



International League  
of Dermatological Societies  
*Skin Health for the World*

# ILDS in 2025

Executive Summary 

# Introduction

2025 was a year of exceptional progress for the International League of Dermatological Societies, our members and our valued supporters.

A defining milestone was, of course, the adoption of the World Health Assembly's special resolution recognising skin diseases as a global public health priority. This landmark decision represents a significant step towards the transformation in prevention, diagnosis and treatment we're collectively striving to achieve. Congratulations and thanks are due to the many colleagues and partners who worked tirelessly over several years to secure this historic resolution.

The year also brought other important achievements. For instance, we convened a highly successful World Skin Summit in Cape Town, celebrated the inclusion of two essential dermatological medicines on the WHO Essential Medicines List, and completed data capture for the Global Access to Skin Observatory — the largest global study ever undertaken on access to skin health services. We look forward to sharing the findings of this important initiative in 2026.

I'd like to thank our members and partners for their unwavering support in 2025. Your collaboration enables us to improve the lives of thousands

of people worldwide who are living with skin diseases. My thanks also go to the ILDS Board and staff, whose commitment and dedication ensure that we continue to drive meaningful change at a global level.

We look ahead to 2026 with confidence and determination, ready to build on this momentum and deliver another year of impactful progress.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Henry W. Lim". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Professor Henry W. Lim**  
ILDS President



**In 2025, we continued to expand our global reach and programme delivery across policy, research, education, and frontline care.**

With the addition of 16 new member societies during 2025, we now represent 232 societies around with world and, of course, their 200,000 dermatologist members.

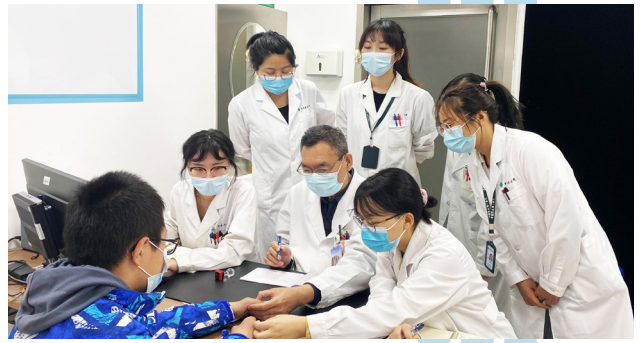
Engagement across our network increased through the 4<sup>th</sup> World Skin Summit, which brought together more than 160 delegates from 82 member societies and 54 countries, and through sustained collaboration with our global partners during the year.

We achieved a major milestone in May with the adoption of the World Health Assembly resolution recognising skin diseases as a global public health priority. The resolution, co-sponsored by seven countries, calls for coordinated national action on skin diseases and improved access to essential medicines.

In parallel, ILDS-supported applications to the WHO Essential Medicines List were approved, resulting in the inclusion of adalimumab and ustekinumab for psoriasis, broad-spectrum sunscreen for people with albinism, and urea- and glycerol-based moisturisers for atopic dermatitis. These outcomes represent tangible policy advances with the potential to improve access to care for millions of people globally.

Our programmes continued to generate new global evidence to support advocacy and planning. The Global Access to Skin Health Observatory - a joint project with L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty - completed data collection from 157 of 194 countries, covering 96.3% of the world's population. This makes it the largest global study ever conducted on access to skin health. The study results will be published later in 2026, and an interactive data explorer will be available on [www.skinobservatory.org](http://www.skinobservatory.org)

The Grand Challenges in Global Skin Health programme advanced four disease-specific atlases. It also produced the first joint publication across the atlases 'Grand challenges for skin health revisited: the International League of Dermatological Societies skin disease atlases'. It also carried out a major review 'Inflammatory skin diseases and associated comorbidities' in collaboration with the WHO and GlobalSkin, which works to improve the lives of dermatology patients worldwide. This has now been submitted to a leading international medical journal.



Through the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD), we continued to support training, service delivery, and capacity building in underserved settings. In 2025, the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Tanzania treated more than 16,600 patients and supported almost 3,000 people with albinism, while the Pacific Dermatology Training Centre saw its first three trainees graduate and continued to provide care to a population served by a clinic which now sees more than 20,000 patients annually.

The GLODERM Mentorship Programme supported 24 dermatologists, who collectively trained nearly 3,000 healthcare providers and reached more than 14,000 patients, supported by US\$140,000 in Access Grants.

Dermlink projects funded in 2024 delivered care to more than 10,000 patients and trained nearly 500 healthcare providers, with 15 new projects awarded in 2025. An additional US\$50,000 was invested through the Dermlmpact programme to support longer-term capacity building.

Further initiatives addressed the needs of migrants and displaced populations. For example, we supported more than 1,100 refugees in Tanzania, and advanced global action on skin cancer prevention in persons with albinism through the first World Forum attended by 71 delegates from 30 countries.

Together, these activities reflect steady, measurable progress across ILDS and IFD programmes in 2025 in line with the priorities identified at the World Skin Summit. Across policy, education, and the delivery of care, we continue to focus on improving access to dermatology specialists, strengthening the dermatology workforce, supporting underserved populations, and translating global commitments into practical action.

**We are grateful to the partners which support us in this important work.**



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