokan and Dr Girisha BS.

The Dr Condoo oration was awarded to Dr Sendhil Kumaran who talked on 'Acquired dermal macular hyperpigmentation - the journey so far'. He was facilitated by Dr Rashmi Sarkar and Dr Bhavesh Swarnkar. The session on topical therapy of pigmentary diseases shed light on the role of cysteamine, novel peptides and new therapies in melasma and vitiligo. In the regional pigmentation session, the management of lip melanosis, macular amyloidosis, maturational hyperpigmentation and frictional melanosis was discussed. Periorbital melanosis was also discussed in detail. The debate in pigmentary disorders was on cosmeceuticals, glutathione, tranexamic acid and indoor sunscreens.

Other well-attended sessions were on melasma, other facial melanosis and an array of newer entities of both hyperpigmentary disorders like seborrheic melanosis and hypopigmentary disorders like progressive macular hypomelanosis. The session on vitiligo addressed childhood vitiligo and the recent updates on its pathogenesis, JAK inhibitors as well as advances in phototherapy. The pearls from practice session gave practical insights into the management of canities and melanonychia which are challenging conditions.



Lamp Lighting ceremony during the inauguration at Pigmentarycon 2024

The award paper session presented 11 papers on interesting topics which were presented by the postgraduates and young practitioners. The first three were awarded a cash prize and certificates at the valedictory function. As a large number of abstracts were received, three free paper sessions were held to give an opportunity to young residents. A quiz was conducted on a novel online platform by Dr Malcolm Pinto with individual entries and prize money was given to the first, second and third postgraduate winners as well as a cash prize to a practitioner. To encourage participation by the residents, the e-poster session also had two prizes to be won.

The PDS bulletin prepared by the PDS academy was also released during the inauguration ceremony. The valedictory function ended with an open house which invited input from the delegates about the entire conference which was very well appreciated by all.



Delegates during Pigmentarycon 2024

Authors: Dr Mala Bhalla, Vice President, PDS, and Dr Rashmi Sarkar, President, PDS

Psoriasis Awareness Club



Strengthening Primary Healthcare for Psoriasis Among Healthcare Personnel in Rohingya Refugee Camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh through Training Programmes

THEME: Training and education

Psoriasis is a chronic, immune-mediated skin condition that significantly affects the quality of life of patients.

In resource-limited and crisis-affected settings like the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, access to dermatological care is limited. This presents a unique challenge in managing chronic conditions like psoriasis within the framework of primary healthcare. Strengthening the capacity of primary healthcare personnel through targeted training programmes offers a sustainable and scalable solution to improving psoriasis care in these settings.

Background and Context

The Rohingya crisis has led to the displacement of over 1,000,000 individuals, with a large population residing in refugee camps in south eastern Bangladesh. These camps face persistent public health challenges due to overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and limited healthcare infrastructure.

While acute infectious diseases often receive the most attention, chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like psoriasis are increasingly prevalent and underdiagnosed⁽¹⁾. Psoriasis, affecting approximately 2-3% of the global population⁽²⁾, can cause physical and psychological distress. In humanitarian settings, the condition is often overlooked due to a lack of trained dermatological professionals and limited awareness among general healthcare providers.

Need for Training in Primary Healthcare

Primary healthcare workers are often the first point of contact for patients in refugee camps. However, their ability to diagnose and manage dermatological conditions like psoriasis is limited. Strengthening their skills through structured training programmes can bridge this gap.

Psoriasis Awareness Club Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief through the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), has successfully conducted a training programme on psoriasis management for primary healthcare personnel serving in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Drawing on the Club's ongoing mission - rooted in strengthening professional capacity and public awareness - the club will undergo few sessions targeted health workers operating at the camp level. The goal was to enhance early identification, management, and community education concerning psoriasis as a chronic non-communicable skin disease.



Seminar jointly arranged by Psoriasis Awareness Club and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Ministry of disaster Management and Relief

Focus on primary health capacity building: Through these programmes, trainees gained updated knowledge on the clinical recognition of psoriasis, patient counselling, and appropriate referral processes - an essential skill set in resource-limited, high-need camp settings.

Strengthening NCD awareness frameworks: The initiative aligns with broader efforts by WHO and partners in Cox's Bazar to integrate non-communicable disease surveillance and management into refugee camp health systems⁽³⁾.

Promotion of community-based outreach: Empowered health personnel are now equipped to raise awareness about psoriasis among Rohingya communities, tackling stigma and reducing misunderstandings about the disease.

This training series demonstrates how targeted professional development, supported by collaboration among local NGOs, a patient-advocacy organisation, and the government, can significantly improve the quality of care in humanitarian settings—especially for often-overlooked chronic conditions like psoriasis.



 Doctors and health administrators of Rohingya health centres attended seminar



 Rohingya refugees walking at a camp in Cox's Bazar

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Russian Society of Dermatovenereologists and Cosmetologists



Young Specialist School at the State Scientific Center for Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology

THEME: Training and Education

The Young Specialist School is an annual two-day educational event organised since 2011 by the Russian Society of Dermatovenereologists and Cosmetologists in partnership with the State Scientific Center for Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology of the Ministry of Health of Russia.

The initiative aims to establish a sustainable system for sharing up-to-date knowledge, developing clinical skills, and creating a young dermatovenereologists and cosmetologists professional community. Eligible participants include second-year residents and dermatovenereologists or cosmetologists under the age of 30. The School offers to young specialists a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the work of the country's leading specialised scientific centre, get an idea of the latest achievements in the field of dermatovenereology and cosmetology, and gain practical experience.

During the first day, participants visiting the clinical and laboratory departments of the Center discuss clinical cases with high-level experts in dermatovenereology and cosmetology, and explore innovative technologies, including virtual reality simulators for skills training. Theoretical sessions include lectures on key fields of dermatovenereology and cosmetology presented by professionals with significant practical and scientific experience.

During the second day practical workshops on rare clinical cases will be provided and also on modern diagnostic and therapeutic methods, hardware-based and laser technologies, and anti-aging therapy programmes. Upon completion, all participants who successfully complete the programme will receive certificates.

Between 2011 and 2024, more than 300 young specialists from various Russian regions have taken part in the School, and in 2024, the event also welcomed colleagues from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. This initiative is fostering a new generation of dermatologists and cosmetologists who have gained up-to-date knowledge and skills to equip them for working within the healthcare system at a high level.

The School's greatest value lies in facilitating experience exchange and providing access to diagnostic and treatment methods that may be unavailable in many regions. Such events inspire young professionals to deepen their expertise, develop a passion for their specialty, and master a broader range of practical skills.



 Virtual reality simulator for skills training



 Hardware and laser technology training



 Participants of the Young Specialist School

Saudi Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery



Fostering Teaching Skills and Leadership Among Residents

THEME: Training and education

In Saudi Arabia, a groundbreaking initiative is redefining how medical professionals become educators. The Saudi Society for Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery (SSDDS) has launched a professional development programme aimed at helping dermatology residents embrace their roles as teachers—an often overlooked but vital aspect of medical training. This programme not only trains doctors to treat patients; it prepares them to train the next generation of physicians, creating a ripple effect that could elevate the entire healthcare system.

The Programme

Over 12 months, 20 dermatology residents from Riyadh participated in the SSDDS's Resident-as-Educator initiative, which combined hands-on teaching experience, mentorship, and reflective exercises. Through written reflections and interviews, the residents shared how their perspectives on education evolved—from seeing themselves purely as learners to recognising their potential as mentors and leaders.

Programme Design & Implementation:

This structured curriculum was delivered during monthly half-day academic sessions. The program consisted of four 2-hour interactive workshops:

1. Becoming an Educator
2. Fulfilling the Teacher Role
3. How Knowledge is Made
4. Education: A Team Sport

Topics were selected based on literature reviews of evidence-based resident-as-teacher curricula and tailored to dermatology residents' real-world educational roles.

Workshop Structure:

- 10-minute didactic lectures introducing core concepts
- Small group discussions for collaborative learning
- Large group reflections to synthesise insights

Expert facilitators guided each session, employing strategies to promote deliberate practice and reflective learning.

Assessment Approach:

- Using Kirkpatrick's Evaluation Model, the program incorporated:
- Formative assessments: Oral reflections during workshops
- Summative assessments: Written reflections submitted post-workshop
- Final evaluation: Oral presentations at programme conclusion
- Longitudinal feedback: One-on-one interviews conducted 6-12 months post-programme

Unique Features:

- Balanced theoretical foundations with practical application
- Created space for immediate and delayed reflection
- Integrated both peer and expert perspectives
- Combined short-term skill development with long-term professional identity formation

This comprehensive approach ensured residents not only acquired teaching skills but also internalised their roles as educators, with assessment strategies tracking both immediate competencies and enduring professional growth.

Why It Matters

The SSDDS's initiative demonstrates how structured professional development can unlock hidden potential in young doctors. As these residents step into leadership roles, their ability to educate effectively will shape the quality of healthcare for years to come. By investing in residents' growth as educators, the SSDDS is addressing a critical gap in medical training. The programme's success suggests that similar initiatives could benefit other specialties, creating a culture where teaching is valued as much as clinical expertise. The Society plans to expand the programme, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's commitment to excellence in medical education.



Dr Ruaa Alharithy,
Programme Director

Skin of Color Society



Driving Innovation, Inclusion, and Excellence in Dermatology

THEME: Training and education

The Skin of Color Society (SOCS) is a globally recognised leader in advancing skin of colour dermatology, with members from 21 countries worldwide.

Founded in 2004 by Dr Susan C. Taylor, the Society's mission is to achieve health equity and excellence in patient care through research, education, mentorship, and advocacy. SOCS membership includes internationally recognised dermatologists, many of whom serve as highly skilled mentors across dermatology subspecialties (medical, cosmetic, and surgical) and practice settings (private practice, public service, and academia).

Hundreds of medical students, dermatology residents, and fellows have been mentored through SOCS, and numerous early and mid-career dermatologists have been awarded research, fellowship, observership, career development, and innovation grants. SOCS offers many signature programmes, innovative initiatives, and extensive physician and patient education resources.

Key programmes include:

SOCS Annual Scientific Symposium

The SOCS Annual Scientific Symposium showcases groundbreaking research and insights from highly esteemed experts and emerging researchers. In March 2025, 525 attendees from around the world participated in the 21st Annual Scientific Symposium, "Innovating for Equity." The 22nd Annual SOCS Scientific Symposium will take place on March 26, 2026, in Denver, Colorado.

SOCS Research Programmes

The Dermatology Foundation-Skin of Color Society Collaborative Mid-Career Award

(sponsored by Sanofi and Regeneron, jointly administered by SOCS and the Dermatology Foundation)

This prestigious award provides a grant of \$100,000 in annual support for up to three years. The award is intended to support the work of outstanding investigators with an established trajectory of excellence in basic, clinical, or translational science, whose research is expected to yield novel results that expand the understanding of dermatological issues impacting skin of colour.

The SOCS Dermatology Research Award

This award provides annual research grants (each up to \$20,000) to promote dermatology research within the field of skin of colour. The grant is intended to assist young dermatologists in furthering their academic careers.

The SOCS Career Development Award

Awards up to \$100,000, which can be used over two years, and which is non-renewable. This award should have a research focus on inflammatory dermatologic diseases in skin of colour in areas where further clinical, translational, and basic research is needed. It is the expectation that the recipient(s) of these awards will be tomorrow's leaders in dermatology, helping to shape the future of the specialty.

The SOCS Early Career Innovations Award

Provides startup funding for young visionaries and innovators who have creative solutions addressing needs and opportunities within the skin of colour dermatology ecosystem. Funding can be used to develop an idea or help advance or scale-up an idea in progress.

SOCS Center for Leadership

The SOCS Center for Leadership is a newer initiative that develops leaders who will drive the dermatology field forward with innovation, inclusivity, and excellence. The innovative curriculum includes live and on-demand online programming, as well as a more structured cohort experience that blends webinars and online community with an immersive, in-person leadership development programme that will be tailored to individual needs, interests, and aspirations.

In 2025, a new scholarship programme for rising 4th-year medical students was introduced, known as the Dermatologists of Tomorrow Scholarship (DOTS) presented by Clinique & SOCS Foundation. DOTS provides financial support and mentorship to medical students who are committed to achieving health equity in their pursuit of a career in dermatology.

Mentorship and Observership Opportunities

We greatly value mentorship as a leadership development tool to foster a diverse, highly skilled workforce at all levels.

- The SOCS Mentorship Program connects young physicians and medical students with an approved skin of colour expert from SOCS.
- The SOCS Observership Grant awards up to \$2,000 grants to dermatology residents, medical students (2nd-4th year), and junior faculty to enable study with a SOCS mentor identified by the applicant.

Meeting the Challenge in Research

SOCS broke important ground in 2022 with the development of the Meeting the Challenge initiative, resulting in significant firsts:

- An inaugural SOCS Summit, held in December 2022, Meeting the Challenge: Diversity in Dermatology Clinical Trials, which brought together stakeholders representing different facets of the clinical trials ecosystem, from clinical trials research to recruitment, community engagement, decision-making, and implementation. This Summit led to two journal manuscripts, the creation of a Diversity in Clinical Trials Mentorship Program in collaboration with the NMA Derm Section, and a broadened focus for what is now known as the SOCS Meeting the Challenge in Research Committee.
- The 2nd Meeting the Challenge Summit, held in 2023, focused on population descriptors in dermatology research studies. This Summit examined how to use demographic descriptors in research studies and clinical practice, resulting in the publication of an additional journal manuscript on this topic.
- The 3rd Meeting the Challenge Summit will take place on December 5-6, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This Summit will focus on expanding outcome measures to advance dermatology in clinical trials.



Skin of Color Society leaders, from left: Drs Pamela Allen, Lynn McKinley-Grant, Candrice Heath, Nada Elbuluk, Victoria Barbosa, Janiene Luke, Adrian Rodriguez, and Prince Adotama

Educational Resources

SOCS offers a wide array of resources for physicians, patients, and the public, including educational videos and content on the SOCS website.

[Click here](#) to learn more about SOCS.

Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology



Skin and Light: A Campaign by the AEDV That Elevates Dermatology Through Art

THEME: The future of dermatology as a discipline

The Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV, by its initials in Spanish) launched in 2025 "Skin and Light: Past and Present of Dermatology and Art", a unique campaign that blends art, science, and technology to highlight the importance of skin as a mirror of health — and the dermatologist as its guardian.

Featuring ten works created with artificial intelligence and inspired by the great masters of classical painting, the campaign breaks down myths and offers the general public a contemporary, scientific, and deeply human perspective on dermatology.

An Artistic Tribute to Dermatological Commitment

This collection - the result of a creative and ethical use of artificial intelligence - reflects the core themes of modern dermatology: prevention, early diagnosis, social responsibility, technological innovation, and evidence-based aesthetic medicine.

The Skin and Light exhibition premiered at the Temporary Exhibition Hall of the Illustrious Official College of Physicians of Madrid (ICOMEM). A travelling version will tour various Spanish cities, accompanying the AEDV at its conferences and public events.

Digital Presence of Skin and Light

The campaign also boasts a strong digital presence. A dedicated landing page showcases all the artworks, along with a short documentary about Skin and Light, offering both the artistic vision of Enrique Pérez and the medical insight of Dr Emilio del Río. Additionally, a series of short, vertical-format videos explaining each piece has been created, perfect for sharing on social media. All videos are available on the AEDV's YouTube channel in this playlist.

The "Skin and Light" Manifesto

As part of the campaign, the AEDV has published the Skin and Light manifesto, highlighting key principles of modern dermatology as illustrated through the artworks. Core messages include:

- Hospital dermatology is essential: We manage complex diseases in both public and private healthcare systems with scientific rigour and a commitment to society.
- Caring for the skin goes beyond curing: Dermatology not only heals but also beautifies, supports, and prevents — with science and sensitivity.
- We are a proactive specialty: We identify challenges such as long wait times and treatment disparities - and we propose real solutions.
- We lead in medical aesthetics: Always prioritising safety, scientific evidence, and experience.
- The skin reveals the deeper truth: Dermatologists play a vital role in diagnosing conditions that go beyond the skin, including cancer and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Research and innovation drive us forward: Through continuous education, a focus on sustainability, and a vision for the future.
- A specialty with a female face: Women are shaping the present and future of dermatology - with their voices, vision, and values.



Visitors enjoy the art at The Skin and Light exhibition



"Joven de la perla" (Girl with a Pearl Earring)



"La luz en la sombra" (The Light in the Shadow)

Explore more:

- [Piel y Luz](#)
- [YouTube](#)



ILDS



GPEC

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS
FOR EDUCATION AND CARE

Find out about our GPEC Programme



The primary aim of the Global Partnerships for Education and Care programme is to improve the standard of dermatological education and care worldwide, through facilitating mutual learning partnerships between organisations.

By pairing up dermatology departments, we can establish bi-directional knowledge exchange, furthering ILDS' vision to attain the best possible skin health for all people around the world, providing the following benefits for those involved:

- Become part of a community
- Collaborate with your partner
- Have a positive impact worldwide
- Access educational resources

For the latest news on the GPEC programme...

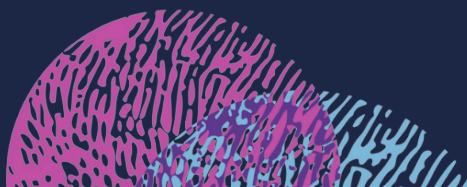
Scan the QR code



or visit

gpec.ilds.org/

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Taiwanese Dermatological Association



Shaping the Future of Dermatology in Taiwan and Fostering Collaboration with the Global Dermatological Community

THEME: Training and education

The Taiwanese Dermatological Association (TDA) is a professional organisation committed to advancing the expertise of dermatologists and raising the standard of care for patients with skin disorders across Taiwan. With a strong focus on education, collaboration, and innovation, the TDA offers a wide array of academic events and training programmes designed to keep dermatologists informed of the latest developments in clinical practice and scientific research.

Advancing dermatology education and international collaboration

The Annual Meeting of the TDA is a major yearly event of the Association. It invites dermatology professionals from across the country and beyond to share research findings, clinical experiences, and the latest advancements in dermatological science. Since 2017, the Spring Meeting has been held under the AMWC Asia-TDAC brand, bringing together dermatological science, dermatological surgery, and aesthetic medicine. It has evolved over time into the largest and most comprehensive aesthetic medicine congress in Asia.

A highlight of 2024 was the continued collaboration between the TDA and the Taiwan Society for Dermatological and Aesthetic Surgery in organising advanced dermatological surgery training programmes for dermatology residents. A major milestone was the co-hosting of the 2024 ISDS (International Society for Dermatologic & Aesthetic Surgery) Annual Meeting in Taiwan, which promoted academic exchange and enhanced Taiwan's visibility on the international stage.

Beyond these major events, the TDA regularly conducts a variety of continuing medical education (CME) programmes targeting specific subspecialties. These include the Hair Forum, Mycology Forum, Training Program for Advanced Dermatological Surgery, and the Symposium for Pediatric and Adolescent Dermatology. Other CME courses address a wide range of inflammatory skin conditions, including acne, psoriasis, and rosacea, helping dermatologists stay up-to-date with the latest treatment strategies. In addition, hands-on training on topics such as filler injection, nail bracing, and patch testing equip dermatologists with essential procedural skills to enhance their clinical practice.



The Spring Meeting of TDA under the AMWC Asia TDAC brand



Hands on training for young dermatologists

Developing a national treatment consensus for major skin diseases

In recent years, the TDA has taken a proactive role in developing national treatment consensus statements for major skin diseases, including acne, alopecia areata, atopic dermatitis, cutaneous lymphoma, hidradenitis suppurativa, leprosy, prurigo nodularis, psoriasis vulgaris, generalised pustular psoriasis, rosacea, urticaria, and vitiligo, to enhance dermatological care and standardise clinical practices across Taiwan.

The TDA remains dedicated to the continuous refinement of its clinical guidelines to advance interdisciplinary collaboration and align with international standards, while ensuring their applicability to the unique needs of local clinical practice.

Promoting skin health through public education in Taiwan

As a member of ILDS, the TDA has actively promoted public awareness and education on skin diseases through nationwide outreach campaigns. Annual events commemorating World Vitiligo Day, World Sun Protection Day, World Atopic Dermatitis Day, and World Psoriasis Day have featured expert-led public lectures and media engagement to enhance skin health literacy and encourage early diagnosis and treatment.

Building a multidisciplinary team for epidermolysis bullosa care in Taiwan

In 2018, the Dermatology Department of the National Cheng Kung University Hospital established Taiwan's first multidisciplinary team dedicated to caring for patients with epidermolysis bullosa. With the TDA's support, the team brings together dermatologists, surgeons, nutritionists, nurses, and social workers to provide comprehensive care beyond medical treatment. Services include wound management, surgical interventions, psychosocial support, and caregiver education. Through this model, the team strives to improve quality of life and foster hope for patients and families, showing how empathy and teamwork can transform care for rare diseases.



Multidisciplinary team dedicated to caring for patients with epidermolysis bullosa

Taiwan's dermatological advancements in artificial intelligence: From diagnostic assistance to generative decision support

As a global leader in semiconductor manufacturing, Taiwan has played a pivotal role in powering the hardware behind artificial intelligence (AI). In the field of dermatology, Taiwan's contributions extend well beyond infrastructure, showcasing a range of impactful, clinically driven AI applications. In 2019, a team from National Taiwan University launched the AI-CDSS (Clinical Decision Support System), one of the earliest AI-based platforms trained on domestic datasets.

Acknowledging the specific dermatological concerns of Asian skin, Taiwanese researchers have also focused on pigmentary disorders. AI-driven analysis of optical coherence tomography images is now being used to enhance the diagnosis of various pigmentation-related conditions, addressing a critical need in the region.

In 2024, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital introduced a digital dermatopathology slide system integrated with AI, enabling more precise and efficient diagnostic workflows. This initiative underscores Taiwan's commitment to harnessing AI for diagnostic excellence in clinical dermatology.

Together, these advancements reflect Taiwan's growing emphasis on not only building AI hardware but also developing intelligent systems tailored to the needs of dermatology to bridge technology and clinical care in meaningful ways.

The Japanese Dermatological Association



Advancing Dermatology Through Global Collaboration and Education

THEME: Training and education

The Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA) was established in December 1900 and currently has approximately 13,000 member dermatologists. The primary objectives of the JDA are to advance dermatological science and clinical medicine by offering educational meetings and programs to member dermatologists, particularly young doctors, to enhance their clinical practice skills, promote global communication, and increase public awareness of skin diseases.

Advancing global communication

The JDA holds its annual meeting in a hybrid format, welcoming participants from around the world. This four-day event features daily English sessions designed to engage attendees from diverse backgrounds.

In 2024, approximately 50 renowned international speakers were invited to deliver lectures covering a broad spectrum of topics, including dermatology, career development, and leadership skills. Continuing this global outlook, the 2025 meeting also welcomed international speakers to present on a range of subjects. Notably, four distinguished professors from the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) were invited to lead a special session titled “Frontiers of European Dermatology,” where they discussed topics such as autoimmune blistering diseases, precision medicine for inflammatory diseases, and personalised dosing of biologicals in psoriasis.

Additionally, the JDA actively promotes global collaboration with international dermatological societies. In 2024, a joint educational session with the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) was held during Global Education Day at the AAD Annual Meeting. Building on this initiative, a JDA-EADV joint session is scheduled at the 2025 EADV Congress in September in Paris, featuring two speakers from each society in a collaborative session.

This year, the JDA also launched a new “International Activities” section on its website, highlighting members’ involvement in global initiatives and showcasing the work of international dermatology organisations. The section prominently features 52 study-abroad reports from doctors who conducted research overseas with the support of annual JDA scholarships.

The JDA welcomes international members, allowing them to participate in academic meetings at member rates and access educational content such as journals in English and textbooks on dermatology. The JDA aims to take initiatives and further enhance international communication moving forward.



Dermatologists at the 2025 JDA Annual Meeting

Educational training programs and clinical practice

The JDA designates 100 main training facilities and 500 related institutions across Japan, providing members with practical experience in treating various diseases and offering opportunities to become certified dermatologists through official medical specialty exams in collaboration with the Japanese Medical Specialty Boards.

To further support early professional development, the JDA hosts the Dermatology Summer School, a highly popular two-day hybrid seminar for junior residents interested in dermatology or considering entering the field. Additionally, the Clinical Dermatology Leadership Seminar is held annually for dermatologists preparing for or recently board-certified, focusing on leadership development through lectures, statistics workshops, and hands-on training.

The JDA eSchool, available on its website, features several self-learning programs, including hands-on Dermatopathology training with a virtual pathological-slide viewing system and online lectures by leading Japanese authorities. It also offers scholarships to encourage early-career dermatologists to study abroad.

Since 1974, the JDA has published the Journal of Dermatology, an English-language journal featuring original clinical and research articles from authors worldwide. Furthermore, the JDA continuously develops and updates clinical practice guidelines in both Japanese and English, making them freely accessible to the public.

Raising public awareness about skin disorders

The JDA offers a "Skin Health Q & A" section on its website, providing the public with information on the symptoms and treatments of the 40 most common skin disorders.

Additionally, in cooperation with the Japan Organisation of Clinical Dermatologists, the JDA designates November 12th as Healthy Skin Day, offering online lectures and articles in newspapers to raise public awareness about the risks of skin disorders. During the JDA's annual meetings, numerous open lectures on common skin diseases are also available to the general public.



EADV Session at the 2025 JDA Annual Meeting



Participants Engaged in Hands On Training - 2024 Summer School

Resources

[Click here](#) to visit the JDA website.

Tunisian Society of Dermatology and Venereology



Tunisian Society of Dermatology and Venereology Spearheads Successful Skin Cancer Awareness Campaign

THEME: Global volunteerism: Addressing challenges in global and national skin health

The Tunisian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (STDV) is a prominent learned society dedicated to advancing dermatological science and improving skin health across Tunisia. Its core missions encompass a wide range of activities, including promoting research and education among medical professionals, raising public awareness about dermatological conditions and preventive measures, and advocating for best practices in patient care.

The STDV, in close collaboration with the Tunisian Society of Oncological Surgery and the Tunisian Society of Radiotherapy, successfully concluded a comprehensive nationwide awareness and screening campaign throughout May, dedicated to combating skin cancer. This powerful multidisciplinary initiative aimed to educate the public on early melanoma detection, and the importance of photoprotection. The campaign kicked off with public awareness days in various commercial centres across major cities, including Tunis, Sfax, Sousse, and Djerba.

During these events, dermatologists engaged with the public, explaining the harmful effects of sun exposure and demonstrating how to perform early self-screening for melanoma using the ABCDE rule (**A**symmetry, **B**order irregularity, **C**olour variation, **D**iameter greater than 6mm, **E**volving lesions). Crucially, essential rules of photoprotection were also thoroughly explained. A cornerstone of the campaign was the provision of free skin cancer screenings at five major hospitals.

Open-door days were organised in hospitals located in Tunis, Sfax, Sousse, Monastir, and Djerba. Dedicated medical teams, equipped with dermoscopes, meticulously examined over 900 patients. This proactive screening led to the crucial detection of nine confirmed cases of melanoma, highlighting the critical importance of early detection in improving treatment outcomes. In addition to public outreach and screenings, the STDV also organised a scientific day focused on non-melanoma skin carcinomas. This event brought together medical professionals to deepen their knowledge and discuss advancements in the management of these common skin cancers.

During the campaign, billboards were displayed in major cities. We participated in radio shows announcing awareness days and scientific events. We distributed educational flyers about melanoma in hospitals and pharmacies. Dermatologists recorded podcasts that were shared on social media. Influencers also took part in raising patient awareness (thanks to Laboratoire SVR for your support). We aimed to enhance knowledge of Tunisian people about skin cancer prevention and early detection, and to provide accessible screening services.



Billboard showing the campaign slogan "Cancer starts from a point"



The dermatology department team of Farhat Hached Hospital at an awareness day in a commercial centre

The high turnout for screenings and the detection of melanoma cases underscore the vital need for such initiatives. We believe that through continued education and proactive screening, we can significantly reduce the burden of skin cancer in Tunisia. The success of this campaign demonstrates the Tunisian Society of Dermatology's unwavering commitment to public health and its dedication to fighting skin cancer through both educational outreach and direct patient care.

Authors: Prof Hammami Houda, Dr Ben Salem Moez and Prof Denguezli Mohamed

Women's Dermatologic Society



Empowering Women, Advancing Dermatology: WDS Celebrates Expanding Impact

THEME: Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care

The Women's Dermatologic Society (WDS) focuses on dynamic programming and community engagement, underscoring its commitment to supporting women in dermatology and advancing inclusive care. Founded with a mission to empower women through leadership, education, networking, and service, WDS remains a leading professional society in dermatology globally.

Expanding Reach Through Community-Based Initiatives

Since 2019, WDS has hosted more than 110 events through its hallmark Play Safe in the Sun initiative, reaching diverse communities across the United States. This award-winning programme, founded in 2004 with a \$1 million grant from 3M, works to curb the incidence of skin cancer by providing free skin cancer screenings, sun damage assessments, sun safety educational materials, and complimentary sunscreen samples to the public. Children are welcome to volunteer with their families and pass out sunscreen samples. This summer, Play Safe in the Sun will have a presence at the NCAA College World Series, the Chicago Triathlon, and more.

Complementing these efforts is the Women's Shelter Initiative, supported by Merz Pharma, which has conducted nearly 200 outreach events over the last five years. Focused on providing skincare education and personal care items to individuals in transitional housing, this program remains one of WDS's most meaningful service platforms. The mission of the programme is to lift up women and families in need. By treating the total woman, we will address all her needs. Members teach skin care, oral hygiene, self-care habits, nutrition, social skills and more so that recipients may go out into the world and be the best versions of themselves, inside and out.



 Volunteers at one of the hallmark 'Play Safe in the Sun' events



 Promoting sun safety at one of a 'Play Safe in the Sun' event

Supporting Professional Development and Networking

WDS remains equally committed to uplifting dermatology professionals through structured mentorship and peer engagement. Mentorship of women is critical to WDS's mission, and this members-only programme aims to pair rising stars with seasoned professionals. Over the last five years, the Society has awarded:

- **110 Mentorship Awards**, pairing early-career dermatologists with senior leaders.
- **15 UIM Aesthetic Mentorship Awards** (since 2021), specifically designed to support underrepresented-in-medicine (UIM) physicians pursuing aesthetics.

Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

WDS has prioritised diversity and equity through more than 20 dedicated DEI-focused events. These include educational initiatives, workshops, and research forums. One notable example is the IJWD Podcast led by Editor Dr Nanette Silverberg, featuring discussions with Geoffrey Potts and Dr Starling Tolliver on dermatology resident comfort in treating hair conditions in patients with skin of colour. These platforms amplify underrepresented voices and provide evidence-based insights to improve care across populations.

Looking Ahead In 2025

WDS continues to expand its impact through its programmes, partnerships, and presence in major dermatological forums. WDS seeks to connect with anyone who wishes to elevate women in dermatology or to participate in any of the programmes listed. For more information about WDS programmes or to get involved, [click here](#).



Thank you

We extend our deepest gratitude to all ILDS Members who have generously contributed to the ILDS Member Initiatives Directory 2025.

Your invaluable efforts and dedication have played a significant role in enriching this publication and we are incredibly proud to have such a dynamic and engaged membership community.

Member Initiatives Directory

The ILDS Member Initiatives Directory was launched in 2018 to promote the sharing and exchange of information between member societies in order to educate and empower dermatologists and their societies. Including articles from around the world, it is hoped that ILDS Members may find inspiration and practical know-how from the energy and compassion that is embodied in each of these initiatives.

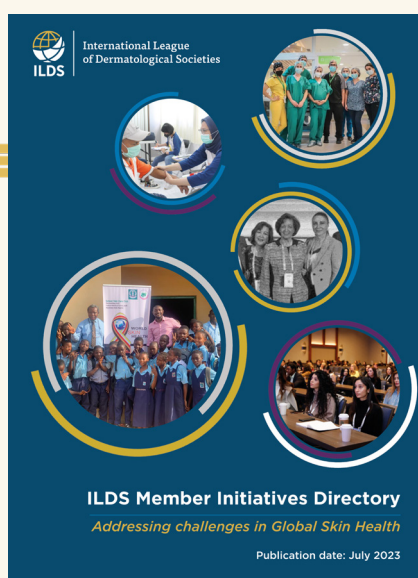
We invite you to read previous issues of the ILDS Member Initiatives Directory presenting a broad range of approaches, projects and updates to share key learnings.

Previous issues



Issue One (2018)

Featuring creative initiatives and projects from 34 ILDS Member organisations, the inaugural issue of the Directory was launched in conjunction with the 2nd ILDS World Skin Summit held 10-12 June 2018 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



Issue Two (2023)

This publication was launched to coincide with the 25th World Congress of Dermatology held from 3-8 July 2023 in Singapore and shines a spotlight on incredible articles from 25 ILDS Members.



Issue Three (2024)

Hear from 42 inspirational ILDS Members who have reported on the creative and informative initiatives and updates they have undertaken, all of which are proof of the influential and life-changing work being undertaken globally every single day.

Access previous issues:

bit.ly/3WqwQwu



International League of Dermatological Societies

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