

International League
of Dermatological Societies

ILDS

ILDS Member Initiatives Directory 2026

Sharing ideas, inspiring change, advancing skin health

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Introduction

A message from the ILDS President

It is my great pleasure to introduce the 2026 ILDS Member Initiatives Directory, a celebration of the remarkable work being undertaken by ILDS Members to improve skin health around the world.

This year's edition is our most comprehensive yet. We were thrilled to receive **64 articles from 61 ILDS Member organisations**, more than ever before, reflecting not only the enthusiasm of our members to share their work but also the incredible breadth and depth of initiatives taking place across the global dermatology community. The unprecedented response is a testament to the passion, innovation and commitment that define our community.

I am both inspired and humbled by the extraordinary efforts being made across every region of the world. From pioneering educational programmes and groundbreaking research to community outreach, advocacy, humanitarian initiatives and improvements in patient care, the projects featured in this directory demonstrate the many ways in which dermatology is transforming lives.

The diversity of initiatives showcased across our themed areas highlights the strength of our global network and the power of collaboration. While every society faces its own unique challenges, the common thread running through these pages is a shared commitment to improving skin health and ensuring that people everywhere have access to the care they need.

I hope this publication serves not only as a record of achievement but also as a source of inspiration. By sharing ideas, learning from one another and building new partnerships, we can continue to make even greater strides towards a future where everyone, everywhere, has access to better skin health.

On behalf of the ILDS, I would like to thank every society that contributed to this year's directory. Your commitment, innovation and generosity in sharing your experiences strengthen our global community and inspire us all.

With very best wishes

Professor Henry W. Lim
President, ILDS



Disclaimer:

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If you have any questions, please contact info@ilds.org.

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The Directory at a glance

ILDS Members are leading innovative initiatives that improve dermatological education, patient care, research and advocacy across every region of the world. This pubication celebrates those initiatives, encouraging collaboration and the sharing of ideas to strengthen global dermatology.

Overview

64
Articles
across the eight key themes

61
ILDS Members
contributed

46
Countries
represented

33
% increase
in article submissions since the 2025 edition

Geographical spread of countries



The articles address the following key themes:

- The future of dermatology: threats and opportunities
- What are the truly unmet needs in dermatology?
- Access to dermatologic health and medical skin treatment and care
- Training and education
- The scope and challenges of evidence-based care
- Global volunteerism: Addressing challenges in global and national skin health
- The future of dermatology as a discipline
- Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

WCD2027
26TH WORLD CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY
21-26 JUNE 2027 GUADALAJARA • MX
PROUDLY PRESENTED BY ILDS HOSTED BY

JOIN THE GLOBAL DERMATOLOGY COMMUNITY

21-26 JUNE 2027 - GUADALAJARA, MEXICO



In June 2027, Guadalajara will become the global meeting point for dermatology.
Building on the success of the previous edition in Singapore, the WCD2027 will offer an even broader, more multidisciplinary and inclusive scientific experience, with a stronger focus on clinical practice, innovation, global health and collaboration across regions and specialties.

Across 6 days, participants will be able to explore **65 topics** through **227 Symposia sessions, 5 Plenary sessions, 13 Controversy sessions, 19 Clinical management workshops, 24 Courses** and **4 Live demonstration courses,** alongside contributions from internationally renowned speakers.

From artificial intelligence and digital dermatology to emerging therapies, climate change and equitable access to care, and more, the programme reflects the full diversity and rapid evolution of the dermatology ecosystem.

Submit your abstract or apply for a scholarship by **14 September 2026,** and register by **31 October 2026** to benefit from the Early Bird rates.

SECURE YOUR PLACE AT WCD2027 AND JOIN THE GLOBAL DERMATOLOGY COMMUNITY IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS
Open for all participant categories, for individuals and groups.
UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2026

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
Contribute to a high-level, international scientific programme.
BEFORE 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
For suitable Residents or Fellows, Rising Stars, and applicants from Low, Lower Middle, or Upper Middle Income countries.
BEFORE 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

WCD2027 OFFICIAL APP

Make the most of your Congress experience with the official **WCD2027 app.**

Register directly from your mobile device, access essential information and receive future updates on the scientific programme, speakers, sessions and key practical details.

Plan and personalise your time in Guadalajara more easily, while staying connected with the **global WCD2027 dermatology community.**

DOWNLOAD THE APP



American Academy of Dermatology

Your Dermatologist Knows: Positioning you as the experts

Theme: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

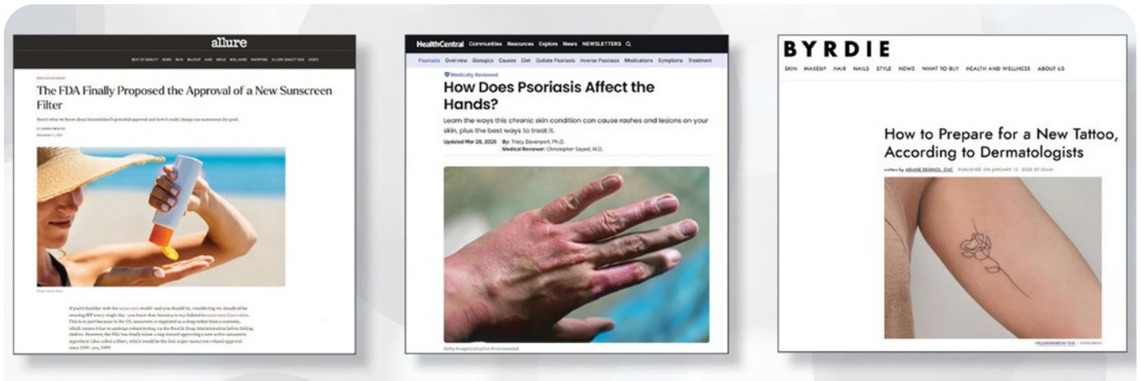
www.aad.org

The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) launched the 'Your Dermatologist Knows' consumer positioning strategy in October of 2022. It was developed in direct response to member concerns about scope of practice, and the main goal is to continually shift the public perception of dermatology in a positive direction by correcting online misinformation while positioning board-certified dermatologists as the go-to experts for skin, hair, and nail healthcare.

The strategy has two main approaches: social media and traditional media. The Academy maintains a robust social media presence. Through a combination of paid placements, collaborations with AAD social media ambassadors, and content created by a revolving cast of AAD Social Media Correspondents, the Academy pushes information right to where consumers are most likely to see it: their social media feeds. The content ranges from general skin care tips to information about specific conditions, and will often directly address or - if necessary - debunk viral social media skin care trends.

The AAD has hundreds of thousands of followers across its various social media channels on Instagram, TikTok, Pinterest, Facebook, and YouTube, and that number continues to grow every day. By following these social media channels, patients around the world may quickly get up-to-date information, and it will be information they can trust.

Another key aspect of the Your Dermatologist Knows strategy is traditional media, which involves the AAD's media relations staff monitoring what's trending and then pitching news stories featuring board-certified dermatologists offering their expertise on the various topics. These stories run in some of the biggest and most-viewed news outlets in the United States, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Today Show, and Good Morning America. The result is that billions of people across the word are able to learn straight from the experts about the issues that impact their health.



A selection of AAD-driven media wins positioning board-certified dermatologists as the experts in skin, hair, and nail healthcare

Some of the major media wins the AAD has secured since the launch of Your Dermatologist Knows include coverage of Good Morning America anchor Sam Champion's diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer, a Women's Health spotlight of dangerous sun habits among Gen Z, and recent coverage in CBS News about the danger of trusting social media for skin care advice. All of these stories featured members of the AAD's Media Expert Team, a panel of media-trained, board-certified dermatologists and AAD members who shared their knowledge and expertise directly.

You can visit aad.org/ydk to learn more about the strategy, meet the correspondents, and see examples of traditional and social media wins.

The result has been overwhelmingly positive. The AAD regularly conducts surveys in the United States to gauge the public's perception of dermatology and of dermatologists. We have seen a significant positive impact on how the public views dermatologists, especially when compared to non-physician clinicians like nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and estheticians. The data shows that dermatologists are top-of-mind for the vast majority of the public when considering skin, hair, and nail healthcare, and most survey respondents believe that dermatologists are the go-to experts for a wide range of conditions, including acne, moles, and rashes.



AAD members pose with Your Dermatologist Knows hashtags at the AAD Annual Meeting.

The survey also indicated the existence of a direct correlation between consuming Your Dermatologist Knows-related content and making the decision to see a dermatologist, with patients being 55% more likely to see a dermatologist if they've seen YDK content. While the content is in general created for a U.S.-based audience, the nature of social media gives the content international reach, which means that patients in your country are likely to see it too.

On top of driving up public perception of dermatologists, Your Dermatologist Knows can drive patients directly into your practices.

Head to aad.org/ydk-success to see more about how successful the strategy has been!

ILDS News and updates

Subscribe today

Stay connected with the global dermatology community. Receive the latest ILDS news, inspiring stories, and updates on opportunities, events, and activities, straight to your inbox.

Sign up today and be part of our work to advance skin health for the world.

American Society for Dermatologic Surgery

Mentorship and Continuing Education for International Dermatologic Surgeons

ASDS American Society for Dermatologic Surgery

COSMETIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE EXPERTISE FOR YOUR *skin health and beauty*℠

www.asds.net

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

This annual conference (https://asds.net/AnnualMeeting) is where expertise meets innovation in dermatologic surgery. The content provides comprehensive procedural education in cosmetic, Mohs, reconstructive and general dermatologic surgery, as well as realistic practice management information. Attendees can obtain hands-on experience, watch live patient and cadaveric demonstrations and hear compelling presentations filled with actionable advice from renowned expert faculty who teach techniques that prioritise patient safety and minimise the risk of complications. The ASDS Annual Meeting's environment is collegial and ideal for connecting with peers from around the globe, gaining new perspectives, discovering the latest technological advances and meeting industry representatives:

Lawrence M. Field, MD, Honorary Lectureship

This session 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.

Diverse Topics

ASDS Annual Meeting sessions discuss a range of topics including 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.

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.

Dedicated Time for Networking

Camaraderie and networking are consistently listed as attendees' favourite aspects of the conference. The agenda is thoughtfully designed to include multiple social receptions and opportunities to visit the Exhibit Hall, where international colleagues can catch up with mentors, build new relationships with peers who share the same daily challenges and browse a variety of products and services from industry vendors.

Upcoming ASDS Annual Meetings:

Nov. 5-8, 2026 | San Diego, California, USA

Oct. 14-17, 2027 | Chicago, Illinois, USA

Oct. 26-29, 2028 | National Harbor, Maryland, USA

Oct. 18-21, 2029 | Chicago, Illinois, USA

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 (https://asds.net/International-Preceptorship) encourages the exchange of information and education to expand international members' knowledge of advanced procedures and techniques not currently available in their country.

ASDS International Traveling Mentorship Program

The International Traveling Mentorship Program (ITMP) (https://asds.net/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.

> *My preceptorship provided a valuable experience in patient consultation, counselling, treatment planning and pre- and post-procedure care. It significantly strengthened my clinical knowledge, providing me with practical skills that I plan to include in my future practice.*
>
> *It offered important insight into clinic organisation, patient communication and long-term care strategies in aesthetic medicine."*
>
> **Ioana-Livia Pitu-Stanciu, MD**
> **Romania**

Digital Education

ASDS Learn (https://asds.net/Learn) is an online platform that provides evidence-based educational content to enhance patient care. The content is balanced, independent, objective and based on scientific rigour. ASDS education courses and activities are focused on improving patient safety and outcomes while sharing the newest techniques and technologies. From procedural demonstrations and interactive webinars to self-guided courses and free resources, ASDS provides continuing education that improves dermatologists' clinical competency and patient outcomes.

Member Directory

Discover and connect with peers through the ASDS Member Directory (https://asds.net/member-community). This tool strengthens the global community and makes it easy to find, connect with and collaborate with dermatologic surgeons who share your interests, expertise and values. Search the directory by name, location or email address to build relationships, exchange ideas, ask questions and network.

Resources

- ASDS International Programs — visit http://asds.net/International-Dermatologists
- ASDS Membership — visit http://asds.net/Join or email membership@asds.net
- ASDS Annual Meeting — visit http://asds.net/AnnualMeeting or email education@asds.net



Networking is a key component of the ASDS Annual Meeting agenda



Hands-on training opportunities and live demonstrations are available to ASDS Annual Meeting attendees



Drs. Nour Kibbi and Batuhan Kerem Bala

American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, Inc.

Advancing Patient Care with Lasers, Light, and Energy-Based Technologies

Theme: Training and education

www.aslms.org

The American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, Inc. (ASLMS), established in 1980, is committed to advancing patient care by promoting innovation in the biomedical applications of lasers, light, and energy-based technologies worldwide. The Society fosters research, education, and the highest standards of clinical excellence. ASLMS is comprised of 70% dermatologists and aesthetic clinicians, and many of the advancements in dermatology have come from ASLMS members.

The ASLMS Annual Conference brings together clinicians, scientists, engineers, procedural experts, and industry leaders from around the world to advance ideas from discovery to patient care.

From May 7-9, 2026, participants from 34 countries gathered in Savannah, Georgia, for the 45th ASLMS Annual Conference. The event featured workshops, daily plenary sessions, abstract presentations, networking opportunities, and a dynamic exhibit hall showcasing the latest advancements in lasers, light, energy-based devices, and more!

Topics covered during workshops included:

- Laser Physics
- Regenerative Medicine
- Pre- Peri- and Post-Treatment Protocols for Optimising Outcomes
- Contour Management in the GLP-1 Era
- Lasers and Skin Cancer
- Periorbital Rejuvenation
- Vascular
- Combining Modalities
- Hair Restoration
- Global Aesthetic Solutions
- Multidisciplinary Perspectives to Challenging Cases
- Best Practices for Lasers and Energy-Based Devices for Skin of Color
- Laser Safety
- Photobiomodulation
- Removal of Tattoos and Pigmented Lesions
- Treatment of Scars

and More!



Attendees at the iASLMS - International Symposium

Sessions such as iASLMS – International Symposium and the Global Aesthetic Lens emphasised global perspectives on the use of lasers and energy-based devices for diverse skin types. Attendees gained valuable clinical insights from international experts and practical strategies for integrating new techniques into their practices.

As a result, participants left with a richer understanding of global aesthetic philosophies, emerging cultural trends, and cutting-edge techniques shaping international practice.

The abstract sessions highlighted groundbreaking research, with 2026 marking one of the highest years for abstract submissions in ASLMS history. Over 290 abstracts will be published in the Lasers in Surgery and Medicine journal.



Abstract presenting authors during a Q&A

At the Annual Business Meeting on May 8, 2026, Ashish C. Bhatia, MD, FAAD, FASLMS passed leadership to the 2026-27 ASLMS President, Omar A. Ibrahimi, MD, PhD.



Omar A. Ibrahimi, MD, PhD gives his first address as ASLMS President

> *The strength of ASLMS has always been our big tent philosophy. We are a unique ecosystem where we have the clinician's hand, the engineer's mind, and the scientist's vision, and they all converge here. We don't just use technology- we refine it, we challenge it.*
>
> **Omar A. Ibrahimi, MD, PhD.**

Inaugural speech at ASLMS Annual Meeting

ASLMS will host its 46th Annual Conference from April 15-18, 2027, in Dallas, Texas.

Program chairs Mathew M. Avram, MD, JD; Walfre Franco, PhD; and Lilit Garibyan, MD, PhD are actively working to bring fresh perspectives to the ASLMS experience for next year's event. ASLMS has a unique position in the field because it sits at the intersection of science, technology, clinical application, innovation, and industry. The 2027 program will deliver education you can only see at ASLMS, including scientific and clinical abstracts, interactive sessions, content specifically designed for early-career clinicians, researchers, and future leaders, and meaningful ways to interact with industry.

Angolan Association of Dermatology and Venereology

From Training to Impact: Advancing Dermatology Across Angola

infoaadvangola@gmail.com

Theme: Training and education

Dermatology is gradually emerging in Angola as a well-recognised medical speciality. The Angolan College of Dermatology and Venereology (CADV), created in 2009 under the umbrella of the national Medical Order, joined ILDS in 2018. Its mission was focused on expanding the residency training program, promoting ethics, deontology, and monitoring the professional qualifications of dermatologists trained locally and abroad.

The Angolan Association of Dermatology and Venereology (AADV), instituted in Luanda on July 15th 2025, joined ILDS in 2026, and is taking over from the CADV to represent the Angolan dermatologists at the ILDS, offering continuity and expansion in the collaboration between the two institutions.

Advancing skin health in Angola

AADV's core mission is to play a catalytic role in supporting continuing professional education, access to quality clinical care, laboratory diagnostic capacities, essential medicines, integration with other programmes, innovative service delivery models, epidemiologic surveillance and general awareness on skin diseases.

AADV can draw on its members expertise to organise clinical conferences, seminars and national days to mobilise, screen and respond to the needs of people with conditions such as albinism, vitiligo and NTDs, giving a voice to those remote populations and people suffering from stigma and discrimination.

Mobilisation of incentives and support to promote epidemiological and clinical investigations of locally prevalent skin diseases.

To encourage dermatologists and government institutions to reach out to populations living in remote areas, conducting fieldwork and training of local health staff.

The enhancement of the collaboration with other national and international societies, partner institutions and industry is another priority.

Angola is stimulating other African countries with Portuguese as official language (PALOP countries) to also become ILDS members. AADV members are encouraged to take advantage of the multiple presential and on-line events, courses and other education materials offered by international societies such as the International League of Dermatology Societies (ILDS), International Foundation of Dermatology (IFD), African Society of Dermatology and Venereology (ASDV), Middle East International Dermatology & Aesthetic Medicine (MEIDAM) Association, the Ibero-Latin American College of Dermatology (CILAD) and KwaZulu Natal University African Dermatology Continental Grand Rounds.



Provision of basic eye care (IAAD Luanda, 2026)

In 2025, Angola had 44 national dermatologists posted in 7 out of 21 provinces, plus 34 residents being trained in Luanda, Huambo and Huila provinces, and 4 additional residents being trained abroad.

AADV joins hands in protecting people with Albinism

Since 2016, on the occasion of the annual June International Albinism Awareness Days (IAADs), all dermatologists join hands with the persons with albinism, their families and support associations to demonstrate their full support to and solidarity with this vulnerable population group. Information, education on this genetic condition and basic care are freely provided, including skin cancer screening, keratosis treatment, information on sun-protection measures and distribution of sunscreens products, as well as hospital referral of more complex cases.



Families of people with albinism, health care workers and members of support associations join at the IAAD, Kwanza Sul province, 2026)



Focus on the care and education of small children (IAAD 2026)

Recent approaches have given more attention to register and follow up small children and to provide access to integrated care, including basic eye care, psychological support and referral for more specialised treatment.

In 2023, out of the total MOH estimated number of 7000 people with albinism, some 2000 were registered with public health services in 8 out of the 21 provinces. 800 (40%) of those registered were in the Capital province of Luanda and 785 (39%) in the Southern province of Huila.

During the 2025 IAADs event, out of a total of 1088 people with albinism seen in 10 provinces by the dermatologists, including 392 children under 5 years of age, 106 cases of cancer and 366 cases of actinic lesions were identified and taken care of.

The results and high turnout for screening, detection of cancer and care in successive IAADs underscore the vital need to sustain and further improve this initiative, as well as to establish in parallel a system of continuous education and care.

Challenges:

1. Posting of at least 2 dermatologists per province.
2. Training of subspecialists in dermatopathology, paediatric dermatology, onco-dermatology, immuno-allergology and epidemiology of skin diseases.
3. Addressing key bottlenecks in public skin health services.

Perspectives:

1. Support to professional development and networking.
2. Promoting volunteerism among dermatologists
3. Advocacy for a national register of people with albinism together with a continuous access to prevention and care

Asian Society of Pediatric Dermatology

Amplifying Patient Voices in Asian Dermatology: Progress, Challenges, and Collaboration

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

Asian Society of Pediatric Dermatology

www.asianpedderm.com/

The inaugural 1st Regional Rare Skin Patient Support Group Summit, held in August 2025 in Singapore, marked a significant milestone for patient advocacy across Southeast Asia. Organised jointly by the Asian Society of Paediatric Dermatology (ASPD) and the Rare Skin Conditions Society (RSCS) Singapore, the event brought together patients, caregivers, patient leaders, physicians, and researchers from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Designed as a full day interactive programme, the summit aimed to amplify the voices of people living with rare skin conditions and to integrate patient perspectives more meaningfully into institutional and policy level decision making. Rather than adopting a traditional top down approach, the organisers recognised that effective advocacy grows from genuine dialogue, shared experiences, and mutual understanding among all stakeholders, especially patients and their families. This philosophy shaped every collaborative discussion throughout the meeting.



Attendees of the 1st Regional Rare Skin Patient Support Group Summit including patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals



Sharing by leaders of patient support groups across the SE Asian region

The programme focused on four key pillars. First, patient and community engagement were regarded as foundational, because individuals with lived experience offer valuable insights that should inform healthcare planning and service delivery. Second, reducing stigma through public awareness and education emerged as a shared regional priority, since misconceptions and social isolation continue to affect diagnosis, treatment access, and psychosocial wellbeing across the region, especially in lesser-served communities. Third, discussions highlighted the importance of shared decision making and collaborative care models that build meaningful partnerships between patients and healthcare providers. Finally, participants explored how technology, digital platforms, and media can strengthen healthcare capacity and improve connections across geographical boundaries.

One of the summit's most valuable contributions was its recognition that patient advocacy efforts are at different stages of development across Asia. Some countries have established advocacy groups and greater integration of patient voices within healthcare systems and regulatory frameworks, while others are still in earlier phases of awareness building and community mobilisation. Rather than viewing these differences as barriers, the summit created a platform for mutual learning and regional collaboration. Healthcare professionals and patient advocates from more established programmes shared their experiences and mentorship, while emerging groups contributed innovative grassroots approaches that had proven effective within their local contexts. This collaborative spirit led to candid but deep discussions on common challenges, including navigating regulatory pathways for rare disease diagnosis and treatment, securing funding for conditions affecting small patient populations, improving healthcare provider awareness of rare presentations, and accessing medications not yet available in certain countries. Through structured dialogue, participants identified shared priorities while recognising the need to adapt advocacy strategies to each country's unique healthcare and regulatory landscape.

Recognising that meaningful change requires sustained commitment beyond a single meeting, organisers established a biennial cadence for future summits, aligned with the Asian Scientific Meeting of Paediatric Dermatology (ASMPD). This ensures advocacy remains integrated within the dermatological community's professional agenda while maintaining dedicated space for patient voices to take centre stage. The commitment reflects confidence that the momentum generated requires regular reinforcement and ongoing dialogue.

The summit's success extended beyond its academic programme. Community building activities were intentionally incorporated throughout the day, reflecting the understanding that collective advocacy is strengthened through trust, empathy, and personal connection. Interactive sessions fostered camaraderie and deeper understanding of shared challenges, while shared meals created informal opportunities for meaningful conversations and cross border collaboration. The summit concluded with a collective visit to the Singapore Oceanarium, offering a symbolic reflection of its broader mission. Observing the interconnectedness of marine ecosystems served as a powerful metaphor for the collaborative network participants hoped to build, an interconnected and supportive regional community dedicated to improving the lives of individuals living with rare skin conditions.



Interactive discussion on the issues faced by rare skin patients across the SE Asian region

The inaugural Rare Skin Summit established an important framework for strengthening patient advocacy in dermatology across Asia while navigating diverse healthcare, regulatory, and cultural contexts. Through continued dialogue, peer learning, and genuine collaboration between patients, caregivers, advocacy groups, and healthcare professionals, the region is building sustainable capacity for future advocacy efforts. More importantly, the summit reaffirmed that patient voices are not supplementary to healthcare. They are essential to shaping a more compassionate, inclusive, and effective future for dermatology and rare disease care across Asia.

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2. *Asian Society of Pediatric Dermatology - Resources: www.asianpedderm.com/resources*

Authors | *Dr. Lynette Wee (Singapore), Dr. Srie Prihianti (Indonesia), Dr. Henrietta Albela (Malaysia), Dr. Elis Lee (Singapore) and Dr. Mark Koh (Singapore).*

Asian Society of Pediatric Dermatology

Building Bridges in Advancing Pediatric Dermatology in Asia

Theme: Training and education

Asian Society of Pediatric Dermatology

www.asianpedderm.com/

The Asian Society of Pediatric Dermatology (ASPD) is a leading regional organisation dedicated to advancing pediatric dermatology through education, research, innovation, and collaboration. Bringing together experts from across Asia, ASPD fosters excellence in the care of infants, children, and adolescents and their families, with skin diseases. Through scientific meetings, collaborative research, professional development initiatives, and international partnerships, the Society serves as a bridge connecting clinicians, researchers, and educators in pursuit of better outcomes and improved quality of life for children throughout the region. The ASPD continues to champion innovation, precision medicine, and multidisciplinary care while nurturing the next generation of pediatric dermatology leaders.

Vision and Purpose

The ASPD was established in recognition of the unique dermatologic needs of Asian children and the importance of fostering collaboration among countries with varying epidemiologic patterns, healthcare resources, and clinical expertise. Its overarching goal is to improve the skin health and quality of life of children in Asia through education, research, advocacy, and professional networking

12th Asian Scientific Meeting of Pediatric Dermatology

The 12th Asian Scientific Meeting of Pediatric Dermatology (ASMPD), held in conjunction with the 48th Annual Convention of the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS), brought together dermatologists, pediatricians, and pediatric dermatologists from across Asia and beyond in Manila, Philippines, from November 4–7, 2025. Guided by the theme, “Building Bridges: Exploring Innovations in Pediatric, Medical, and Cosmetic Dermatology,” the conference served as a platform for advancing scientific knowledge, fostering regional collaboration, and promoting innovation in dermatologic care.



Handover ceremony from the 12ASMPD to the 13ASMPD

Through a comprehensive program of plenary lectures, symposia, workshops, and research presentations, participants explored emerging developments in pediatric skin health, precision medicine, procedural dermatology, and multidisciplinary care. Hosted by the Pediatric Dermatology Society of the Philippines (PDSP), PDS and ASPD, the meeting highlighted the shared commitment of the Asian dermatology community to improving outcomes for children and adolescents with skin disease throughout the region.

To embody teaching and education, it brought together internationally recognised experts from the United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Thailand and Indonesia and other parts of the world to share emerging knowledge and strengthen regional collaboration in advancing pediatric dermatologic care.

A central pillar of the meeting is Precision Medicine and Genodermatoses, an area that represents one of the most transformative developments in modern pediatric dermatology. International leaders including Professor John McGrath (United Kingdom), Professor Dawn Heather Siegel (United States), Professor Leong Kin Fon (Singapore), and Professor Lynette Wee (Singapore) guide discussions on inherited skin disorders, epidermolysis bullosa, neurocutaneous syndromes, vascular anomalies, and advances in genetic testing. These sessions highlight how molecular diagnostics and targeted therapies are reshaping the management of rare pediatric skin diseases and moving the specialty toward increasingly personalised approaches to care.

Shifting focus on the management of inflammatory, immune-mediated, and allergic skin diseases, with international experts including Professors Srie Prihanti Gondokaryono (Indonesia), Ellis Kam-Lun Hon (Hong Kong), Liau MeiQi May & Leong Kin Fon (Malaysia), Nisha Chandran, Mark Jean Aan Koh, Yong Kwang Tay, and Lynette Wee (Singapore), Dawn Heather Siegel (United States), and John McGrath (United Kingdom) sharing advances in atopic dermatitis, autoimmune diseases, biologic therapies, and targeted treatments. Complementing these sessions were discussions on diagnostic innovation, including dermoscopy, trichoscopy, vascular lesion assessment, and pediatric genetic testing, highlighting the importance of early and accurate diagnosis in improving pediatric patient outcomes.

The conference also showcased advances in procedural pediatric dermatology and multidisciplinary care through contributions from David Luk (Hong Kong), Emily Yiping Gan, Leong Kin Fon (Singapore), Siriwan Wananukul (Thailand), Anne Halbert (Australia), and Phuong Thi Thanh Nguyen (Vietnam). Topics ranged from lasers, scar management, and pediatric surgery to adolescent dermatology, dermatologic emergencies, infectious diseases, and systemic disorders, emphasising the holistic and collaborative nature of modern pediatric dermatologic care.

Research and Education

Another major focus of the meeting was the promotion of research and its translation into clinical practice. To foster scholarly exchange and support emerging investigators, the ASPD and PDSP awarded travel grants to dermatology residents and fellows-in-training from Singapore, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Cambodia, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, and the Philippines who submitted outstanding case reports and innovative research studies. The recipients of the ASPD-PDSP Travel Scholarship included Drs. Chaiya Noima, Kuakul Kiatphirakul, and Ittichote Amornjiraporn of Thailand; Dr. Choing Mei Yan of Malaysia; Dr. Mrinal Gupta of India; Dr. Minjinsuvd Batbayr of Mongolia; and Dr. Stanley Leong of New Zealand. Further strengthening the Society’s commitment to research and academic excellence, ASPD and PDSP jointly hosted the inaugural PDSP-ASPD Research Forum, providing a regional platform for the presentation of high-quality research and the recognition of outstanding scientific contributions.

The winners of the Research Forum were Dr. Mei Yan Chong of Malaysia, Dr. Terri Chiong of Singapore, Dr. Nicole Alyssa Marie Milabo Yambao, Dr. Hazel Elaine Bermejo Reyes and Dr. Jean Paolo Ridon Rodriguez of Philippines and Dr. Mrinal Gupta of India.



Asian Society of Pediatric Dermatology officers, board members and members

Ultimately, this conference exemplifies the mission of the ASPD - to build enduring bridges that connect people, ideas, disciplines, and institutions across Asia.

Through collaboration, education, and innovation, ASPD continues to champion the advancement of pediatric dermatologic care while fostering a vibrant community of professionals dedicated to improving skin health for children and families throughout the region.

Authors | *A/Prof Mark Koh (President), A/Prof. WIilsie M. Salas-Walinsundin, MD (Member)*

Association of Academic Cosmetic Dermatology

Advancing evidence-based cosmetic dermatology education through academic collaboration

Theme: Training and education

www.theaacd.org

The Association of Academic Cosmetic Dermatology (AACD) is committed to advancing education, research, mentorship, and collaboration among academic dermatologists who teach cosmetic and laser dermatology to resident physicians. Over the past year, AACD members have focused on practical questions that many academic programs face. A few of our recent publications are highlighted below.

Supporting academic research

AACD members recently published a systematic review examining barriers to clinical cosmetic and laser dermatology research in academic settings. The study identified challenges across three common funding models: industry-sponsored research, unfunded investigator-initiated research, and publicly funded investigator-initiated research. Key barriers included institutional bureaucracy, ethical review processes, limited protected time, staffing constraints, grant availability, and challenges related to collaboration and mentorship. Proposed strategies for overcoming these barriers included streamlining administrative processes, engaging trainees, fostering multi-institutional collaboration, seeking mentorship, and building stronger partnerships between academic centers and industry.

This work is relevant beyond the United States because academic dermatologists globally face similar pressures. By identifying barriers and practical solutions, AACD hopes to support more sustainable research models in cosmetic and laser dermatology.

Evaluating educational programs

AACD recently evaluated the utility of its monthly web-based cosmetic dermatology journal club. From May to September 2025, 16 articles were discussed, with participation from faculty, residents, and medical students. Most respondents found the journal club engaging, appropriately structured, and useful. Ninety-two percent were somewhat or extremely likely to participate again, and 98% were somewhat or extremely likely to recommend it to others.

This initiative demonstrates how virtual programming can expand access to cosmetic dermatology education, particularly for trainees who may have limited exposure to cosmetic and laser procedures at their home institutions.

All are welcome to join the AACD journal club: www.theaacd.org/journal-club.



AACD Faculty 2025

Compensation models in academic cosmetic dermatology

Another AACD study examined compensation models for cosmetic procedures in academic dermatology. In a survey of 52 academic cosmetic dermatologists from 24 U.S. states, compensation models varied widely, with most respondents reporting hybrid salary and productivity-based models. The study highlighted challenges related to procedure pricing, facility fees, productivity thresholds, and institutional funds flow.

Transparent and sustainable compensation structures are important for faculty retention, educational capacity, and the long-term viability of academic cosmetic dermatology programs. These findings may help faculty and institutional leaders develop more equitable systems that support both patient care and resident 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: For additional information, visit www.theaacd.org.

Selected publications

1. *Kang BY, Wyles SP, Levin Y, et al. Barriers to clinical cosmetic and laser dermatology research in the academic setting by source of funding: a systematic review. Archives of Dermatological Research. 2025.*
2. *Chang J, Alvi S, Zhang E, et al. Assessing the utility of a cosmetic dermatology journal club. Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology. 2026.*
3. *Kang BY, Alam M, Bar A, et al. Compensation models in academic cosmetic dermatology. Archives of Dermatological Research. 2025.*



Association of Dermatovenereologists of Uzbekistan

Development of Dermatovenereology in the Republic of Uzbekistan: *From Standardised Protocols to Personalised Medicine*

niidiv@mail.ru

Theme: The future of dermatology as a discipline

Uzbekistan's healthcare system is undergoing a period of structural reform. Demographic growth combined with urbanisation is presenting science with new challenges. Dermatovenereology, once regarded as a narrow discipline, is today evolving into a complex specialty closely linked to fundamental immunology, molecular genetics, the IT industry.

Dermatological pathology in Uzbekistan is determined by climato-geographical factors: a continental arid climate and high levels of solar insolation. These conditions account for the prevalence of photo-dependent dermatoses, severe forms of acne, psoriasis, and pigmentation disorders. One of the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan is overcoming the geographical barrier to access to medical care. The gap between the equipment levels of medical institutions in Tashkent and posts in the regions necessitates digitalisation.

Integration of AI-based expert systems will become the standard for primary care:

Primary-level screening:

Mobile applications integrated into physicians' tablets will enable optical analysis of skin lesions.

Automated patient routing:

Patients with suspected severe dermatosis will be entered into a unified electronic database with scheduling of a telemedicine consultation with specialists at the Republican Center of Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology.

Digital skin mapping:

Regional centers are deploying robotic photo-capture systems. The system scans the entire body in minutes, creating a "mole map," and on subsequent visits detects changes — important for cancer prevention in conditions of high solar insolation.

Teledermatology has proven its value in Uzbekistan. A smartphone and a physician allow a patient from a remote district to quickly connect with a specialist. Scaling these platforms and integrating them with healthcare systems is one of the key opportunities in global dermatology.

Elevated solar insolation in Uzbekistan requires a scientific and practical approach to phototherapy. Systemic PUVA therapy is gradually becoming obsolete due to complications.

The development of photodermatology is directed toward selectivity and safety:

Narrowband therapy:

Such cabins are becoming the gold standard. The 311 nm wavelength provides anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive activity in the epidermis without causing side effects.

Excimer lasers and monochromatic light (308nm):

The technology is indispensable for localised and segmental forms of vitiligo and alopecia. A beam of light is directed precisely at the depigmentation or hair-loss lesion without affecting healthy skin, allowing the radiation dose to be increased.

Biochemical synergism:

Vitiligo treatment protocols in Uzbekistan are based on combining physical treatment (NB-UVB) with systemic antioxidant support.

Biological Therapy for Dermatoses

The future of dermatology in Uzbekistan is linked to the transition to individualised biological therapy.

- **Genetically engineered biological drugs:** The use of monoclonal antibodies is changing the prognosis for patients with psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. Drugs that selectively block key inflammatory cytokines — interleukins — achieve complete remission in patients. The healthcare system's task is to expand state subsidies and mandatory medical insurance to ensure the accessibility of GEBPs.
- **JAK inhibitors:** This class of 'small molecules' opens new prospects for treating conditions previously resistant to therapy. By blocking intracellular signal transduction from cytokine receptors, JAK inhibitors halt the T-cell attack on hair follicles and melanocytes, stabilising the process at a systemic level.

The introduction of therapeutic molecules requires economic support. Importing biological drugs places a burden on healthcare and patients. In this context, the development of the Tashkent Pharma Park scientific and industrial cluster becomes of strategic importance.

- **Localisation of biosimilar production:** Creating analogs of monoclonal antibodies and topical agents will reduce the cost of treatment by 3–5 times.
- **Pharmacogenetic testing:** Before prescribing systemic therapy, genetic profile screening is being introduced into clinical practice in Uzbekistan. Analysis of gene polymorphisms will enable prediction of drug metabolism rates, efficacy, and risk of complications.

Medicine is moving away from an organ-centric view of skin pathology. The dermatologist of the future is a clinician with a broad outlook who evaluates a skin syndrome as a systemic homeostatic imbalance. Combining the efforts of dermatovenereologists and related specialists enables the creation of personalised diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms. This approach improves efficacy, extends remission, and minimises drug toxicity.

The future of dermatovenereology in Uzbekistan is a synergistic alliance of science, digital technologies, and climate-oriented clinical practice.

Collaboration between dermatological societies and global health institutions is generating methods that did not previously exist. The partnership between the International League of Dermatological Societies and the Association of Dermatovenereologists of Uzbekistan serves as an example of international cooperation — one that is set to become a catalyst for the professional growth of physicians and will, in the long term, improve the quality of dermatological care and ensure patients' access to world-class treatment.

Association of Professors of Dermatology

APD Annual Meeting - Optimism in Academic Dermatology

Theme: Training and education

www.dermatologyprofessors.org/

A strong and forward-looking professional community is essential, now more than ever in 2026 in the face of a rapidly evolving and unpredictable national landscape. The Association of Professors of Dermatology (APD) is an organisation committed to upholding excellence in medical education, research, clinical care and faculty development in dermatology, and continues to be a leading voice of academic dermatology. Comprised of a broad membership representing diverse institutions in the United States, the APD has member sections including residency program directors, dermatologic surgeons, dermatopathologists, pediatric dermatologists, and academic administrators.

In an environment of continuing challenges and opportunities, it remains imperative to support, optimise and reaffirm the central pillars of education, research, and clinical care for academic dermatology departments to thrive. To stay abreast of the latest innovations and trends in these key areas, the 2026 APD Program Committee is pleased to announce this year's annual meeting, which will be held October 9-10, 2026 at the Omni Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. This meeting's theme of "Optimism in Academic Dermatology" will be highlighted in 4 plenary sessions: Education, Clinical Operations, Research and Leadership Development. Talks and panels will focus on generational differences, supporting program directors and educators, curriculum gaps, artificial/augmented intelligence in education and research, pharmacist and nursing clinical support programs, negotiating with health systems, best practices in epidemiological and medical education research, professional coaching, mentoring, having difficult conversations and much more. The program encourages active audience participation and collegial discussions, and will include additional time for networking with colleagues.

This year, the Lowell Goldsmith Lecture will be given by Ncoza Dlova, MBChB, PhD, Professor and Head of Dermatology, and Dean and Head of the School of Clinical Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Durban, South Africa.



Bringing together colleagues, ideas, and inspiration at the APD Annual Meeting 2025

The meeting will also feature updates by speakers from key dermatology and medical education organisations, including the AAD, ABD, AMA, ACGME, and AAMC. There will be a unique opportunity to have 1-on-1 meetings with Eileen Anthony, Executive Director for the ACGME Review Committee, who will be available to answer individual questions related to accreditation decisions (i.e., clarifications on current citations or areas for improvement) or other Committee activities. Per tradition, there will be smaller breakout sessions for program directors, dermatologic surgeons, dermatopathologists, department chairs, and pediatric dermatologists on Friday, October 9, with the chance to hear highlights of the breakouts the next morning. Also on Friday, October 9, there will be a session hosted by the Dermatology Teachers Exchange Group (DTEG) for presentations of abstracts in dermatology education, with a special theme on education in the social media era, and an early evening cocktail reception held at the meeting site.

We are pleased to announce a new program taking place the day before the meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, October 8, for program directors and program coordinators of residencies and fellowships. This program is dedicated to topics in graduate medical education (GME) as they relate to dermatology. There will be a "bootcamp" introduction to dermatology GME, which is especially encouraged for any program directors or coordinators who are new to dermatology residency or fellowship leadership; it will also be beneficial to experienced leaders seeking to gain further insight and understanding about GME.

Session content to be covered will include best practices for cultivating effective working relationships amongst program directors and coordinators, career development in GME for program directors and coordinators, key updates and challenges for resident recruitment, and maintaining wellbeing amongst program leadership.

Additional information about the schedule can be found on the APD website.

Registration for this new program is free of charge and can be made at the same time as the APD meeting registration.

There is an amazing line-up of speakers planned for this meeting – it will be a dynamic, invigorating and informative program. We welcome all who are interested and invested in academic dermatology to join.

To register, visit: https://bit.ly/2026APD.

We look forward to connecting with you.

On behalf of the 2026 APD Program Committee:

Frank Wang, MD
Meeting Program Chair

Sewon Kang, MD
APD President

Nkanyezi (Kanya) Ferguson, MD

Matilda Nicholas, MD PhD

Kanade Shinkai, MD PhD

Karolyn (Kari) Wanat, MD

Australasian College of Dermatologists

Launching a National Skin Cancer Scorecard

Theme: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

The Australasian College of Dermatologists

www.dermcoll.edu.au

In November 2025, the Australasian College of Dermatologists partnered with the consumer-led Melanoma and Skin Cancer Advocacy Network (MSCAN) to launch Australia's first National Skin Cancer Scorecard at Parliament House.

The Scorecard is an evidence-based tool designed to unite the skin cancer sector around a shared framework for action. Using available data, the Scorecard provides a clear picture of national progress and gaps in reducing disease burden.

Skin cancer is Australia's most common and costly cancer, estimated to cost the health system $2.47 billion in 2023/24[1]. The Scorecard responds to this challenge by establishing a collaborative, sector-wide agenda for reducing the burden of melanoma and keratinocyte cancers across prevention, early detection, treatment and care.

A shared agenda with equity at its core

The Scorecard identifies priority policy areas, tracks progress and promotes coordinated investment across the cancer continuum. Equity for regional, rural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations is central. The Scorecard highlights achievements, identifies gaps and will be repeated every five years to ensure accountability and sustained progress.

Driving action through 16 priority areas

Informed by people with lived experience, clinicians, researchers and broader skin cancer sector, the Scorecard establishes 16 priority actions to guide advocacy, policy and action to tackle skin cancer in Australia.

These priorities span:

- Prevention
- Early detection
- Treatment
- Support and care after diagnosis
- Foundational enablers – including national cancer plan implementation, national surveillance, research investment, consumer engagement and workforce planning.

Each priority was assessed against measurable indicators and rated on a scale from "no progress" to "significant progress", enabling a transparent and shared understanding of national performance.



Scorecard reports

Embedding accountability and transparency

The Scorecard introduces clear accountability mechanisms including public indicators, jurisdictional audits and annual reporting on key national initiatives. Importantly, it also highlights where data are lacking – ensuring critical gaps are recognised and addressed.

For example, treatment equity is assessed through regulatory approval timelines and reimbursement, while proxy measures are used to evaluate more complex areas such as access to multidisciplinary care. This approach ensures even difficult-to-measure aspects of care remain visible within policy and advocacy discussions.

A model for sustained advocacy and reform

By combining agreed priorities with measurable indicators, the Scorecard provides a transferable, standard-setting model for cancer advocacy. It enables data-driven progress tracking and will be repeated every five years, with the next Scorecard being published in 2030, to ensure sustained focus, accountability, and improvement over time.

> *The strength of the Scorecard is that we are now tracking progress in reducing the burden of Australia's national cancer – skin cancer. It keeps all of us accountable.*
>
> **Tamara Dawson**
> **MSCAN Founder and Director**

> *The Scorecard is not just a report — it's a call to action. By working together, we can reduce the burden of skin cancer and save lives.*
>
> **Dr Adrian Lim, ACD President**

Engaging policymakers

The Scorecard was launched at MSCAN's Parliamentary Friends of Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Start of Summer BBQ, now in its third year. This forum provides a valuable opportunity for direct engagement between the sector and parliamentarians, elevating skin cancer as a national health priority.

As part of the day's events, ACD Fellows delivered skin checks for parliamentarians – a simple yet powerful way to connect with policymakers on the clinical realities of skin cancer and critical role of dermatologists in prevention, early detection and management.

Partnership driving national impact

The National Skin Cancer Scorecard demonstrates the power of collaboration between clinical leadership and consumer advocacy. Through the partnership between ACD and MSCAN, the initiative brings together complementary expertise—combining clinical insight, policy leadership, and lived experience to shape a unified national response to skin cancer. We are grateful to all Fellows involved in its development, including Prof H Peter Soyer, Prof Victoria Mar and A/Prof Stephen Shumack who contributed as part of MSCAN's multidisciplinary expert group.

By aligning stakeholders around shared priorities and measurable outcomes, the Scorecard provides a practical platform that can be used by all stakeholders to drive sustained advocacy, inform policy, and accelerate meaningful progress in reducing the burden of skin cancer.

View the Scorecard and full report here: https://bit.ly/453TcZe

Reference

1. *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2025). Health system spending on disease and injury in Australia 2023–24, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed Nov 2025. Available from: https://bit.ly/3SiJIX8*



Dr Adrian Lim ACD President and Tamara Dawson MSCAN Founder and Director, with the Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler MP and Education Minister, the Hon Jason Clare MP

Brazilian Society of Dermatology

Orange December: How the Brazilian Society of Dermatology Transformed a National Skin Cancer Campaign into a Platform for Advocacy, Innovation, and Public Policy

www.sbd.org.br

Theme: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

In December 2025, the Brazilian Society of Dermatology (SBD) took an important step in strengthening skin cancer advocacy in Brazil by organising a seminar at the National Congress in Brasília. The event brought together dermatologists, legislators, public health experts, and patient advocates to discuss the growing burden of skin cancer and the urgent need for public policies that expand prevention, early diagnosis, and timely treatment.

This initiative exemplifies how dermatology societies can move beyond clinical practice and scientific education to engage directly with policymakers and influence national health agendas.

Skin Cancer: Brazil's Most Common Cancer

Skin cancer accounts for approximately **30%** of all malignancies diagnosed in Brazil, making it the country's most frequent cancer. While most cases are non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma remains responsible for the majority of skin cancer-related deaths.

Brazil faces significant challenges in addressing this burden:

- Marked regional disparities in access to dermatologic care;
- Delays in diagnosis and treatment;
- Limited availability of dermatologists in remote areas;
- Incomplete national health data.

The consequences of delayed diagnosis include more complex treatments, increased healthcare costs, productivity losses, and avoidable deaths.

Orange December: A National Campaign with Lasting Impact

Since 1999, the SBD has coordinated the National Skin Cancer Prevention Campaign, known as Orange December ("Dezembro Laranja"). Initially conceived as a one-day nationwide screening effort, the campaign has evolved into a comprehensive public health initiative.

Between 2000 and 2023:

- More than **600,000** people were examined;
- Approximately **75,000** suspicious skin tumors were identified;
- The proportion of participants with suspected skin cancer increased from **7.7%** to **29.3%**.

These results reflect improved targeting of high-risk populations, increased public awareness, and the growing burden of skin cancer in an aging population.

As recently published by our group, Orange December has generated one of the largest continuous datasets on skin cancer screening in the world, demonstrating the value of dermatology-led prevention campaigns.

Advocacy in Action: Bringing Skin Health to Congress

The seminar in Brasília was designed to show lawmakers that skin cancer is not merely an individual medical issue but a public health challenge with significant social and economic impact.

The discussion emphasised:

- The high incidence of skin cancer in Brazil;
- The importance of early detection;
- The need to strengthen public awareness campaigns;
- The expansion of dermatologic care in underserved regions;
- The incorporation of teledermatology and digital innovation.

By presenting robust epidemiologic data and real-world examples from Orange December, the SBD demonstrated how dermatologists contribute directly to reducing morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs.



Dr. Carlos Barcaui speaks at SBD's National Congress in Brasília on skin cancer advocacy, emphasising prevention, early diagnosis, and public policies for better skin health.



Synchronous teledermatology linking Amazon and São Paulo specialists during Orange December, expanding access and enabling early skin cancer detection in remote areas.

Alignment with WHO Priorities

In May 2025, the 78th World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA78.15, formally recognising skin diseases as a global public health priority.

The Orange December campaign aligns closely with the priorities highlighted by the World Health Organization:

WHO Priority	Orange December Contribution
Prevention	Nationwide education on sun protection
Early diagnosis	Free skin examinations
Equity	Activities in all regions of Brazil
Workforce strengthening	Mobilization of thousands of dermatologists
Data generation	25-year historical database
Advocacy	Public and legislative engagement

This alignment reinforces the relevance of skin health within national and global health agendas.

Expanding Access Through Innovation

In 2025, the SBD piloted a teledermatology initiative during Orange December in Bragança, Pará, in the Brazilian Amazon.

Forty patients were evaluated remotely, and 10 cases with suspected skin cancer were referred for biopsy and surgical treatment.

This experience demonstrated that telemedicine can effectively extend specialist care to remote regions and help reduce disparities in access to dermatologic services.

Lessons for Global Dermatology

The Brazilian experience highlights several lessons relevant to dermatology societies worldwide:

1. Advocacy is an essential component of dermatologic leadership.

2. Prevention campaigns can generate meaningful epidemiologic data.

3. Collaboration with policymakers increases the visibility of skin health.

4. Technology can expand access and improve efficiency.

5. Sustained institutional efforts can shape public policy.

Conclusion

What began as a national screening campaign has evolved into a strategic platform for education, early detection, scientific production, innovation, and advocacy.

By bringing the discussion on skin cancer to Brazil's National Congress, the Brazilian Society of Dermatology reaffirmed that dermatology has a vital role not only in treating disease, but also in shaping policies that improve skin health and save lives.



National television appearance promoting the Orange December Campaign, raising awareness of skin cancer prevention, early detection, and the role of dermatologists across Brazil.

Orange December demonstrates that when dermatologists combine science, public engagement, and advocacy, they can create lasting impact for patients and society.





Celebrate Every Skin Tone

British Association of Dermatologists

British College of Dermatology

Theme: Training and education

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF DERMATOLOGISTS
HEALTHY SKIN FOR ALL

www.bad.org.uk

Our strategy

The British College of Dermatology implements our workforce development strategy via three themes:

- ***Workforce education*** - aligning healthcare policy with evidence informed educational design
- ***Educator development*** - growing future leaders in UK dermatology education
- ***Accreditation*** – of individuals, for example general practitioners and dermatologists and accreditation of external dermatology education courses and events

We deliver this through our skilled Education team and working with our Education Faculty Fellows, stakeholders and partners.

Our portfolio spans the breadth of online learning, face-to-face events, portfolio assessment, faculty development, scholarships and awards. Our online content is accessible to all healthcare professionals and dermatologists both in the UK and internationally.

Our key outputs and impact this year

Workforce education

- 20 new courses on our award-winning Education hub https://learning.bcd.org.uk/ which supports learning for the non-specialist and specialist dermatology workforce and currently serves over 3,800 users
- Live webinar series for GPs, pharmacists and nurses on the skin assessment skills of history taking and clinical examination
- Contributing guest speakers to the Skin Science Conclave in New Delhi

Educator development

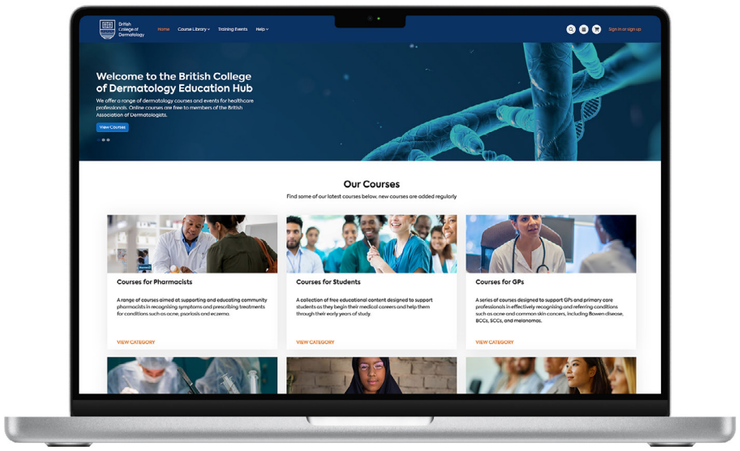
- Continuing to build an Education Faculty of Fellows that honours experienced dermatology educators for their long-term contribution to training healthcare professionals
- Developing the skills of our Faculty through an educational and skills development programme

Accreditation

- 72 clinicians achieved accreditation across our range of programmes
- 647 healthcare professionals attended our accredited training

Overall, we supported dermatology education or accreditation of over 5,400 individuals in the last year.

British College of Dermatology



Positive feedback from users includes:

> *Clear and concise reminder of each dermatology condition and what it can look like.*
>
> **Community Pharmacist, Skin Examination for Pharmacists online module**

> *Since becoming BCD accredited, we've seen clear benefits. The endorsement has strengthened credibility and trust among dermatologists engaging with our platform. It reinforces that our educational content is developed with integrity and aligns with best practice in dermatology.*
>
> **Consultant Dermatologist, The Skin Diary**

The year ahead promises to be impactful. We are planning an innovative primary care workforce development project for the northwest of England, a programme of UK and international webinars and podcasts along with an undergraduate education programme to be rolled out to all UK medical schools.

Resources

Visit the British College of Dermatology webiste: https://learning.bcd.org.uk/

Author | Barbara Mason, Director of Education, British Association of Dermatologists



British Dermatological Nursing Group

BDNG Strengthens Global Partnerships at World Congress of Dermatology in Guadalajara, Mexico

Theme: Training and education

www.bdng.org.uk

International nursing collaboration has never been more important. By working closely with colleagues overseas, we can share best practice, exchange innovative ideas, and learn from different approaches to patient care, education, and service development. These partnerships help ensure that dermatology nurses everywhere continue to deliver the highest standards of care for patients living with skin disease.

An excellent example of international collaboration has already been seen through the partnership between the British Dermatological Nursing Group (BDNG), Australian Dermatology Nurses Association (ADNA) and the Singapore Nurse Association – Dermatology Chapter in supporting the EGO Travel Award initiative, where recipients attend the ADNA conference, where they can also visit a dermatology clinic and this year tour the Ego Facilities, on top of this they were offered the opportunity to visit the National Skin Centre and spend time with the nursing team and their lead for the day.

This collaboration has helped create valuable educational and professional opportunities for dermatology nurses, encouraging shared learning and strengthening international relationships across the dermatology nursing community.

Building global connections and the next generation of dermatology nursing leaders

BDNG is delighted to be developing plans for a sister society meeting at the upcoming World Congress of Dermatology in Guadalajara, Mexico in June 2027. This exciting opportunity reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening the excellent relationships we have already built with dermatology organisations across the world.

The planned sister society meeting will provide a dedicated platform to build on our already strong international connections and create new opportunities for collaboration. We are planning a full-day programme, beginning with a morning of presentations from the BDNG, followed by an afternoon dedicated to networking, professional discussion, and future partnership working with our sister societies. This format will provide delegates with valuable time to meet peers from around the world, explore shared priorities, exchange knowledge and best practice, and discuss how we can work together to advance dermatology nursing internationally.

We will be reaching out to dermatology nursing organisations around the world to help shape and contribute to the afternoon programme. These sessions will showcase the value of dermatology nursing and highlight nurses' vital contributions to patient care, education, service innovation, leadership, and research across healthcare systems worldwide.

The afternoon programme is expected to include informal networking sessions, opportunities to hear from international colleagues, and discussions around education, workforce development, research, and improving patient outcomes. It will also be a chance to celebrate the achievements of dermatology nurses worldwide and recognise the essential role nursing plays within multidisciplinary dermatology teams.



Bringing global dermatology nursing together: Speakers at the BDNG Sister Society Meeting, WCD 2023, Singapore

The BDNG will be supporting the next generation of dermatology nursing leaders by taking a group of junior "rising stars" from the UK to Guadalajara, building on the success of a similar initiative at the World Congress of Dermatology 2023 (WCD2023) in Singapore. Each participant would be paired with BDNG Trustees and members of the Education Team, creating a buddying and mentoring experience throughout the congress.

This would offer an invaluable professional development opportunity, enabling junior colleagues to learn directly from global leaders in dermatology, gain insight into international practice, and build confidence through networking and engagement with experts from around the world. We hope the experience will inspire and encourage the future leaders of dermatology nursing.



Celebrating BDNG's rsing stars during WCD2023 in Singapore

For the BDNG, participation in the World Congress represents an important step in continuing to raise the profile of dermatology nursing on the global stage. We are proud of the relationships we have developed with our sister societies around the world and look forward to deepening these partnerships in Guadalajara.

We hope many members and colleagues will join us for what promises to be an inspiring and productive day of connection, collaboration, and shared ambition for the future of dermatology nursing.

For more information, visit the BDNG website: www.bdng.org.uk

ILDS GLODERM
International Alliance for Global Health Dermatology

Skin Health for Everyone. Everywhere.

Connecting professionals to advance skin health in underserved communities.

Our mission is to connect dermatologists and trainees who are focused on the advancement of skin health in resource-limited communities, through sustainable and integrated approaches to clinical care, education, research, policy, and advocacy.

How to get involved...

- Mentorship Programme
- Annual Scientific Meetings
- Educational Webinars
- Stories of Our Skin Podcast Series
- SEED Network
- Become a GLODERM Member

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Canadian Dermatology Association

Developing and implementing a national advocacy strategy

Theme: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

Canadian Dermatology Association | Association canadienne de dermatologie

www.dermatology.ca/

Established in 1925, the Canadian Dermatology Association (CDA) is a member organisation that advocates for dermatologists and patients across Canada, underscoring their essential role in the health care system. As a community of Certified Dermatologists, it is dedicated to advancing the science of dermatology, encompassing over 3000 skin, hair and nail conditions.

With just over **800 certified dermatologists** to serve a **population of 41.5 million**, patients face significant barriers to timely care. This represents a ratio of 1.9 dermatologists for 100,000 population, far below other leading countries such as Australia, the United States, France and Germany. Without immediate action, delays in access to dermatological care will grow, geographic and jurisdictional inequities in care will deepen, and population health outcomes will worsen.

National Advocacy Strategy

As the health care landscape grows increasingly complex, the need for a strong, unified dermatology voice became obvious. Therefore, in 2024 the CDA began its journey to develop a national advocacy strategy. Starting with the development of a unifying advocacy platform: "More than Skin Deep" (https://bit.ly/4bQ5Grl) which describes the challenges faced by dermatologists and their patients, but more importantly outlines actionable solutions to strengthen dermatologic care and improve patient outcomes. It highlights the essential role of dermatologists and affirms the CDA's leadership within the Canadian health care system. Addressing the challenges faced by dermatologists requires collaborative pan-Canadian solutions.

Some of the solutions championed by the CDA are:

Bolstering System Capacity

To include dermatologists in any pan-Canadian health human resource planning being undertaken and collect and standardise health workforce data, to be used for decision-making.

To partner with provinces and territories to fund the creation of new residency positions and support compensation for community-based dermatologists who are essential for training the next generation of specialists.

Support for New Models of Care

Invest in projects related to team-based care similar to that for primary care physicians and include dermatologists in any planning and support for provinces and territories that relate to team-based care.

Integration of Technology

Consult and include dermatologists, in developing policies and standards for AI and digital tools in dermatological care. Invest in research and the digitalisation of medicine to enhance AI capabilities and dermatological applications.



CDA's More Than Skin Deep Advocacy Platform

The national advocacy strategy has the overall aim to elevate awareness and support for dermatologists as the gold-standard experts in diagnosing and treating skin diseases. It includes six multi-year strategies:

- Develop, refine and disseminate the CDA's advocacy positioning;
- Engage with governments and key decision-makers on CDA's advocacy priorities;
- Collaborate with provincial societies to coordinate advocacy efforts;
- Engage and communicate with CDA members on our advocacy efforts;
- Promote the important role of dermatologists; and
- Strengthen the CDA's capacity to advocate.

The CDA has advanced its advocacy strategy through a series of high-impact initiatives. Operation 5,000 Voices (https://bit.ly/4pXnMxf) petition mobilised members and the public to gather support for additional investments in dermatology. Equipped with this strong national support for dermatology, the CDA brought its "More Than Skin Deep: Solutions to narrow Canada's dermatology gap" (https://bit.ly/4fFV8NB) to Parliament Hill in November 2025. Building on this momentum, we returned to Parliament Hill in May 2026 and expanded our reach with 15 advocacy meetings with decision-makers and direct public engagement, including on-site skin cancer screenings that underscored the real-world impact of dermatological care and the need for more access to dermatologists.



CDA's community skin cancer screening helps Canadians access vital skin health checks



Long lines, growing demand: Canadians queue for CDA's skin cancer screening in collaboration with Melanoma Canada

Simultaneously the CDA is continuing to refine its advocacy positioning. This includes establishing a Task Force on Dermatology Credentials to objectively compare training standards to inform legislators and protect patient safety and developing a position statement on AI. As well as continuing to disseminate its positioning as evidenced by its 2026–2027 Pre-Budget Submission to reinforce key priorities and position dermatology within federal health and technology investments.

The CDA has made important progress on its national advocacy strategy over the past two years by bringing dermatologists together to align on a national positioning and by strengthening its advocacy impact through the More Than Skin Deep documents. This work, supported by a more proactive media strategy, expanded LinkedIn presence, and increased member communications, has helped provide a clear foundation for advancing policy priorities and demonstrating the systemic and patient impacts of dermatologic disease.

As a result, the CDA has increased its visibility, credibility, and influence, member awareness of advocacy initiatives has increased by 27% year over year; and finally, member satisfaction with CDA's advocacy efforts has increased by 15%.

Chinese Society of Dermatology

Promoting Projects to Strengthen the Foundations of Medical and Health Care: Standardising and Homogenizing Medical Services

https://csd.cma.org.cn/

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

With a core focus on “strengthening the grassroots and reinforcing the primary care network,” the Chinese Society of Dermatology (CSD) has launched the “ Expertise Outreach Program for Grassroots Communities.” in a series of three years, the Three year initiative 2024-2026. This initiative aims to address deficiencies in dermatological medical services at the county level, promotes the vertical integration of high-quality medical resources, and establishes a coordinated medical service paradigm between different tiers of healthcare. Dozens of groups of voluntary senior dermatologists from tertiary institutions travels to county primary or secondary hospitals, mostly during weekend times.

The grassroots activities encompass various forms, including grand rounds, consultations of challenging cases, practical demonstrations, academic lectures, knowledge updates, and large-scale public welfare clinics. Over the three years, these efforts have cumulatively trained 11,617 primary doctors, provided free consultations to 20,963 patients, covered 917 grassroots county-level towns, by involvement of 1,005 dermatology experts. Additionally, focusing on specific diseases and targeting grassroots communities, the CSD also organised numerous public welfare clinics, specialised disease diagnosis and treatment training sessions, and public science popularisation activities, benefiting hundreds of thousands of patients.



In a typical activity of Expertise Outreach Program for Grassroots Communities, a group of senior dermatologists gave free consultation and scientific knowledge distribution to residents in a county hospital.

By gathering and reporting the needs from grassroot hospitals and Entrusted by the Department of Primary Health of the National Health Commission (NHC), the CSD also organised the compilation of the “Essential Drug List for Grassroots Dermatology” manual to help improve the development and standardisation of grassroots medical services.

Diverse Initiatives in Specialist Education, Training, and Science Popularisation

The CSD has been instrumental in compiling of dozens of textbooks and reference monographs in the field of dermatology in the past three years. These include:

- Chinese Medical Education Teaching Case Library (Digital Case-based Edition)
- Standardised Residency Training for Dermatologists, Dermatology for Postgraduates
- Six-volume Specialty Department Construction Guide Series for the National Medical and Health Foundations Strengthening Project – Dermatology
- Quick Reference Manual for Dermatological Drugs

Through the collaborative efforts of national peer experts, a comprehensive monograph, “Chinese Dermatology” (approximately 5 million characters), is expected to be published within the year. These works will be distributed in both print and electronic formats, providing professional references for over 30,000 dermatologists in China. In 2026, the English journal “SKIN”, after multiple rounds of review and evaluation, was approved for launch in China, providing a new platform for international academic exchange.

Given the high level of internet development and the popularity of self-media, non-scientific dermatological information often circulates online, misleading the public. To enhance the professionalism of science popularisation, the CSD has organised the compilation of a series of popular science readings identified by the unified mark “365 Questions.”

These publications address common dermatological conditions of concern to the public, such as “365 Questions on Atopic Dermatitis,” “365 Questions on Psoriasis,” “365 Questions on Vitiligo.” and “365 Questions on Urticaria.” Seven volumes are planned for publication in print and online formats, aiming to disseminate professional scientific knowledge in accessible language. The French version of “365 Questions on Atopic Dermatitis” has been authorised for copyright. The “525 National Skin Care Day,” initiated by the China Dermatologist Association, has been held for 20 consecutive years. This annual event involves over 300 medical institutions each year, promoting skin health and offering free clinics, gaining widespread social recognition.



Two volumes of published 365 knowledge dissemination series, “365 Questions on Atopic Dermatitis” “365 Questions on Psoriasis”.

Outlook

Providing advanced and homogenized medical services remains a top priority for the CSD. In this era of AI empowerment, intelligent operations, and networked technology, the CSD will continue to support dermatologists and serve patients with skin diseases in more efficient, convenient, and appropriate ways.

Author | Xing-Hua Gao, MD, Ph.D, President, Chinese Society of Dermatology

Chinese Society of Dermatology

Global Volunteerism Leads Shandong in Establishing a New Medical-Prevention Integration System to Reinforce Skin Health Defenses

https://csd.cma.org.cn/

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

Against the backdrop of increasingly complex global skin health challenges, cross-sector collaboration and systemic innovation driven by volunteerism have become key to addressing infectious, emerging, and severe skin diseases. The Dermatology Hospital of Shandong First Medical University took the lead in breaking down barriers between traditional prevention institutions and general hospitals nationwide. It established a new medical-prevention integration system that is "vertical to the grassroots" based on traditional skin disease prevention and control institutions and CDC networks, and "horizontal to the broader healthcare system" based on dermatology departments of general hospitals. This has formed the "**Shandong Model**" for the prevention and control of notifiable infectious diseases and emerging infectious skin diseases and discovery of novel diseases and rare cutaneous manifestations[1,2], providing a replicable successful example for global skin health governance.

For notifiable infectious skin diseases such as leprosy and syphilis, Shandong has deeply integrated traditional CDC network advantages with modern medical resources through the new system. To address the declining cost-effectiveness of the three-tier vertical leprosy control system, the hospital led the establishment of a "training-referral-diagnosis" integrated medical alliance involving 189 general hospitals, traditional Chinese medicine hospitals, and skin disease prevention institutions. Through systematic training, dermatologists' awareness of leprosy was enhanced, and an early detection and standardised referral mechanism for leprosy cases was established. From 2017 to 2025, a total of 8,011 suspected leprosy cases and rare skin diseases were received, and 68 leprosy cases were confirmed early. The provincial rate of grade 2 disability among new leprosy cases dropped from 24% to 0 *(Figure 1),* and the average diagnostic delay was shortened from 7.23 years to 1.32 years, leading the nation in core indicators. For syphilis prevention and control, over 8,000 online and offline training sessions were provided to alliance members, enhancing early identification and standardised management of latent syphilis. Through early diagnosis and treatment, the reported incidence of syphilis in Shandong Province dropped to 21/100,000 in 2025, only half of the national average *(Figure 2)*, consolidating prevention achievements.

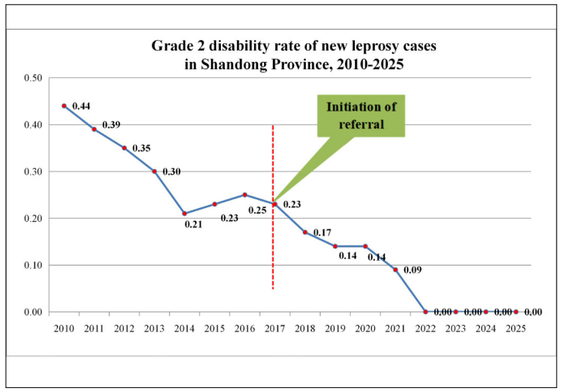


Figure 1. *Grade 2 disability rate of new leprosy cases in Shandong Province, 2010-2025*

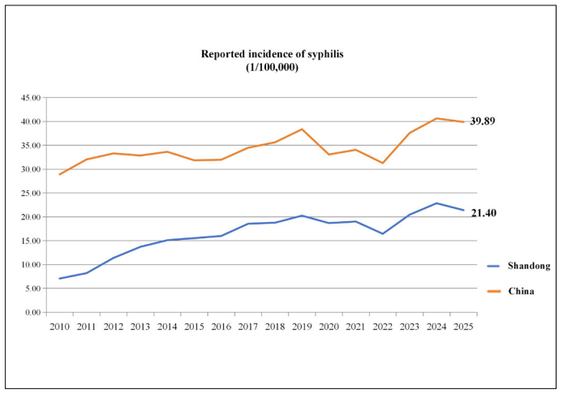


Figure 2. *Reported incidence of syphilis in Shandong Province and China, 2010-2025*

For emerging infectious skin diseases such as Mycobacterium marinum infection, monkeypox, cutaneous anthrax, and sporotrichosis, Shandong established a real-time surveillance and proactive early warning network covering the province's 100 million population. The system demonstrated rapid response and professional management capabilities: in 2019, hundreds of unexplained fishbone-induced granuloma cases emerged in a township in Weifang City. A joint investigation team rushed to the site overnight, identified the cause as Mycobacterium marinum infection, quickly controlled the outbreak involving 217 patients, and alleviated public panic[3]. In 2020, a similar fishbone-induced granuloma outbreak occurred in Zhanhua, Binzhou. The investigation team conducted emergency response and confirmed 32 linked cases, effectively containing the outbreak[4]. In 2023, the first monkeypox case in Shandong was identified, and nearly 46 cases have been detected over the past three years, accounting for one-third of the province's reported cases. In 2024, following a cutaneous anthrax outbreak in Yanggu County, the first cutaneous anthrax case was confirmed within less than 3 hours from patient admission. In the same year, surveillance identified a cluster of sporotrichosis infections caused by crab-handling injuries, leading to 6 confirmed cases and revealing a new transmission route[5]. Over the past three years, 11 scabies outbreaks in nursing homes and universities were managed, screening over 3,800 people and identifying more than 240 cases. This system has improved clinical recognition, laboratory confirmation, and on-site response capabilities simultaneously.

For severe and refractory skin diseases such as severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCAR) and autoimmune blistering diseases, Shandong focused on achieving the goal of "preventing patients from having to travel outside the province for high-quality care" by strengthening scientific and technological support and platform development. Platforms established include an immunological confirmation platform for severe drug reactions, a molecular biology-based precise pathogen diagnosis platform, and a diagnostic platform for autoimmune skin diseases.

Through improved referral and treatment systems, 985 patients with severe drug reactions were referred to the hospital over the past three years. Immunological techniques such as Elispot and LTT were used to accurately identify culprit drugs, significantly improving treatment outcomes. Meanwhile, 15-year follow-up data were completed for 1,063 patients with bullous pemphigoid and 621 patients with pemphigus[6], leading to the discovery of a new rituximab regimen for severe pemphigus[7]. This has effectively promoted tiered diagnosis and treatment, largely achieving the goal of "serious diseases treated within the province."

The successful practice in Shandong Province proves that a closed-loop "training-referral-diagnosis" system based on medical alliances, combined with cross-sector collaboration driven by volunteerism, is an effective pathway to address global and national skin health challenges. This model not only sets a benchmark for skin health governance in China but also contributes valuable "Chinese wisdom" to global skin disease control.

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Costa Rican Association of Dermatologists

Commitment to Excellence in Skin Health - Institutional Overview 2026

Theme: Training and education

www.asoderma.com

The Costa Rican Association of Dermatology (ASODERMA) is a scientific and professional organisation committed to strengthening dermatology in Costa Rica through continuing medical education, scientific research, promotion of skin health, and support for public policies aimed at improving dermatologic care.

Our commitment to excellence seeks to meet the needs and expectations of our members, the pharmaceutical industry, and individuals with dermatologic diseases through the provision of medical education, research, professional consulting, advocacy, and scientific publications.

Our Mission

Dedicated to promoting the study, research, and practice of dermatology; encouraging scientific research and publications; establishing standards for the ethical, dignified, and high-quality practice of the profession; serving as a consultative body for public and private institutions; fostering continuous professional development through scientific meetings, courses, and congresses; and promoting excellence, collaboration, and unity among dermatologists.

Our Vision

The Costa Rican Association of Dermatology will strengthen its role as a model organisation supporting its members through continuing education, fostering a sustained commitment to research and social responsibility, supported by emerging technologies and aligned with its mission.

Our activities are conducted through well-managed processes, supported by high-performing professionals and strategic partners, within a framework of continuous improvement, excellence, transparency, and compliance with applicable regulations.

Key initiatives and programs 2026

1. Continuing Medical Education and Academic Activities

ASODERMA maintains a strong commitment to the ongoing education of healthcare professionals through Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs aimed at dermatologists, general practitioners, residents, and medical students.

Academic Activities 2026 (Dermatologists)

- Academic Sessions: January–December 2026
- National Congress of Dermatology: October 2026

Academic Activities 2026 (General Practitioners and Medical Students)

- Dermatology Scientific Meeting: June 2026
- National Medical Congress: October 2026



The ASODERMA Board of Directors, 2024–2026 Term

2. National Campaign “Costa Rica Protects Its Skin”

As part of its commitment to prevention and public health education, ASODERMA actively participates in the national campaign “Costa Rica Protects Its Skin”.

In collaboration with the Costa Rican College of Physicians and Surgeons and Dermaclinic, ASODERMA supported the installation of Costa Rica’s first UV Index Monitor (“Solmáforo”), an initiative focused on skin cancer prevention and the promotion of healthy sun-exposure habits.

The UV Index Monitor measures ultraviolet radiation levels in real time and uses the color-coded system recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to inform the public about risk levels and recommended sun-protection measures. The project is designed as a pilot initiative with potential for future expansion.

3. Leadership in Public Policy and Global Skin Health

ASODERMA plays an active role in promoting public policies aimed at recognising skin diseases as a national public health priority.

In 2026, the Association formally supported initiatives presented to the Legislative Assembly, the Ministry of Health, and the Costa Rican Social Security System (CCSS) to promote the national implementation of World Health Assembly Resolution WHA78.15: “Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority.”

This landmark resolution recognises the global burden of skin diseases and promotes the strengthening of prevention, education, early diagnosis, timely access to treatment, scientific research, and the integration of skin health into national health policies.

ASODERMA supports the development of interinstitutional strategies aimed at improving dermatologic care in Costa Rica and strengthening the recognition of skin health as a fundamental component of public health. The Association also maintains collaborative relationships with international organisations, including the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), participating in initiatives that promote education, research, and international cooperation in dermatology.

4. Patient Education and Digital Communication

ASODERMA develops educational materials and patient-focused infographics through social media platforms, promoting prevention, early diagnosis, and awareness of common skin diseases while providing reliable, evidence-based information to the public.

Dermatological Society of South Africa

Changing the Story of Vitiligo: Education, Support and Global Collaboration

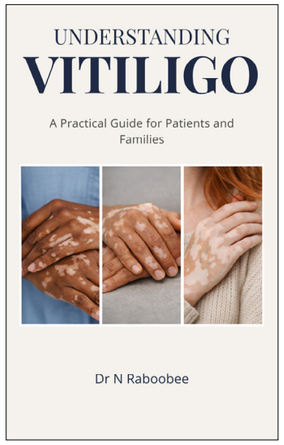
https://dermatology.co.za

Theme: Training and education

The Vitiligo Society of South Africa (VSSA) was established in 2008 and is a subgroup of the Dermatology Society of South Africa (DSSA). Its aims are to increase vitiligo awareness amongst the general public and medical communities, to promote a positive approach to living with vitiligo and remove stigma, to offer support and understanding to vitiligo patients and their families and to describe recent treatments available for vitiligo.

Empowering Patients Through Knowledge

Dr Raboobee, VSSA and DSSA President, has just written a 92-page book on '***Understanding Vitiligo – A Practical Guide for Patients and Families***'. This book is available on Amazon as a softcover and e-book and comprehensively discusses a wide range of topics including the causes of vitiligo, the myths surrounding the condition, the wide range of treatments available and research and new developments. The book is aimed at providing hope and empowerment to patients with vitiligo and to those entrusted with caring for them.



A number of these books will be distributed free of charge to underprivileged schools, courtesy of an ILDS grant.

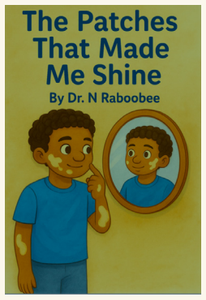
A sample of the book may be read on Amazon by scanning or clicking on the QR code:

Helping Children Understand Vitiligo

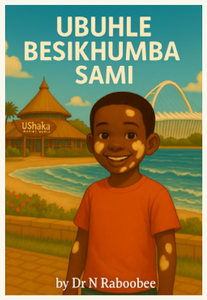
To create awareness of vitiligo among children, a series of storybooks has been created around a common and relatable theme. A child with vitiligo is teased at school. The child goes to his/her parents for comfort. The parents speak to the teacher. The teacher discusses the condition with other kids in the class in order to explain the condition and appeal for understanding. The principal gets involved and explains the condition to the whole school. This has a positive effect in that the children in the school begin to understand the condition and respect those who have it. The ending is usually a happy one in that all the kids learn to play together and respect each other again, knowing that they will not catch the disease.

The books have been designed in a culturally sensitive way taking into account the cultural background and language of the target audience. Scenes that make up the backdrops of each illustration also take into account the places in the country where these languages are spoken. Initially, they have been written in English, Afrikaans and Zulu, which are the three most widely spoken languages in the country. We are steadily working on translating the books into the other 8 official languages of the country.

The book is currently available in three languages: English, Zulu and Afrikaans.

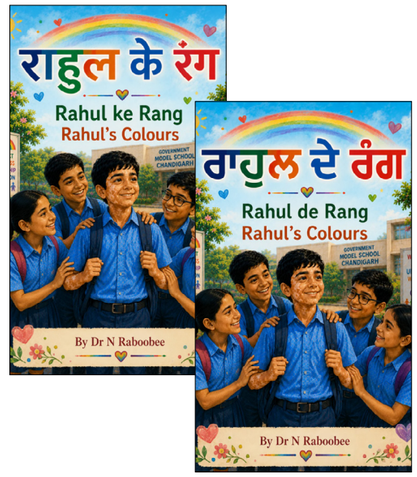








World Vitiligo Day Symposium – Chandigarh India



To mark the World Vitiligo Day Symposium in Chandigarh, India, specially created storybooks were produced in Hindi and Punjabi. The books symbolise the close collaboration between the Vitiligo Societies of India and South Africa and demonstrate that human emotion, compassion and support know no boundaries.

Children's storybooks can be created with the assistance of artificial intelligence and these books may be adapted to different languages, making educational material available to large segments of the population in languages they understand. The value of these resources for education, removal of stigma, acceptance and understanding is immense.

An additional benefit of the books for India is that the local script is transliterated and translated into English, providing a unique facility for second and third language speakers to improve their skills in reading the language.

These storybooks are available free of charge and downloadable from the VSSA's website to anyone who wishes to receive and distribute them – www.vitiligosociety.co.za or by emailing info@vitiligosociety.co.za.

The VSSA has just produced a play which will be enacted in schools in South Africa, with the help of brand ambassadors for the Society.

Currently, the VSSA is running a competition involving essay writing, photography or an artistic and creative drawing depicting anything to do with vitiligo and suggesting a positive message.

The VSSA is keen to establish links with similar societies anywhere in the world and to exchange ideas on how best to spread awareness of vitiligo in order to improve the quality of life of individuals with this condition.

Author | Dr N Raboobee President of the Vitiligo Society of South Africa & Dermatological Society of South Africa

Dermatology Nurses' Association

Dermatology Nurses' Association 2026 - Strategies and Themes

https://www.dnanurse.org/

Theme: Training and education / Advocacy and Regulatory Issues in Dermatology

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

2026-2028 DNA Strategic Goal

During an intense process in strategic planning, a new DNA strategic goal is to create a collegial and collaborative learning environment by encouraging certification and advocacy, developing career pathways, and creating communities for peer-to-peer learning.

Competencies for dermatology nurses

DNA's desired future is to be the hub of a vibrant global network of dermatology care providers with health care professionals from around the world accessing DNA's knowledge and expertise in dermatology care through a wide variety of high-quality educational resources including our premiere journal, conferences, technology, and shared research. To meet this desire, the DNA 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. 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.

Theme: Advocacy and Regulatory Issues in Dermatology

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. We also belong to collaborative groups that form one voice to advocate for issues related to nurses, patients, and other regulatory issues that affect our dermatology patients.



DNA on Capitol Hill with Coalition of Skin Diseases

Theme: Training and Education

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 identified competencies. The DNA also provides basic workshop courses to obtain and have available for review relevant to dermatology nursing care. Our Premiere Core Curriculum workshops include Dermatology Nursing Essentials, Phototherapy, Cutaneous Surgery, and Aesthetics. In-person meetings also include demonstrations, hands-on experiences, and networking with colleagues.



DNA 44th Convention Board Ribbon Cutting



DNA 44th Convention Program Planning Chair Olanda Hathaway

Along with training and education, 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. 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.

More information on the DNA Nurse Competencies, Strategic Goals, and other professional nursing development information and opportunities is available at https://www.dnanurse.org/

Egyptian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (EMA)

Advancing Dermatology Training and Education in Egypt

Theme: Training and education

https://esdv-eg.com/

Medical education remains a fundamental pillar for advancing dermatology practice. The specialty is rapidly evolving through continuous developments in medical therapeutics, laser technologies, dermatopathology, dermoscopy, aesthetic procedures, and digital medicine. This transformation has created a growing need for structured, continuous, and evidence-based education that prepares dermatologists for modern clinical practice and supports the highest standards of patient care.

In Egypt, dermatology education has witnessed remarkable progress over recent years. Great efforts of universities, scientific societies, training centres, and professional communities boost dermatologist clinical and aesthetic capabilities. The Egyptian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (ESDV) has long recognised medical education as a central part of its mission. ESDV has played a pivotal role in settling evidence-based guidelines, promoting continuing medical education, and facilitating collaboration between dermatologists across different institutions and subspecialties.

Connecting Dermatologists Through Scientific Exchange

An important part of ESDV's educational activities is its annual congress, held in Cairo, Egypt's capital. The congress serves as a major scientific meeting that brings together dermatologists from across the country to discuss recent advances, exchange experience, and strengthen professional collaboration. It also facilitates cooperation between different dermatology societies, academic institutions, and scientific communities, creating a valuable environment for knowledge exchange and multidisciplinary interaction. The congress covers a wide range of topics including clinical dermatology, pediatric dermatology, dermatologic surgery, trichology, dermoscopy, laser medicine, sexually transmitted infections, and aesthetic dermatology.

Beyond the annual congress, ESDV also organise satellite scientific meetings held in different governorates across Egypt. These regional meetings are especially important for junior dermatologists and physicians practicing outside major training centres and institutes, as they provide a great opportunity for learning, case discussion, and direct interaction with experts in the field. ESDV plays an important role in reducing geographic barriers to knowledge and creating valuable opportunities for meaningful scientific exchange between junior dermatologists and experienced specialists through these satellite scientific meetings held across different governorates in Egypt.

Hands-on education is another important area of ESDV's contribution. Practical workshops and hands on training sessions allow physicians to apply theoretical knowledge into safe clinical practice. ESDV organises hands-on training activities across different governorates in Egypt covering a wide range of topics, including fillers, botulinum toxin injections, vitiligo surgery, scar management, nanofat grafting, dermoscopy, lasers, and procedural dermatology. These activities help bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world clinical application, improving physician confidence, procedural skills, and patient safety.

Advancing Evidence-Based and Multidisciplinary Practice

ESDV also supports a culture of evidence-based dermatology. Its educational activities emphasise critical appraisal of the literature, international guidelines, consensus recommendations, and the application of scientific evidence to daily clinical practice. In line with this commitment, ESDV has contributed to the development and publication of national consensus papers on important dermatologic conditions, including acne vulgaris and urticaria. These publications provide practical recommendations tailored to be used in daily practice.

Another important aspect of ESDV's educational role is promoting collaboration between dermatology and other specialties. Dermatology often overlaps with pathology, plastic surgery, pediatrics, rheumatology, oncology, and other fields. Through multidisciplinary sessions and scientific exchange, ESDV supports a more comprehensive approach to complex dermatologic diseases.

In recent years, digital education has become an increasingly valuable extension of the Society's mission. Online lectures, webinars, virtual discussions, and digital scientific communication have expanded access to education beyond geographic boundaries. These tools are especially useful for dermatologists practicing outside major academic centers, allowing wider participation in continuing medical education.

Empowering the Next Generation of Dermatologists

ESDV encourages young dermatologists to participate actively in scientific life, the Society is providing opportunities for presentations, case discussions, research sharing, and interaction with experienced faculty. Such opportunities strengthen professional identity, support academic growth, and inspire the next generation of dermatology leaders. The Society also supports its members internationally by offering scholarships to attend international conferences and by organising scientific sessions within global dermatology meetings. These opportunities allow ESDV members to present their work abroad, gain wider exposure, exchange experience with international experts, and strengthen Egypt's contribution to the global dermatology community.

Looking Ahead: Building the Future of Dermatology Education

Despite these achievements, challenges remain. The rapid expansion of aesthetic and procedural dermatology requires clear educational standards, competency-based training, and continuous professional development. At the same time, the increasing volume of medical information makes it essential to guide physicians toward reliable, high-quality, evidence-based resources.

Looking ahead, ESDV is well positioned to further strengthen dermatology education through expanded digital learning, structured workshops, mentorship programs, international collaboration, and subspecialty-focused educational pathways. Through its commitment to medical education, scientific exchange, practical training, and evidence-based practice, ESDV continues to empower physicians, improve patient care, and shape a stronger future for dermatology in Egypt.

European Society for Lasers and Energy Based Devices

Advancing Education and International Collaboration in Laser and Energy-Based Dermatology

https://www.esld.eu/

Theme: Training and education

The European Society for Lasers and Energy-Based Devices (ESLD) is an international scientific society dedicated to advancing education, innovation, and best practices in laser and energy-based dermatology and medicine. Founded in 1996, ESLD brings together dermatologists, physicians, researchers, and healthcare professionals from Europe and around the world who share a common goal: improving patient care through the safe and effective use of laser and energy-based technologies.

Education remains at the heart of ESLD's mission. Through hands-on teaching courses, expert webinars, mentorship initiatives, scientific collaborations, and participation in major international congresses, the society continues to provide high-level educational opportunities and promote international scientific exchange.

ESLD Hands-On Teaching Courses

One of ESLD's flagship educational initiatives is the ESLD Hands-On Laser and Energy-Based Device (EBD) Teaching Course, organised twice yearly in major European university centers and accredited for Continuing Medical Education (CME).

These intensive courses combine theoretical lectures with practical hands-on sessions supervised by internationally recognised experts. Participants receive direct training in a broad range of laser and energy-based procedures, including vascular treatments, laser hair removal, rejuvenation techniques, microneedling and radiofrequency, ablative and fractional lasers, and laser safety.

Following the success of the 14th ESLD Teaching Course held in Bucharest, Romania, in January 2026, ESLD is currently preparing the next edition, which will take place in Bristol, United Kingdom, in September 2026.

One of the major strengths of these courses is their small-group format, which encourages close interaction between faculty and participants and maximises the quality of hands-on learning.



ESLD Hands-on Teaching Course - February 2026



Hands-on training at the Bucharest ESLD Teaching Course with Prof Ashraf Badawi, ESLD President

ESLD Thursdays: International Live and Replay Webinars

ESLD Thursdays remain one of the society's most successful educational initiatives. Initially launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, these webinars have evolved into regular international educational meetings followed live and later available in replay on the ESLD website.

Organised every few weeks, ESLD Thursdays feature expert-led discussions on recent developments, controversies, clinical cases, and practical approaches in laser and energy-based dermatology. Recent sessions have addressed topics such as laser-assisted drug delivery, radiofrequency microneedling, scar management, vascular lesions, artificial intelligence in laser medicine, and complication management.

These webinars are highly interactive and allow participants to engage directly with experts through live case discussions and question-and-answer sessions.

ESLD Mentorship Program

A major new educational initiative launched in 2025 is the ESLD Mentorship Program. This program was created to strengthen professional exchange and collaboration within the international ESLD community by connecting members with experienced experts in laser and energy-based dermatology.

The initiative offers opportunities for guidance, scientific exchange, clinical discussion, and professional development through direct interaction with internationally recognised specialists. The program reflects ESLD's commitment to fostering education, networking, and long-term collaboration across different countries and levels of expertise.

International Scientific Collaboration

ESLD actively collaborates with leading international congresses and scientific meetings by organising dedicated educational sessions and contributing to worldwide scientific exchange.

In 2025 and 2026, ESLD participated in major international meetings including the IMCAS World Congress, AMWC Monaco, EADV Congress, 5CC Congress, AIME Congress, and MEIDAM. These collaborations strengthen international cooperation and allow ESLD members to remain at the forefront of innovation in laser and energy-based medicine.

ESLD is also collaborating with the EADV Laser and Energy-Based Devices Task Force and the EADV Skin Cancer Task Force on the preparation of a scientific manuscript addressing the use of lasers in cancer patients. This interdisciplinary initiative highlights the growing importance of evidence-based guidance and international collaboration in the management of patients requiring laser and energy-based treatments in oncologic settings.

Membership and Community

ESLD has developed into a truly international society, with members from Europe, the Middle East, Asia, North and South America, and Africa.

Members benefit from access to educational videos, webinar replays, scientific resources, networking opportunities, reduced registration fees for teaching courses, and interaction with internationally recognised experts.



Find out more about ESLD and the benefits of ESLD membership: https://bit.ly/4w8bgfE

As laser and energy-based technologies continue to evolve rapidly, ESLD remains committed to promoting safe practice, scientific excellence, and international education for the benefit of both physicians and patients.

Find out more about ESLD: https://www.esld.eu/

European Women Dermatological and Venereological Society

Climate change and mycoses: An emerging threat to the future of Dermatology

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Theme: The future of dermatology - threats and opportunities

Introduction

Climate change is increasingly recognised as one of the greatest global health challenges of the twenty-first century. Beyond its well-established effects on cardiovascular, respiratory, and infectious diseases, it is profoundly reshaping the epidemiology of skin disorders. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, extreme weather events, ecosystem disruption, and human migration are changing the ecological niches of pathogenic fungi, facilitating the emergence of fungal diseases in previously unaffected regions and populations. As clinicians who are often the first to recognise cutaneous manifestations of fungal infections, dermatologists are uniquely positioned to identify these evolving trends[1]. Preparing for this changing landscape will require strengthened surveillance, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a broader understanding of the links between environmental change and skin health. Climate change is no longer a distant environmental concern - it is an emerging challenge for the future of dermatology[2].

Why Climate Change Matters for Dermatology

Climate change is altering the environmental conditions that influence the survival, distribution, and pathogenicity of fungi. Rising global temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, floods, and extreme weather events are reshaping ecosystems and increasing human exposure to environmental fungal reservoirs[3].

At the same time, urbanisation, deforestation, and population displacement further facilitate contact between humans and previously isolated fungal species[4].

These ecological changes are already reflected in the epidemiology of fungal diseases. Endemic mycoses such as histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, and sporotrichosis are expanding beyond their traditional geographic boundaries, while outbreaks associated with natural disasters have become increasingly frequent. In parallel, the emergence of multidrug-resistant pathogens such as Candida auris highlights the capacity of fungi to adapt to environmental pressures and thrive in healthcare settings[5].

For dermatologists, these changes translate into new diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. Cutaneous manifestations may represent the first sign of endemic or invasive fungal infections, requiring greater awareness of evolving epidemiological patterns. As fungal diseases continue to emerge in new settings, dermatologists will play an increasingly important role in early recognition, multidisciplinary management, and public health surveillance[6].

The Changing Landscape of Fungal Diseases

The global epidemiology of fungal infections is undergoing an unprecedented transformation. Climatic shifts are modifying the geographic distribution of endemic mycoses, allowing pathogens to establish in regions where they were previously uncommon[7].

Histoplasmosis and coccidioidomycosis are being reported beyond their historical endemic areas, while sporotrichosis and other subcutaneous mycoses are increasingly influenced by environmental and ecological changes. Extreme weather events, including floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, further increase exposure to fungal spores and have been associated with localised outbreaks[8].

At the same time, the emergence of Candida Auris illustrates how environmental adaptation and antifungal resistance can converge to create a major global health threat. Its rapid international spread, persistence in healthcare environments, and multidrug-resistant profile underscore the need for enhanced surveillance and antifungal stewardship[5]. Likewise, changes in the epidemiology of superficial fungal infections, including dermatophytoses, may reflect shifts in climate, population mobility, and human behavior, creating new diagnostic and therapeutic challenges for dermatologists.

These evolving patterns reinforce the need to integrate fungal diseases into climate-sensitive health strategies. Early recognition of unusual clinical presentations, awareness of changing geographic distributions, and close collaboration with microbiologists, infectious disease specialists, and public health authorities will be essential. As the burden of fungal diseases continues to evolve, dermatologists must be prepared not only to diagnose and treat mycoses but also to contribute actively to surveillance systems that anticipate emerging threats[9].

Opportunities for the Future

The response to climate-related mycoses also represents an opportunity for dermatology to lead. Future preparedness should be based on a One Health approach, integrating human health, animal health, and environmental surveillance[10, 11].

Dermatologists must be trained to recognise changing clinical patterns, request appropriate mycological and molecular tests, and consider emerging pathogens in patients with travel history, migration, immunosuppression, or exposure to extreme weather events[12, 13].

International collaboration is essential to strengthen surveillance, improve knowledge exchange, harmonise research, and coordinate responses to the growing burden of fungal diseases. Collaborative networks between Spain and Latin America, supported by the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), facilitate early recognition of emerging mycoses, accelerate scientific progress, promote education, and enhance global preparedness for climate-driven changes affecting skin fungal infections.



Spain–Latin America collaborative meeting on Medical Mycology



Latin American "Mycoses Research Group".

Conclusion

Climate change is redefining fungal diseases and therefore redefining dermatology. Preparing today's dermatologists for tomorrow's mycoses is no longer optional - it is an essential component of global skin health.

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ILDS in Motion

A Visual Journey of Global Skin Health

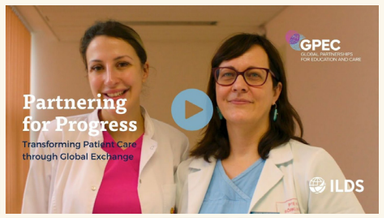
ILDS in Motion captures, celebrates and shares the exceptional people, projects and programmes that make up the global ILDS community. Through professional documentary-style films and photography, we bring the passion, expertise and impact of our members to life.

From inspiring individuals to innovative initiatives taking place around the world, ILDS in Motion provides a platform to showcase the meaningful contributions of ILDS Members and partners in the field of dermatology.

Explore our growing collection of compelling films and stories, designed to support knowledge sharing, celebrate achievement and strengthen a shared sense of pride and community across the ILDS network.

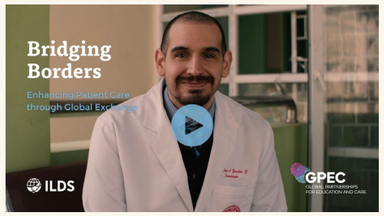


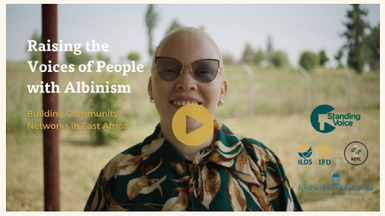




















View all ILDS in Motion films on YouTube

https://bit.ly/4wOH22w

French Society of Dermatology

365SFD: The Online Education and Information Platform of the French Society of Dermatology

Theme: Training and education

https://www.sfdermato.org/

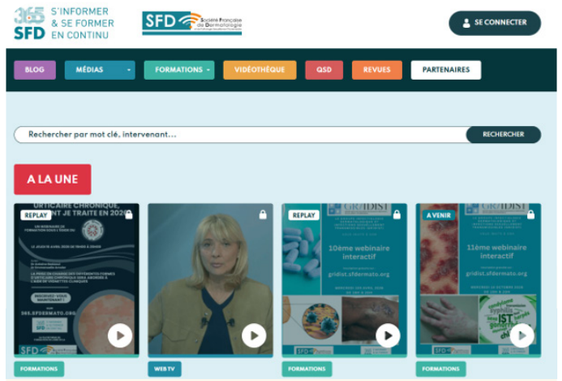
In the ever-evolving field of dermatology, continuous education and access to the latest research are paramount for healthcare professionals. Recognising this need, the French Society of Dermatology (Société Française de Dermatologie, SFD) launched in 2022, 365SFD, a comprehensive online platform designed to provide its members dermatologists with continuous training, up-to-date information, and a centralised hub for dermatological knowledge.

Established as part of the SFD's commitment to promoting French dermatology within the international medical and scientific community, 365SFD has become an indispensable resource for professionals seeking to stay at the forefront of dermatological practice and research.

What is 365SFD?

365SFD is the official online education and information platform primarily dedicated to the members of the French Society of Dermatology. Launched to centralise access to dermatological knowledge, the platform serves as a digital ecosystem where members can engage in continuous medical education (CME), access exclusive content, and stay informed about the latest developments in the field.

The platform's name, "365SFD" reflects its mission: to provide year-round, 365-day access to digital educational resources, research updates, and professional development opportunities for dermatologists, while the SFD provides onsite education with its annual meetings.



365SFD - the official online education and information platform of the French Society of Dermatology

Platform Overview

Mission and Vision

The primary mission of 365SFD is to:

- Promote continuous learning in dermatology through accessible, high-quality educational content
- Centralise resources for SFD members, providing a single point of access to all digital offerings
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among dermatologists, researchers, and trainees
- Support professional development through certified training programs and research opportunities
- Disseminate the latest research and clinical best practices to the dermatological community

Target Audience

365SFD caters to a diverse audience within the dermatological community:

- SFD Members: Practicing dermatologists who are members of the French Society of Dermatology
- Residents and Interns: Dermatology trainees (Juniors-SFD) during their specialisation
- Researchers: Professionals engaged in dermatological research
- General Practitioners: Physicians seeking to expand their dermatological knowledge

Key Features and Offerings

1. Comprehensive Video Library

One of the platform's most valuable assets is its extensive video library, which includes:

- Over 800 recent videos of continuing medical education sessions classified and searchable content through an advanced search AI engine
- Event replays: Access to recordings of major dermatological events, including the Journées Dermatologiques de Paris (JDP)
- Webinars and live sessions: Real-time and on-demand access to expert-led discussions

2. Scientific Publications and Journals

365SFD provides members with direct access to all journals to which the SFD subscribes, including:

- French journals: The Annales de Dermatologie et de Vénéréologie (the official journal of the SFD)
- International journals: Including prestigious publications like the British Journal of Dermatology (BJD) and JAMA Dermatology
- Exclusive content with the Article of the month, expert-commented selections, and bibliographic surveillance

3. Educational Programs and Series (Media, WebTV, Podcasts, Streaming)

The platform hosts several specialised educational series:

- ***"Les Entretiens de la dermatologie"*** (Dermatology debats): A monthly feature where experts debate on significant dermatological subjects: pros and cons, what's new, providing context and insights for the French dermatological community during 20 minutes-like TV show.
- ***"La Voix de la Peau" (the voice of the skin)***: A series of podcasts featuring daily routines or experiences of dermatologists.
- ***"Le JT de la Peau" (the Journal of the skin):*** Monthly TV journal with updates on the latest news: medical news, congresses, articles, political subjects regarding dermatology, often with invited guests commenting the actualities.
- ***"Les Quatre Saisons de la Dermatologie"*** (QSD): Seasonal dermatology sessions that are major annual events, available both in-person and via live streaming on the platform.

4. Centralised Member Access

Since September 2022, SFD members enjoy centralised access to all these society resources through 365SFD. This integration means:

- ***Single sign-on***: Members can log in using their SFD credentials
- ***Unified dashboard:*** All digital resources accessible from one interface
- ***Personalised experience:*** Content tailored to membership status and interests
- ***Seamless navigation:*** Easy movement between different SFD services and platforms

The editorial committee made of 28 SFD volunteer members and whose president is Pr Pascal Joly (former past president of the SFD) chooses the topics and speakers of all audio-visual series produced and the bibliography committee ensures the production of the monthly article and bibliography. A back-office team manages the production and editing.

In conclusion, 365SFD has become a cornerstone of the SFD members, serving thousands with on-demand education, research updates, and community collaboration.

For details, visit 365SFD website: https://365.sfdermato.org/

German Society of Dermatology

Ensuring Dermatological Care through Support for Young Talent and Careers

Theme: The future of dermatology: threats and opportunities

https://derma.de/ddg/

With its 5,000 members, the German Society of Dermatology (DDG) sees itself as a scientific professional society and a strong community for German-speaking dermatologists. In light of demographic changes, increasing demands on healthcare provision, and evolving career paths, the DDG sees a particular need to play an active role in shaping the future of dermatology. This entails, in particular, fostering the next generation of scientists and clinicians, developing modern leadership and career models, and ensuring high-quality dermatological care.

The Demographic Challenges: Retiring Specialists and an Aging Society

Demographic trends in Germany will pose major challenges for the field of dermatology. The overall shortage of physicians is set to intensify in the coming years as many doctors retire due to age. The large "baby boomer" cohorts—those born in Germany between 1955 and 1969—are entering retirement. Already, one-third of physicians today are over the age of 55. A shortage of dermatologists is inevitable unless active countermeasures are taken.

At the same time, the proportion of older and very elderly people in Germany is rising. Projections for the year 2070 indicate that 25 million of Germany's total population of approximately 75 million will be over the age of 60. This also implies an expected increase in the prevalence of certain dermatological conditions, such as skin cancer. The incidence of all three types of skin cancer—basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma—rises significantly with age.

Attracting and Supporting the Next Generation

The DDG identified demographic trends as a key issue several years ago and is addressing these challenges in three ways:

1. Attracting medical students to dermatology early on

Medical students are encouraged to develop an early interest in the field of dermatology. They can become members of the professional society free of charge and—also at no cost—attend scientific conferences as well as a "Student Day" designed specifically for them.

They are guided by expert mentors at the DDG conference and gain fascinating insights into the field, including dermatological education and training, research, funding opportunities, and specific dermatological topics. Some students even receive travel grants to attend the congress.

The upcoming DDG conference in Berlin, scheduled for April 21– 24, 2027, will also feature programs for the next generation of dermatologists. A total of around 5,000 participants are expected. The scientific program will be complemented by an extensive DERMA Forum, featuring over 100 exhibitors and sponsors.



Medical students at the 2025 DDG conference

For more information regarding the conference, please visit: www.derma-tagungen.de

2. Career Development through the Dermatology Leadership Academy

Careers in clinical settings or private practice require more than just specialist expertise. Those who wish to lead must acquire leadership skills; this includes business fundamentals and knowledge regarding hospital financing, budgets, and billing systems. Understanding the structures of medical care in Germany and developments within the field of dermatology is crucial, as are the soft skills needed to lead a team effectively. Skills such as conducting conversations, fostering a feedback culture, conflict management, and communicating at a leadership level are becoming increasingly important. The Dermatology Leadership Academy was established in 2022. The continuing training program, which consists of four modules, is based on a curriculum designed by the DDG and was developed in collaboration with the German Dermatological Academy (DDA). Its predecessor was the "Senior Physician Forum" (Oberarztforum); since 2007, aspiring leaders had the opportunity to attend this two-day event once a year. The Leadership Academy has now professionalised this form of career development. The curriculum is structured across four training days and covers the following topics: "Dermatology Today and Tomorrow," "Scientific Leadership," "Specialist Leadership," and "Economic Leadership."

More than 40 attendees have successfully completed the program to date. The third cycle is set to begin in 2027.



Participants of the Dermatology Leadership Academy 2025

The Leadership Academy does more than just teach the fundamentals of scientific careers, teaching methodology, controlling, and management; it also fosters the exchange of ideas with colleagues from other clinics and facilitates close networking. The program is open to all interested dermatologists who wish to develop their leadership skills. A particularly welcome development is that the 2025/26 cohort has been accredited by the Berlin Medical Association for continuing medical education (CME) credits.

For more information regarding the Leadership Academy, visit: https://bit.ly/4q19bko

3. Provide continuous support to young dermatologists

The promotion/encouragement and support of talented young researchers is so important to dermatology and to the DDG as a professional society that a dedicated working group has been established: the **Working Group on Next-Generation and Career Development**. This group supports residents on their path to becoming board-certified dermatologists and provides guidance and mentorship to those opting for leadership roles. Through the Advanced Clinician Scientist Program (ACSP) and the Clinician Scientist Program (CSP), young dermatologists with a strong interest in research receive support via specialised positions that allow them to combine clinical practice with research activities. These programs are made possible through the support of the industry and specific sponsors.



From left, Prof. Amir Yazdi, Dr. Lea Jessica Albrecht (ACSP), Dr. Bernadett Kurz (CSP), and Dr. Lorenzo Homann (CSP)

Ghana Society of Dermatology

Striving to grow and serve in a challenging landscape: Our journey, Challenges, Strategies, Achievements and Aspirations

Theme: Access to Dermatologic Health and Medical Skin Treatment and Care

https://gsdermatology.org/

Our Journey

In the 1970s, the few dermatologists practicing in the country came together to form the Dermatology Society of Ghana. Although small in membership, the society was dynamic and made a significant contribution to the field by successfully hosting the first Pan-African Congress of Dermatology in Accra in 1982. Unfortunately, the society gradually became inactive and eventually ceased to exist, largely due to the lack of a sustained effort to recruit new members.

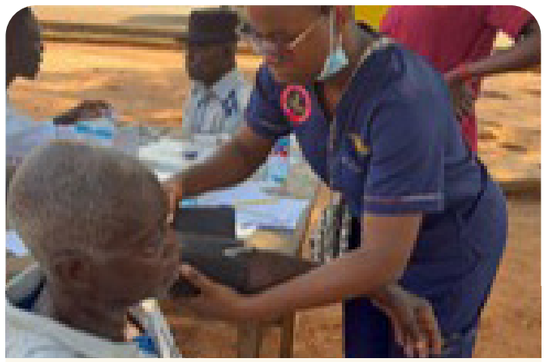
In December 2010, the 3rd Pan-African Conference on Hair and Skin, organised by the L'Oréal Group, provided the few dermatologists in Ghana with an opportunity to network, reconnect, and begin the process of reorganising the profession. These efforts culminated in the rebirth of the society, which was renamed the Ghana Society of Dermatology (GSD) on 17 February 2012.

At its launch, the society had 22 members. Membership was subsequently expanded to include physicians with a special interest in dermatology, as well as pharmacists and cosmetologists. The society has since continued to grow and currently comprises 48 members, including dermatologists, dermatology residents, pharmacists, physician assistants, a pathologist, and a family physician.

Our Challenges:

The GSD continues to face several challenges in advancing dermatological care in the country:

- **Limited number and uneven distribution of dermatologists**: Fewer than 30 dermatologists serve a population of approximately 35.7 million, with about 75% based in the capital, Accra. Nine of Ghana's 16 regions currently have no dermatologist.
- **Limited public awareness**: There is generally low public awareness of the existence, expertise, and role of dermatologists, which may contribute to delays in seeking appropriate specialist care.
- **Regulation of dermatology and cosmetology practice**: There is a need for stronger regulation of the practice of dermatology and cosmetology, as unqualified individuals may take advantage of patients seeking care.
- **Inadequate funding**: Limited financial resources constrain the society's activities, including professional development, advocacy, and research.
- **Shortage of specialised personnel**: There is a complete lack of dermatopathologists and dermatology nurses, further limiting the capacity for specialised dermatological care.
- **Insufficient dermatology residents**: The number of dermatology residents remains inadequate to meet the country's growing need for specialist dermatological services.



Dermatologist and medical students providing free health screening

Our Strategies

The GSD has undertaken several initiatives aimed at expanding access to dermatological care, strengthening professional capacity, promoting public awareness, and fostering collaboration within and beyond the medical community.

- **Teledermatology and strategic partnerships**: The society is exploring teledermatology and strategic partnerships, including collaboration with the Ghana Society of Mycology, to expand access to specialist dermatological expertise and strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **Research and publications**: Members are encouraged to publish their research and contribute as peer reviewers to medical journals. These efforts help strengthen the evidence base for dermatological practice while increasing the visibility of Ghanaian dermatology within the international medical community.
- **Medical students' rural community outreach**: The society participates in the annual rural community health outreach programme of medical students from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, in Asante Akyem Agogo. The initiative promotes "skin health for all" by identifying and addressing dermatological conditions in underserved communities. During the one-week free health screening, students identify and collect data on individuals with skin conditions, who are subsequently assessed and treated by a consultant dermatologist and dermatology resident. The initiative improves access to specialist dermatological care while providing valuable clinical experience for medical students.
- **Partnerships with pharmaceutical companies**: The GSD engages pharmaceutical companies to support community health outreaches with free medications and participate in the Annual General and Scientific Meetings (AGSM). These partnerships benefit both parties by providing companies with opportunities to showcase their products, while GSD members gain continuing education and exposure to new treatment options.
- **Public and professional education**: The society conducts educational campaigns on radio and organises biannual online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes. These activities aim to increase public awareness of common skin conditions and improve the knowledge and confidence of healthcare professionals in recognising and managing dermatological diseases.
- **Free dermatological care for vulnerable populations**: The GSD provides free dermatological services to underserved and vulnerable groups through outreach programmes to institutions such as the Kumasi Children's Home, Weija Leprosarium, Senior Correctional Centre, Accra Psychiatric Hospital, and communities of persons living with albinism. These initiatives reflect the society's commitment to improving equitable access to quality dermatological care for all.



GSD donating medications to the Senior Correctional Centre following a free health outreach to inmates and staff

Achievements

Every challenge is an opportunity when viewed through the right lens. Our challenges have inspired us to achieve the following:

- Membership of the African Society of Dermatology and Venereology
- Membership of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) in 2025, including attendance at our first ILDS conference in South Africa
- Launch of the GSD website
- Welcoming five new members at the 2026 Annual General and Scientific Meeting (AGSM)
- Annual health outreach programmes for persons living with albinism
- Provision of free dermatological care to underserved and vulnerable populations



GSD Vice-president Jeannette Aryee-Boi engaging in health outreach



Public awareness webinar to educate on albinism

Aspirations

The GSD believes that, even with the limited resources at our disposal, we can start where we are and make a meaningful difference. We aspire to:

- Extend our social and outreach services to more institutions and underserved communities across the country
- Establish a Ghanaian Journal of Dermatology and Venereology to promote research, knowledge sharing, and scholarship in dermatology
- Develop standard treatment guidelines for dermatological conditions to support consistent, evidence-based care
- Encourage and support the formation of dermatology societies in countries across the subregion, strengthening regional collaboration and professional development
- Provide world-class dermatological care that is accessible, equitable, and patient-centred
- Partner with the WHO, ILDS, and other relevant agencies to advance the shared goal of "**Skin Health for All.**"

Find out more abou the work of the GSD: https://gsdermatology.org/



Hong Kong Society of Dermatology and Venereology

Strengthening Global Connections Through Training and Education: Initiatives of the Hong Kong Society of Dermatology and Venereology

THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY
香港皮膚及性病學會

https://www.medicine.org.hk/hksdv/home.htm

Theme: Training and education

The Hong Kong Society of Dermatology and Venereology (HKSDV) is committed to promoting high standards of dermatological and venereological practice in Hong Kong. Our work includes supporting medical education and training, facilitating clinical research, and strengthening public awareness of skin health. In alignment with the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) vision of "Skin Health for the World," HKSDV prioritises international collaboration and knowledge exchange as key components of our education strategy.

Global Chinese Dermatology Summit (GCDS), 2025

In late 2025, HKSDV co-organised the Global Chinese Dermatology Summit (GCDS), which convened dermatologists and researchers of Chinese descent from around the world to share experience and discuss emerging developments in clinical practice and research.



GCDS 2025 - Plenary Lecture by Prof Henry Lim

The Summit aimed to strengthen cross-regional exchange through:

- **Scientific exchange**: Presentations on clinical pathology, paediatric dermatology, and evolving therapeutic modalities.
- **Networking and mentorship**: Connecting senior faculty with early-career dermatologists to support professional development.
- **Cultural and professional synergy**: Using a shared linguistic and cultural heritage to support discussion of dermatological challenges relevant to Asian populations.

International Society for Dermatologic and Aesthetic Surgery (ISDS) Annual Meeting, Hong Kong (December 2026)

Building on international exchange through the GCDS, Hong Kong will host the International Society for Dermatologic and Aesthetic Surgery (ISDS) Annual Meeting in December 2026. The meeting will provide an additional platform for international faculty and participants to share developments in dermatologic surgery and aesthetic practice through scientific sessions and structured educational activities.

Ongoing professional development

In addition to international meetings, HKSDV maintains an annual programme of educational activities, including regular clinical meetings and webinars for the local medical community. Recognising the value of hybrid learning, we also provide on-demand educational materials for members. The HKSDV Annual Scientific Meeting will be held on 4–5 July 2026. Planned highlights include:

- **Novel therapeutics**: Updates on small molecules and biologics.
- **Energy-based devices**: Developments in device-based approaches to skin rejuvenation and tightening.
- **Cutaneous oncology**: Management of primary cutaneous T-cell lymphomas and skin toxicities associated with targeted therapies and immunotherapies.
- **AI symposium**: Artificial intelligence (AI) diagnostic tools, digital health innovation, and cybersecurity considerations in dermatology practice.

Fostering innovation: the HKSDV Research Scholarship

HKSDV supports local researchers through the HKSDV Research Scholarship, which provides funding for projects in dermatology and venereology. By supporting local talent, we aim to facilitate high-quality clinical and laboratory studies that contribute to dermatological knowledge and improve patient outcomes in Hong Kong.

Looking Forward

Looking ahead to 2026, HKSDV will continue to advance dermatology training and education through international collaboration and a strong local programme of meetings, courses, and research support.

We look forward to continued engagement with the ILDS community to share experience and contribute to improved skin health.

Hungarian Dermatological Society

A national model for dermatology training and education in Hungary

Theme: Training and education

https://www.derma.hu

Building a resilient dermatology training ecosystem

The Hungarian Dermatological Society (in Hungarian MDT) has developed a coordinated national approach to postgraduate dermatology education that responds to the increasing complexity of modern clinical practice. Rather than functioning as a series of isolated educational events, MDT's training activities are embedded within a structured educational ecosystem designed to integrate clinical excellence, scientific advancement, and international collaboration.

Translational learning through focused immunodermatology programs

MDT has been operating thematic scientific programs for over 10 years that translate fundamental dermato/immunological mechanisms into clinically actionable knowledge. The Society's recent Spring Scientific Day 2026 focused on neutrophilic and eosinophilic dermatoses. The program approached these conditions through shared pathophysiological pathways, supporting deeper diagnostic reasoning and more precise therapeutic decisionmaking.

Expert-led sessions were complemented by structured resident participation through supervised case-based presentations, embedding experiential learning into the scientific discourse.

This model reflects MDT's broader pedagogical principle: clinical expertise is best developed through the integration of scientific explanation, structured case exposure, and guided professional reflection. Hybrid delivery formats further extend accessibility, enabling nationwide participation while preserving high-level academic interaction. A complementary Autumn 2026 Scientific Day extends this approach into granulomatous skin diseases, reinforcing longitudinal learning across interconnected immunodermatological domains.

From national training structure to international scientific interface

MDT's flagship Annual Meeting represents the interface between national training structures and international dermatological discourse. The 99th Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Dermatological Society (in Siófok, 26–28 November 2026) functions not merely as a congress, but as a convergence platform where clinical practice, experimental dermatology, and translational research intersect.

The scientific architecture of the meeting is deliberately constructed around areas of high clinical uncertainty and decision-making complexity. These include inflammatory and infectious dermatoses, sexually transmitted infections, dermatoscopy, dermatosurgical innovation, acne and rosacea management, contact dermatitis, and experimental dermatology. The emphasis is not on thematic breadth alone, but on reinforcing analytical frameworks that support evidence-based clinical judgement in real-world settings.

Invited international lectures and honorary recognitions highlight the contributions of leading European dermatologists, reinforcing MDT's commitment to sustained cross-border scientific dialogue. In parallel, targeted mobility and exchange initiatives actively support early-career researchers, embedding international exposure within the professional development trajectory of young dermatologists. Programs facilitating participation of researchers from Eastern and Central Europe, as well as bilateral collaboration with Austrian partners in experimental dermatology, reflect MDT's long-term investment in building interconnected research and training networks.

Education for patients

Alongside its professional educational programmes, MDT has established Skindex.hu as a major public-facing dermatology education platform dedicated to prevention, awareness, and the early recognition of skin diseases. The initiative reflects the Society's broader commitment to strengthening dermatological literacy and improving public access to reliable, evidence-based information.

Building on the strong impact of previous years, MDT has continued to expand its public awareness activities through integrated communication campaigns, educational media appearances, and targeted outreach programmes addressing at-risk and vulnerable populations. Campaign strategies focus on reaching affected individuals, high-risk groups, family members, and health-conscious audiences with accessible and scientifically validated information.

MDT experts regularly contribute to television, radio, online media, podcasts, and print publications, further strengthening the visibility and credibility of dermatology within public discourse. Educational video materials and awareness campaigns are disseminated through digital and social media platforms, helping to engage younger generations in preventive skin health behaviour.

A particularly impactful component of the Society's public engagement strategy is its summer festival programme. Recognising that younger populations rarely attend preventive skin examinations in traditional healthcare settings, MDT brings dermatological education directly into community environments. In 2025, dermatologists and residents performed more than 2,000 free consultations at major summer festivals across Hungary.

Strategic outlook

MDT's educational model represents an evolving balance between national capacity-building and international scientific integration. This approach ensures that dermatology training in Hungary is not only responsive to current clinical demands, but also actively participates in shaping the discipline's future development at a European level. The Society's official platform, Hungarian Dermatological Society (MDT), serves as an important professional and educational interface, providing access to scientific activities, professional resources, educational programmes, and public information initiatives.

MDT Officers:

- Péter Holló, President
- Zsuzsanna Lengyel, Vice-President
- Krisztián Gáspár, Secretary General
- Veronika Tóth, Treasurer



Audience at the Spring Scientific Day 2026



MDT participates in major summer festivals across Hungary

Ibero Latin American College of Dermatology

Closing the Gap: PRAMED 2026 and the Future of Dermatologic Access in Underserved Communities

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

https://www.cilad.org/

Addressing Inequities in Dermatologic Care

The PRAMED (Programa de Asistencia Médica y Educativa) initiative, developed by the Colegio Ibero Latinoamericano de Dermatología (CILAD), continues to stand as a powerful model for improving access to dermatologic care across underserved regions of Latin America. The 2026 edition, held in San Andrés, Petén, Guatemala, highlights how education, clinical service, and regional collaboration can effectively converge to address persistent inequalities in skin health.

PRAMED was designed as a dual-impact strategy: to strengthen the capabilities of primary healthcare providers while delivering specialised dermatologic care to communities with limited access to trained specialists. This approach directly responds to one of the region's most pressing challenges—the uneven distribution of dermatologists, which often leads to delayed diagnoses and inadequate treatment of skin diseases. By focusing on first-line healthcare professionals, the program extends its impact well beyond the duration of the intervention, promoting long-term improvements in patient care.

Education and Community Clinical Care

The 2026 program followed a structured model combining academic training with hands-on clinical experience. The educational component included a full day of lectures delivered by experienced dermatologists, covering a wide spectrum of skin conditions with emphasis on those most frequently encountered in the region. These sessions were designed to provide practical, applicable knowledge to general practitioners, nurses, and trainees, enabling them to recognise, manage, and appropriately refer dermatologic conditions in their everyday practice.

A defining strength of PRAMED lies in its emphasis on practical and context-driven education. Rather than focusing solely on theoretical concepts, the program prioritises clinical relevance and adaptability to local realities. This ensures that participants can immediately integrate new knowledge into their daily work, ultimately improving diagnostic accuracy and patient outcomes in resource-limited settings.

The second core component of PRAMED is its community outreach clinic, where patients receive free dermatologic consultations and treatment. During the 2026 campaign, a large number of individuals from rural and peri-urban areas were evaluated by a multidisciplinary team of dermatologists. This initiative not only addressed urgent healthcare needs but also served as a valuable learning environment, allowing local providers to observe real-time clinical decision-making and patient management.

The range of dermatologic conditions encountered during these consultations underscored the complexity of skin health challenges in underserved communities. Common infectious diseases, chronic inflammatory conditions, and suspected neoplastic lesions were among the cases identified. The presence of potentially serious conditions highlighted the critical importance of early detection and timely referral, reinforcing the need for continued medical education and capacity building at the primary care level.



Tent for waiting patients at the Permanent Care Center - CAP - San Andrés, Petén



Team of volunteer dermatologists and residents from Ibero-Latin America

Regional Collaboration and Social Responsibility

Beyond its immediate clinical and educational impact, PRAMED 2026 demonstrated the importance of regional collaboration. Dermatologists from multiple countries participated in the initiative, fostering a dynamic exchange of knowledge, perspectives, and best practices. This collaborative environment not only enriched professional development but also contributed to strengthening a shared vision for dermatologic care across Latin America.

The success of the program is also rooted in its strong commitment to social responsibility. By integrating academic excellence with community service, PRAMED aligns with broader global health efforts aimed at reducing disparities in healthcare access. Its model illustrates how dermatology can extend beyond specialised settings to play a meaningful role in public health, particularly through prevention and early intervention strategies.

Looking Ahead

Looking forward, the continued growth and evolution of PRAMED will be essential to sustain its impact. Future initiatives could incorporate tools such as teledermatology, structured follow-up systems, and expanded training modules to further enhance reach and effectiveness. These innovations would be particularly valuable in remote areas, where access to dermatologic care remains limited.

In conclusion, PRAMED 2026 exemplifies how integrated efforts in education, clinical service, and collaboration can significantly improve access to dermatologic care. By empowering healthcare providers and directly addressing patient needs, the program creates both immediate and lasting benefits. As such, PRAMED represents a scalable and impactful model for advancing dermatologic health in underserved communities throughout Latin America and beyond.



Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists

Battling quackery in dermatology: IADVL's advocacy initiatives

Theme: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

https://www.iadvl.org/

The Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) is a 50-year old association and one of the largest dermatological member societies in the world.

Despite a strong dermatologist community in India, often unqualified practitioners have been seen to provide advanced dermatological therapies, especially procedural and aesthetic dermatology services and hair transplantation on the background of lax regulation.

Tens of thousands of so-called "cosmetologists", whose educational backgrounds range from high-school certification or no formal qualifications to dentists with Bachelor's (BDS) or Master's (MDS) degrees in oral pathology, periodontology, orthodontics or oral surgery, as well as practitioners qualified in alternative systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, homeopathy and Unani, have been obtaining fellowships. These fellowships typically consist of online training followed by a few days of hands-on training at an unregistered centre.

The government of India has been promoting cosmetology as a vocational training to provide employment to those who complete high school education. In spite of clear guidelines that cosmetology training comprises of haircuts, hair colouring, styling, make up and beauty treatments, procedures such as chemical peels, lasers, energy based devices, botulinum neuromodulators, fillers and even hair transplantation are being taught in these courses. These courses, which may range in duration from three days to six months, have become a highly lucrative source of income for unscrupulous individuals in India.

In November 2024 and March 2025, two engineers - both in their 30s - died within a few days of hair transplantation in Kanpur, a city in North India. Ironically, both the hair transplantation surgeries were done by a dentist (with a Bachelor's degree in dentistry) who called herself a cosmetologist. The mishaps came to the attention of the media only two months after the second death. With strong advertising by unscrupulous cosmetologists and lack of public knowledge regarding qualifications, the public remain gullible due to poor regulation of unlicensed establishments.

The consequences of quackery in dermatology extend way beyond harm to the individual patients to rampant propagation of anti-microbial resistance due to the lack of antibiotic stewardship by quacks (and, at times, by qualified individuals too. The global spread of Terbinafine resistant dermatophytosis, largely attributed to Trichophyton indotineae, with its unfortunate semantic reference to the Indian subcontinent, is a direct effect of quackery as unqualified individuals posing as dermatologists and even chemists freely prescribe potent or a super-potent topical steroid in combination with anti-fungals and antibiotics for dermatophyte infection. IADVL has launched a three-pronged strategy consisting of advocacy, awareness and aiding the enforcement of the law in an effort to combat quackery and safeguard public health.

IADVL has formed an anti quackery cell led by senior dermatologist, activist Dr Rajetha Damishetty who has taken a lead role in fighting quackery in dermatology. The cell under Dr Rajetha's leadership has identified several unqualified individuals practising as dermatologists and reported them to the authorities resulting in shutting down of several such centers who were misleading the public.

A Three-Pronged Approach to Tackling Quackery in Dermatology in India

A three-pronged approach focused on advocacy, awareness and stronger law enforcement is needed to address quackery in dermatology in India.

Advocacy and regulatory action

- Continuous engagement with the Ministry of Health at the central and state levels, drug and device license regulators, the National Medical Commission and Dental Council of India, advocating for stringent regulation.
- Advocacy for stronger regulation of cosmetology and aesthetic training programmes to ensure that the scope oftraining is appropriateto the qualifications of thos undertaking them.

Awareness and education

- A public awareness campaign emphasising the importance of seeking care from appropriately qualified dermatologists for medical and aesthetic concerns.
- A "Know Your Dermatologist" programme to help the public identify appropriately qualified dermatology providers.
- Regular social media updates highlighting the potential complications of procedures performed by unqualified individuals.
- Regular awareness programmes for general practitioners and pharmacists to discourage the inappropriate use of triple-combination steroid-containing creams.

Legal and Law Enforcement

- Seek judicial intervention and stronger enforcement of existing laws to prevent dentists, including oral and maxillofacial surgeons, from performing hair restoration procedures. At present, at least two cases relating to this issue are ongoing in the Madras High Court and Bombay High Court.
- Advocate for the cessation of illegal "clinical and medical cosmetology" courses in which individuals without appropriate qualifications are trained to perform medical and aesthetic procedures.
- Work with relevant authorities to identify and take action against individuals and institutions providing medical and aesthetic procedures without the appropriate qualifications or regulatory approvals.

IADVL has managed to take small steps to tackle quackery in dermatology which is rampant across India in the face of lax regulation but it is a long way to go before we can hope for a quackery free India.

Authors:



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Indonesian Society of Dermatology & Venereology

Leprosy is Curable, Stigma is the Real Challenge: INSDV Nationwide Campaign for World Leprosy Day 2026

Theme: Training and education

https://webperdoski.id/

INSDV's Commitment to Leprosy Awareness and Stigma Reduction

The Indonesian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (INSDV/PERDOSKI) is a professional organisation committed to advancing dermatology and venereology in Indonesia through education, collaboration, and public health initiatives, including leprosy awareness and stigma reduction programs.

To support the global World Leprosy Day 2026 theme, "***Leprosy is Curable, the Real Challenge is Stigma***," INSDV through one of the study group within that focusing in leprosy, Indonesian Leprosy Study Group (ILSG/KSMHI), organised a series of educational and community outreach activities aimed at promoting accurate understanding of leprosy and reducing fear, misconceptions, and discrimination within society.

Leprosy remains a significant public health challenge in Indonesia due to both its medical impact and the ongoing stigma faced by affected individuals. To raise public awareness, ILSG-INSDV conducted a nationwide campaign throughout January and February 2026, utilising social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram to expand public engagement. The series concluded with the National Leprosy Discussion Webinar on 17 February 2026, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia and NLR Indonesia.

Engaging Communities Through Education and Social Media

One of the featured activities was the TikTok Real Story Video Competition for People Affected by Leprosy (OYPMK) themed "***Fighting Leprosy, Preserving Hope***." Through short videos, participants shared their personal experiences and journeys related to leprosy. The competition aimed to raise public awareness that leprosy is curable while promoting empathy and reducing stigma and discrimination against people affected by the disease.

View the videos on Instagram: https://bit.ly/4wcxJsg

The TikTok Educational Video Competition for Doctors, themed "***Recognise and Detect Leprosy as Early as Possible***," aimed to raise awareness and promote early detection of leprosy among healthcare professionals and medical students. Participants created short educational videos discussing early signs and symptoms, transmission, management, and disability prevention. A total of 56 participants, including general practitioners, specialists, and medical students, joined the competition.

Another campaign for INSDV members was the Twibbon Competition titled "***Let's INSDV Talk Leprosy.***" Through this social media campaign, participants shared the official Twibbon on Instagram to support leprosy awareness, reduce stigma, and promote early detection and proper management of leprosy in Indonesia. The campaign involved 98 participants, including dermatology and venereology residents and specialists.

View the videos on Instagram: https://bit.ly/4xpIbNN

To further strengthen public engagement, we held an Instagram Live interactive discussion focusing on various aspects of leprosy. The session was hosted by members of the ILSG-INSDV, featuring discussions on clinical, social, and public health perspectives of leprosy. Participants were also given the opportunity to engage directly through question-and-answer sessions with the speakers, creating a more interactive and accessible educational platform for the public . This Instagram Live session attracted 282 viewers, with a total of 43 questions asked during the discussion session.



Community outreach for leprosy education and screening, conducted with Dermatovenereology specialists from Bali Mandara Hospital, the Gianyar District Health Office, and Rejuvie Main Clinic. The activity supports INSDV's efforts to raise awareness and strengthen leprosy control in commemoration of World Leprosy Day 2026



A collaborative discussion with the Ministry of Health, NLR Indonesia, and KSMHI–INSDV on key challenges, policy directions, and strategies to strengthen leprosy management and advance elimination efforts in Indonesia

National and Regional Outreach

The peak event of the commemoration was the National Leprosy Discussion Webinar titled "***Collaboration Between Policymakers and Health Workers in the Elimination of Leprosy in Indonesia***." The webinar featured speakers from the Ministry of Health, NLR Indonesia, and ILSG-INSDV, discussing current challenges, policies, treatment strategies, and future directions for leprosy management in Indonesia. The event was attended by more than 1,000 participants, including general practitioners, specialists, nurses, and public health professionals.

In addition to national-level activities, regional branches of INSDV were encouraged to organise educational and community service programs tailored to their local needs and work plans. These activities included radio and television talk shows, ILSG/INSDV Goes to Campus programs, local webinars, skin health counseling and screening, as well as various community outreach initiatives within branch working areas. Through these programs, INSDV aimed to expand public education, improve community awareness, and strengthen early detection efforts for leprosy. Approximately 37 activities were conducted across various regions in Indonesia in celebration of World Leprosy Day.

Looking Ahead: Towards a Future Free from Leprosy and Stigma

Through the commemoration of World Leprosy Day 2026, INSDV reaffirmed its commitment to advancing public education, scientific collaboration, and community service for people affected by leprosy. Through stronger collaboration, continuous education, early detection, comprehensive treatment, and stigma reduction, Indonesia is expected to move closer toward a future free from leprosy and discrimination.

Author | Hanny Nilasari, MD, Ph.D., FINSDV, FAADV, President of INSDV

International Eczema Council

The Future of Dermatology is Global, Collaborative, and Multidisciplinary

Theme: The future of dermatology - threats and opportunities

https://www.eczemacouncil.org/

The future of dermatology is being shaped not only by scientific discovery, but by how effectively experts connect across borders, specialties, and care settings. For a complex disease such as atopic dermatitis (AD), this future must be global, collaborative, and multidisciplinary. The International Eczema Council (IEC) is working to build that future today by uniting a diverse, international community dedicated to improving patient care through research, education, and shared best practices.

A Truly Global Perspective

Atopic dermatitis presents differently across populations, influenced by genetics, environment, access to care, and other factors. Treatments available in one region may be inaccessible in another, and clinical approaches must often be adapted to local realities. These variations underscore a critical truth: progress in dermatology cannot be driven by a single region or specialty. It requires broad representation and a global exchange of knowledge.

The IEC's continued expansion reflects this need. Our membership increasingly spans new countries and underserved regions, bringing in perspectives from clinicians working on the front lines of AD care in diverse settings. Though the IEC's headquarters are in the United States of America (USA), our European membership exceeds our USA membership — an indicator of a growing international footprint and commitment to global inclusion.



Symposium attendees join IEC Councillor Raquel Leão Orfali, MD PhD, for a photo at an IEC symposium presented in Spanish in May 2026 during Reunión Anual de Dermatólogos Latinoamericanos (RADLA) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Orfali, of São Paulo, Brazil, was one of the speakers presenting "Atopic Dermatitis in Adults: Diagnosis, Misdiagnosis, and Therapeutic Approaches."

The Council comprises **189** Councillors and Associates from **39** countries across **6** global regions. By increasing geographic diversity, the IEC strengthens its ability to identify unmet needs, highlight regional challenges, and ensure that advances in care are relevant and applicable worldwide.

Breaking Down Disciplinary Boundaries

Equally important is the recognition that atopic dermatitis isn't solely the domain of dermatologists. AD sits at the intersection of dermatology, immunology, and allergy, among others. Recognising this, the IEC expanded its membership to include not only dermatologists, but also allergists and PhDs. This multidisciplinary approach enriches scientific dialogue and fosters more comprehensive strategies for understanding and managing disease.

General practitioners often serve as the first point of contact for patients with atopic dermatitis, especially for pediatric patients and patients in underserved regions. By increasing efforts to share educational content with these providers, the IEC is helping to extend expertise beyond traditional specialist networks to support earlier, more effective intervention.

Connecting Experts Through Education

Education remains central to these efforts. Through in-person symposia held in conjunction with major international conferences, the IEC convenes global experts to share emerging research and clinical insights. These sessions are designed to be accessible—often complimentary and open to a wide range of healthcare professionals.

However, the future of atopic dermatitis care cannot rely on in-person engagement alone. Digital connection is essential to building a truly global community. The IEC has significantly expanded its use of online platforms and social media to disseminate educational content and connect clinicians and researchers across oceans and borders. Healthcare professionals worldwide can access the latest developments in atopic dermatitis care at their convenience through the IEC's extensive library of on-demand educational recordings on our YouTube Learning Center.



IEC President Alan Irvine, MD DSc, of Dublin, Ireland, speaks during the IEC symposium "Atopic Dermatitis and Alopecia Areata: Nuances of Clinical Trial Design and Recruitment" at the Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (ISDS) in November 2025 in New York, NY, USA.

Building a Sustainable Global Community

Together, these efforts are reshaping what it means to be part of this community. The IEC is fostering a network that is not defined by geography or discipline, but by a shared commitment to improving patient outcomes. Within this network, clinicians and researchers can learn from one another's experiences, collaborate on emerging challenges, and develop solutions that reflect the realities of diverse patient populations.

While initiatives such as fellowship programs continue to support professional development where possible, the IEC's broader strategy is focused on the future: a scalable, sustainable model of engagement that expands membership, enhances digital connectivity, and strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration.

Looking Ahead

As atopic dermatitis becomes better understood and treatments more complex, the need for coordinated, global expertise will only grow. The IEC's work demonstrates that the future of dermatology is not confined to any one country or specialty - it is built through connection. By advancing a global, cooperative, and multidisciplinary approach, the IEC is helping to ensure that progress in atopic dermatitis translates into meaningful improvements in patient care everywhere.



IEC Director April W. Armstrong, MD MPH; IEC CEO Alan Stiles; and IEC Councillor Patrick M. Brunner, MD MSc, are all smiles after a successful symposium at the Society for Investigative Dermatology in May 2026. Dr. Armstrong, from Los Angeles, CA, USA, and Dr. Brunner, from New York, NY, USA, co-chaired "Decoding the Dialogue: Skin–Microbe–Immune Interactions in Atopic Dermatitis."

International Psoriasis Council

Building a New Model for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Care in Latin America

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

IPC INTERNATIONAL PSORIASIS COUNCIL
Advancing Knowledge. Improving Care.

www.psoriasiscouncil.org

Psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis require coordinated, multidisciplinary care. Yet, in many parts of Latin America, patients continue to face delayed diagnosis, fragmented referral pathways, and unequal access to specialists and treatment. Recognising these challenges, the International Psoriasis Council (IPC) recently joined with the Pan American League of Associations for Rheumatology (PANLAR), the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA), the Latin American Society of Psoriasis and Dermatoimmunology (SOLAPSO), and the Latin American Coalition of Immune-Mediated Skin Diseases (COLAPPIEL) to launch a new regional collaboration focused on improving education, awareness, and integrated care for people living with psoriatic disease across Latin America.

> *Bringing patient organisations, dermatologists, and rheumatologists together in the same forum created a different kind of conversation around psoriatic disease care. It highlighted how much opportunity there is for stronger collaboration across the region.*
>
> **Claudia de la Cruz**
> **Vice President/President Elect, IPC**



From left: Monica Garcia de Paredes de Chapman, representing IFPA; Rodrigo Garcia Salinas, MD, representing PANLAR; Claudia de la Cruz, MD, representing IPC; Juan Raul Castro Ayarza, representing SOLAPSO; and Martín Petrocco, representing COLAPPIEL

Formally launched during a joint symposium held in conjunction with the PANLAR Congress in April 2026, the initiative brings together dermatologists, rheumatologists, patient advocacy groups, and regional medical societies to strengthen education, awareness, early detection, and collaboration between specialties for patients with psoriatic disease across the region.

Earlier Recognition Through Multidisciplinary Collaboration

A key theme throughout the symposium was the importance of earlier recognition of psoriatic arthritis. Delayed diagnosis remains common, often leading to irreversible joint damage, reduced quality of life, and increased disease burden. Speakers emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between dermatology and rheumatology, particularly because dermatologists are often the first specialists to identify patients at risk.

The event also highlighted the importance of including patient organisations in medical education and regional advocacy efforts. Patient voices helped reinforce how psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis affect daily life, access to employment, mental health, and long-term outcomes. Including clinicians and patient representatives in the same discussions created opportunities for more practical, patient-centered conversations about care.

The level of engagement surrounding the symposium demonstrated strong regional interest in this type of partnership. Media coverage and press participation helped extend the conversation beyond the meeting itself and into broader public awareness efforts. Participants also expressed interest in future opportunities to collaborate with IPC and partner organisations.

> *The enthusiasm surrounding the symposium showed how important this type of collaboration can be. There was strong engagement from clinicians, patient advocates, and the media, which reinforced the need for continued multidisciplinary efforts across the region."*
>
> **Claudia de la Cruz**
> **Vice President/President Elect, IPC**

From Regional Collaboration to Practical Action

Looking ahead, the partners plan to continue identifying practical, high-impact opportunities to improve patient outcomes across the region. Early priorities include strengthening referral pathways, supporting joint educational initiatives, improving awareness of psoriatic arthritis, and encouraging closer coordination between specialties. The collaboration also aims to amplify regional perspectives and promote approaches that reflect the realities of healthcare systems throughout Latin America.

For IPC, this initiative reflects a broader commitment to supporting global partnerships that improve education and patient care. While the collaboration is still in its early stages, the response to the symposium demonstrated the potential impact of uniting dermatologists, rheumatologists, and patient advocates around common goals.

As healthcare systems continue to address the growing burden of chronic inflammatory diseases, collaborations such as this may help support a more integrated and patient-centered approach to psoriatic disease care worldwide.



From left: Juan Raul Castro Ayarza, SOLAPSO Patient Voice and Advocacy; Antonio Cachafeiro Vilar, President, PANLAR; Claudia de la Cruz, MD, Vice President/President Elect, IPC, signing the collaboration agreement; and Martín Petrocco, President, COLAPPIEL



Claudia de la Cruz, MD, Vice President/President Elect, IPC, presenting at the joint symposium

International Society of Atopic Dermatitis

Regional Guidelines for Atopic Dermatitis: Building Global Skin Health Through Local Solutions

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

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is one of the most common chronic inflammatory skin diseases worldwide, yet its burden, presentation, environmental drivers, and access to care differ considerably across regions. In many low- and middle-income settings, dermatologists and healthcare systems face challenges that extend beyond therapeutics: limited access to diagnostic tools, variable treatment availability, under-recognition of disease burden, and the need to adapt international recommendations to local realities.

The International Society of Atopic Dermatitis (ISAD) believes that advancing global skin health requires more than generating evidence. It requires ensuring that evidence becomes meaningful and applicable across diverse healthcare environments.

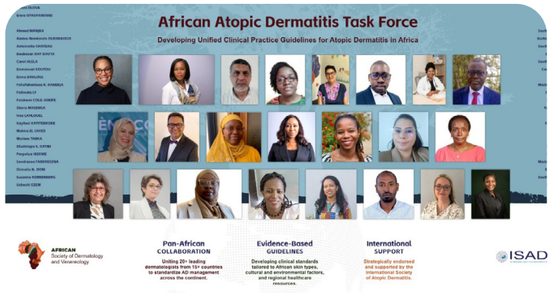
From Global Evidence to Regional Guidelines

Over the past two years, ISAD has strengthened its commitment to regional guideline development as part of a broader patient-centered and global health strategy. Rather than promoting a single universal model, our objective is to support locally led initiatives capable of integrating international evidence with regional epidemiology, healthcare structures, treatment access, and cultural context.

For a disease such as AD, regional guidelines are not a fragmentation of dermatology. They represent its maturation. Improving skin health worldwide requires recognising that local solutions, built through regional leadership and global partnership, can create lasting impact for people living with atopic dermatitis.

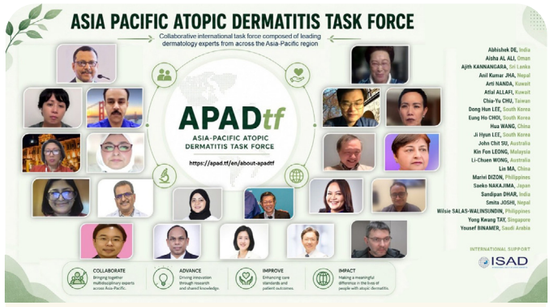
This effort has been implemented through dedicated initiatives in Africa and Asia.

In Africa, ISAD has supported work toward regionally adapted recommendations recognising specific challenges encountered across the continent: limited specialist access, constraints in treatment availability, environmental diversity, skin phenotype variation, infectious disease interactions, and health system realities. Such approaches seek to move beyond direct transposition of recommendations developed in high-income settings toward guidance that is both evidence-based and implementable.



ISAD-ASDV African Atopic Dermatitis Task Force

In Asia, where atopic dermatitis affects highly diverse populations across healthcare systems with markedly different resources, ISAD has promoted dialogue emphasising adaptation rather than replication. The objective is not only optimal disease control, but also practical implementation that considers affordability, treatment availability, patient expectations, and long-term disease management.



ISAD Asia Pacific Atopic dermatitis task force

Keeping Patients at the Centre

Patient-centered care remains central to this approach. Atopic dermatitis extends beyond visible skin inflammation. It affects sleep, mental health, education, work productivity, family life, and social participation. Guideline development must therefore increasingly integrate patient-reported outcomes, quality of life, and meaningful disease control alongside physician-assessed severity.

ISAD's broader international initiatives, including work toward a global Treat-to-Target framework for atopic dermatitis developed together with international partners and patient representatives, reinforce this philosophy: evidence-based medicine must remain connected to lived experience and global equity.

Global dermatology advances when international collaboration strengthens local capacity.



T2T atopic dermatitis workshop, Melbourne, ISAD-WHO meeting 2025, organised locally by Prof John Su with the input of colleagues from rheumatology and pulmonology

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International Society of Dermatopathology

Advancing Global Dermatopathology Through Education, Exchange, and Access

Theme: Training and education

https://www.intsocdermpath.org/

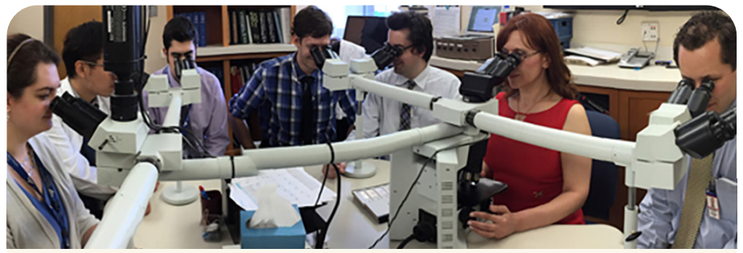
Dermatopathology sits at the intersection of dermatology and pathology. It is a discipline built on clinicopathologic correlation, shared visual language, and careful interpretation of skin disease under the microscope. Yet access to dermatopathology education remains uneven across the world. In many regions, dermatologists and pathologists face limited exposure to specialised training, fewer opportunities for mentorship, and barriers to attending international meetings where diagnostic approaches, emerging classifications, and new technologies are discussed.

The International Society of Dermatopathology (ISDP) is committed to narrowing this gap by strengthening global education, encouraging scientific exchange, and creating opportunities for dermatologists, pathologists, trainees, and early-career physicians to connect across borders. The ISPD's work is rooted in a simple but powerful belief: when dermatopathology knowledge is shared more widely, patient care improves.

Building Global Opportunities for Learning and Exchange

A central part of this mission is the ISDP Travel Grant program, which supports physicians from countries where access to international educational meetings may be limited. By helping recipients attend ISDP meetings, the program reduces financial barriers and allows emerging dermatopathology leaders to participate in high-level teaching, present their work, meet international colleagues, and bring new knowledge back to their home institutions. These grants are not only awards; they are investments in local capacity-building and future leadership.

The Society also supports international exposure through its Visiting Dermatopathology Programs, which help connect physicians with centers offering dermatopathology observerships, attachments, and educational experiences. These opportunities are especially valuable for colleagues practicing in settings where formal dermatopathology fellowships or subspecialty training pathways may be limited. By facilitating access to expert diagnostic environments, slide-based teaching, clinicopathologic conferences, and academic exchange, ISDP helps expand practical skills that can be translated directly into patient care.



Dermatopathology trainees and faculty participating in a multi-headed microscope teaching session, highlighting the collaborative and interactive nature of dermatopathology education and training

ISDP's international meetings remain another cornerstone of its educational impact. These gatherings bring together dermatopathologists, dermatologists, pathologists, trainees, and researchers from diverse health systems. Through lectures, abstract presentations, slide seminars, case discussions, and informal mentorship, the meetings create a global classroom where diagnostic experience is exchanged in real time. They also provide a forum for discussing evolving challenges in dermatopathology, including inflammatory dermatoses, melanocytic lesions, cutaneous lymphomas, digital pathology, artificial intelligence, and the need for standardised reporting across different practice environments.

Education as a Foundation for Global Equity

Beyond individual programs, ISDP's broader contribution is cultural. The Society creates a professional home for colleagues who may otherwise work in relative isolation. Dermatopathology can be a demanding field, especially in regions where access to expert consultation is limited. Through international membership, meetings, educational initiatives, and grants, ISDP fosters friendship, mentorship, and collaboration. These connections are essential for sustaining professional development and supporting physicians who are working to improve skin disease diagnosis in their own communities.

The future of dermatology depends not only on new therapies and technologies, but also on accurate diagnosis. Dermatopathology remains fundamental to the care of patients with inflammatory, infectious, autoimmune, and neoplastic skin diseases. As global dermatology advances, the need for accessible, high-quality dermatopathology education becomes even more urgent. ISDP is responding to this need by building bridges: between countries, between generations, between dermatologists and pathologists, and between education and patient care.

Through its travel grants, visiting programs, international meetings, and commitment to scientific exchange, the ISDP continues to advance the ILDS vision of global collaboration in skin health. The Society's initiatives demonstrate that education is not only the transfer of knowledge, it is a form of equity.

By expanding access to dermatopathology training and strengthening international networks, ISDP helps shape a future in which expertise is shared more broadly, diagnoses are made more confidently, and patients everywhere benefit from better skin care.

Author | *Albert Alhatem, MD, Dermatopathologist, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Medicine, Department of Pathology, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Geisel School of Medicine*

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Italian Society of Legal and Forensic Dermatology

Legal and Forensic Dermatology: An Emerging Field in Modern Dermatology

Theme: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

https://www.sidelf.it/

Legal and forensic dermatology can be considered an emerging branch of modern dermatology, focusing on the legal aspects of professional practice and the medico-legal implications of skin lesions, diseases, aesthetic conditions, and their treatments[1,2,8,11].

Legal dermatology is an interdisciplinary field connecting dermatological sciences with medicine, surgery, aesthetics, and law. It examines these connections through different perspectives, shared scientific evidence, and clinical, medico-legal, and legal expertise. Professional education, scientific exchange, and discussion among different disciplines are essential for developing this field, preventing avoidable harm, and protecting both patients and healthcare professionals[1,2,7,11].

Modern dermatology encompasses numerous areas with medico-legal and legal implications. These extend beyond professional responsibility to include the assessment of aesthetic biological damage, disability caused by dermatological and occupational diseases, legal aspects of diagnostic and therapeutic technologies, and public health issues related to infectious dermatoses. Legal dermatology therefore has applications across civil, social, occupational, and criminal contexts[1,2,8,11].

Major Areas of Legal and Forensic Dermatology

One of the most important areas is the assessment of dermatological and aesthetic damage. Skin discoloration, scarring, and other visible lesions may have significant physical, psychological, social, and professional consequences. Such injuries may result from medical or aesthetic procedures, professional liability, road traffic accidents, or occupational injuries. Their medico-legal assessment requires consideration of the clinical findings, their causes, their consequences, and the causal relationship between the event and the resulting damage[2,7,8,11].

Aesthetic dermatology has become increasingly relevant because of the growing demand for cosmetic procedures. Although these treatments can improve physical appearance and well-being, adverse events and dissatisfaction with treatment outcomes may lead to disputes and claims of professional liability. Appropriate patient information, realistic expectations, careful documentation, and proper management of complications are therefore important aspects of professional practice[3,4,6,7].

Dermatologic oncology is another area of growing medico-legal importance. Early diagnosis, appropriate treatment, and follow-up of skin cancers, particularly melanoma, are essential for protecting patients' lives and quality of life. Failures or delays in diagnosis and management may therefore have significant clinical and legal consequences.

Forensic dermatology also has applications in criminal investigations. The examination of skin lesions in living individuals and deceased persons may contribute to the assessment of injuries, personal identification, and post-mortem changes. Dermatological expertise can therefore provide valuable information when cutaneous findings have forensic significance[8,11].

Other areas include occupational and disabling dermatoses, public health and mandatory reporting of infectious and sexually transmitted diseases, ethical and legal regulations governing professional practice, clinical research and guidelines, therapeutic procedures and medical devices, and the emerging legal implications of digital communication and artificial intelligence[1,2,8,11].

Table 1

Classical definition of Legal Dermatology

A new interdisciplinary field of study within dermatology and related sciences that systematically addresses the medico-legal, legal, and ethical-socio-health-care aspects and implications of medical, surgical, and aesthetic dermatology and sexually transmitted infections—areas currently shaped by new forms of digital communication and artificial intelligence, which bring with them new and unusual issues regarding professional liability.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Methodology

Legal and forensic dermatology is inherently interdisciplinary. Its principal interlocutors include dermatologists and other clinicians, medico-legal and occupational medicine specialists, and legal professionals such as lawyers and judges. In appropriate circumstances, insurers may also have an interest[1,2,7,11].

Effective collaboration is essential because medico-legal questions require the integration of different areas of expertise. Clinical assessment provides the foundation by establishing the diagnosis and documenting the relevant findings. The medico-legal assessment then identifies the clinical facts that may have legal implications and evaluates the causal relationship between an event and the resulting damage. Finally, the legal framework determines how these findings may be interpreted and applied[2,7,8,11].

This methodology distinguishes clinical dermatology from medico-legal dermatology while recognising their complementarity. In clinical practice, the primary objective is to diagnose and treat disease and improve health. In the medico-legal context, the objective is to identify clinical events with legal relevance and evaluate their consequences in health, social, civil, occupational, or criminal contexts[1,2,8,11].

An important objective is prevention. Understanding the causes and consequences of adverse events can help identify foreseeable and avoidable professional errors, improve clinical practice, reduce harm, and minimise unnecessary litigation. Education, communication, and the exchange of experience among different professional groups can contribute to more complete and accurate assessments[2,4,7].

Table 2.

Key themes in legal dermatology | *A 10-point guide*

SPECIFIC AREAS

• Aesthetic personal injury • Debilitating/disabling skin conditions • Liability regarding treatment outcomes • Clinical expert assessment and medico-legal collaboration • Unauthorised practice of the profession

GENERAL AREAS

• Professional liability • Public health • Research, clinical trials, and guidelines • Legal aspects of therapeutic procedures and the use of medical devices • Professional practice

Table 3.

Forensic Dermatology | *Key areas of application*	
Aesthetic impairment in motor vehicle liability:	45%
Occupational and disabling dermatoses:	25%
Professional liability:	15%
Public health:	10%
Other:	5%

Protecting Patients and Professionals

At its core, Legal and Forensic Dermatology seeks to protect both patients and healthcare professionals. Patients require appropriate diagnosis, treatment, information, and recognition of harm when it occurs. Healthcare professionals require appropriate education, clear standards of practice, adequate documentation, and fair assessment when adverse outcomes or disputes arise[1,2,7,11].

The development of this field reflects the increasing complexity of modern dermatology. As dermatological practice expands across medical, surgical, aesthetic, technological, occupational, and public health settings, the associated medico-legal questions will become increasingly important[1,2,8,11].

Legal and Forensic Dermatology provides a framework for connecting clinical knowledge with legal and ethical responsibilities. Through interdisciplinary education, scientific exchange, careful clinical assessment, and collaboration among dermatologists, medico-legal specialists, and legal professionals, the field can contribute not only to the appropriate evaluation of dermatological harm but also to its prevention[1,2,7,11].

Ultimately, knowledge is central to achieving this dual protection. Strengthening understanding of the medico-legal dimensions of dermatology can support better clinical practice, reduce avoidable harm, and contribute to the protection of both patients and professionals[2,7,11].

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Author | Valerio Cirfera, President, SiDeLF

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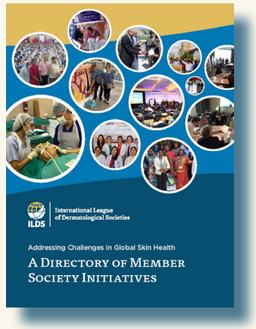
We hope you've enjoyed discovering the inspiring work, innovative ideas and meaningful initiatives being led by ILDS Members around the world. This year's Directory offers a glimpse into the incredible breadth of activity across our community - from new projects and partnerships to initiatives that are making a real difference in people's lives.

Since 2018, ILDS Members have continued to develop and share initiatives that demonstrate creativity, collaboration and a commitment to making a positive impact. Previous editions of the Member Initiatives Directory provide an opportunity to explore that work, revisit some of the stories and ideas shared by members, and discover initiatives that continue to inspire.

Want to explore more?

Take a look through previous editions of the ILDS Member Initiatives Directory and discover the people, projects and ideas that have shaped our global community over the years.

Issue One



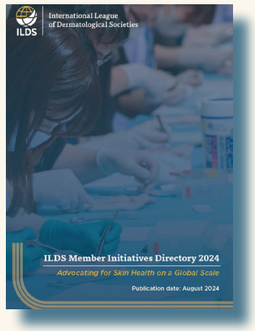
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Issue Two



(Published 2023)

Issue Three



(Published 2024)

Issue Four



(Published 2025)

Thank you to all our members for sharing your work and helping to make the ILDS community a vibrant source of inspiration, collaboration and positive change.

Click or scan for more member activities

Kenya Association of Dermatologists

Bridging the Gap: Improving Access to Dermatologic Care for the Urban Underserved Community in Nairobi

Kenya Association of Dermatologists

https://kenyaderma.co.ke/

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

The recent World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution on skin diseases highlighted the importance of equitable access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of dermatologic conditions, especially among vulnerable populations. Despite this progress, many rapidly growing urban settlements continue to face major barriers to dermatologic care, including poverty, overcrowding, limited specialist services, stigma, and the high cost of treatment.

In Nairobi, informal settlements and underserved peri-urban communities face significant barriers to accessing dermatologic care, including poverty, overcrowding, limited specialist services, stigma, and the high cost of treatment. Community outreach clinics and mobile dermatology initiatives therefore play an important role in narrowing this gap and improving skin health outcomes.

A recent dermatology outreach visit in Kayole, a low-income informal settlement in Nairobi, highlighted both the immense need for care and the opportunities available when healthcare professionals engage directly with underserved populations.

The outreach focused mainly on children and adolescents in Imani Children's Home, which houses orphaned and abandoned children of all ages from the Kayole community. Preliminary data collected during the clinic demonstrated that inflammatory and infectious skin diseases were common. Atopic dermatitis, fungal infections, scabies, and other dermatoses represented a large proportion of cases seen. Many patients had lived with cutaneous symptoms for prolonged periods without prior evaluation or treatment, presumably due to financial constraints.



KAD members and the children at rescue center; project; incidence of common skin conditions and reduction of scabies through mass treatment in a rescue center in Kayole slums, Nairobi Kenya.

Of particular concern was the identification of scabies cases in crowded living settings, where household contacts frequently reported itching but had not received treatment. Secondary bacterial infection was also identified in some cases, emphasising the risk of complications when skin diseases are left untreated.

These observations illustrate how skin disease is often underestimated in underserved communities. Conditions such as eczema or fungal infections may not immediately threaten life; yet they significantly affect quality of life, school attendance, sleep, social interaction, and mental wellbeing. Children with visible skin disease may face teasing or stigma, while persistent itch and discomfort contribute to poor concentration and disrupted learning. In overcrowded urban settings, infectious conditions such as scabies spread rapidly among family members, especially where access to water, sanitation, and medical treatment is limited.

Community outreach clinics offer an important solution to the barriers that many urban poor in sub-Saharan Africa may face. Bringing dermatologic services directly into underserved neighborhoods reduces transport costs, improves early diagnosis, and creates opportunities for education and prevention. Outreach programs also facilitate trust between healthcare workers and the community. During the Kayole outreach, caregivers received education on skin hygiene, recognition of contagious conditions, adherence to treatment, and the importance of treating household contacts in communicable diseases such as scabies. Simple interventions such as moisturisers, topical corticosteroids, antifungal therapy, and antiparasitic treatment provided substantial relief for many patients.



Dermatologists and members of the KAD during the camp



Members of the KAD reviewing babies and children in the rescue centre

Partnerships are essential for sustainable impact. Collaboration between dermatologists, trainees, local healthcare workers, community organisations, and public health institutions can strengthen continuity of care beyond one-day clinics. Training primary healthcare providers to recognise and manage common skin conditions can reduce the burden on tertiary referral centers while improving access at the community level. School-based screening programs and health education initiatives may also help identify disease early and reduce stigma among children.

The experience in Kayole demonstrates that access to dermatologic care is not only a medical issue but also a social justice issue. Urban underserved populations deserve timely diagnosis, affordable treatment, education, and dignity in healthcare delivery. Dermatology outreach programs provide an opportunity to address both immediate clinical needs and the broader determinants of skin health. Continued investment in outreach, public education, workforce training, and community partnerships is necessary to ensure that quality dermatologic care becomes accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status or place of residence.

Lebanese Dermatology Society

Dermatology in Times of Instability: Lessons from Lebanon

Société Libanaise de Dermatologie
Lebanese Dermatology Society
الجمعيّة اللبنانيّة لأطباء الأمراض الجلديّة

t.fares@oml.org.lb

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

Dermatology in a Challenging Healthcare Environment

Dermatology in Lebanon is practiced in a setting marked by years of economic instability, political uncertainty, and recurrent conflict, all of which resulted in a major strain on the healthcare system. Like all medical specialties in the country, dermatology has faced significant challenges ranging from medication shortages, limited access to care, to increasing financial burdens on both physicians and patients. Many hospitals and clinics continue to function with limited resources. These conditions provide insight into how dermatologic care can adapt in resource-constrained settings and highlight the evolving role of dermatology as both a clinical and public health specialty.

Access to care remains one of the main challenges. While major Lebanese cities may have many dermatologists, rural and conflict-affected areas often lack basic services. The recent war worsened these disparities. Population displacement and overcrowded living conditions contributed to increased rates of transmissible skin diseases, particularly scabies and resistant fungal infections. Disrupted healthcare access delayed diagnosis and treatment, increasing disease burden and transmission.

Moreover, there is increasing demand for affordable treatments, reliable medication availability, and long-term follow-up. Interruptions in supply chains have limited access to essential therapies, forcing physicians to modify treatment plans or rely on less optimal alternatives. As a result, applying international evidence-based guidelines is often challenging. This highlights the need for more region-specific data and flexible approaches that maintain scientific standards while remaining practical in real-world conditions.

The psychosocial burden of skin disease has also become more significant in vulnerable populations particularly among displaced individuals already experiencing difficult living conditions. Addressing dermatologic health in Lebanon therefore requires a holistic approach that considers both medical and psychosocial dimensions.



Attendees during the 20th Annual Congress of the LDS in 2025

Professional Resilience and Ongoing Development

In this context, local healthcare efforts resemble humanitarian work. The Lebanese Dermatology Society contributes to outreach activities for displaced populations. Local dermatologists, non-governmental organisations, and community initiatives also play key roles in addressing outbreaks and providing medications and medical care. Physicians across the country continue to care for patients under extremely difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions.

Despite these challenges, dermatology in Lebanon keeps evolving. The country remains recognised for expertise in aesthetic dermatology, which advances steadily alongside medical dermatology. However, economic pressures and lack of surveillance have contributed to an increase in non-medical aesthetic practices, raising concerns regarding patient safety and quality of care, and emphasising the need for stronger regulations.

Continuous medical education has also remained active despite the difficult circumstances. Academic institutions, professional societies, and international collaborations have helped maintain scientific activity despite limited resources. The Annual Congress of the Lebanese Dermatology Society continues to serve as a major scientific platform, alongside the organisation of focused meetings on atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, dermato-oncology with the Innovative Breakthroughs in Dermatology and Applied Cutaneous Oncology (IBDA), and aesthetic dermatology. Journal clubs and academic activities were also sustained, some in collaboration with regional and international societies, including the Middle East International Dermatology & Aesthetic Medicine and the Emirates Dermatology Society.



IBDA Oncoderm meeting in 2026



Volunteering in 2026

Looking Ahead

Although Lebanon's healthcare system continues to face major challenges, Lebanese dermatologists have shown resilience by maintaining patient care, education, and scientific advancement. Their experience highlights the importance of adapting evidence-based medicine to real world conditions and the need to address dermatologic conditions within broad public health frameworks while continuing to move the profession forward.

Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics

Psychological Aspects of Chronic Skin Disease and the Role of Scientific Societies in Dermatologic Care

الجمعية الليبية للأمراض الجلدية والتحميل
Libyan Society of Dermatology and Aesthetic
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Theme: The Future of Dermatology as a Discipline

The Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics (LSDA) continues to play an active role in scientific collaboration, medical education, and public awareness. As part of this commitment, the Society held two Scientific Days (Vitiligo Day on 25 June 2026 and World Skin Health Day on 8 July 2026), with a special focus on the mental health and psychosocial aspects of skin disease. The Society also remains engaged in national and international dermatology activities, with its most recent participation in the Zayed Derma conference in Cairo on 12 June 2026.

Chronic skin conditions are highly prevalent among young people. Acne affects approximately 85% of individuals aged 12–25 years, while eczema affects around 12% of children aged 2–8 years. These conditions place a significant burden on patients, their families, and healthcare systems while substantially reducing quality of life. Because many skin diseases are visible, they often create unique social and psychological challenges throughout childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood.

Peer relationships become particularly important during childhood, and many affected children experience teasing or bullying. During adolescence and early adulthood, concerns about body image become increasingly significant. Visible skin disorders may lead to embarrassment, social withdrawal, low self-esteem, and anxiety related to physical appearance. In societies where physical appearance is valued, these psychological effects may be especially pronounced.

Psychodermatology and the Need for Integrated Care

Psychodermatology is the field that examines the relationship between psychological factors and skin health. It recognises the bidirectional interaction between the skin and the mind and often requires both dermatological and psychological approaches to patient care. Emotional stress is known to aggravate several skin diseases, including eczema, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, acne, and urticaria. One of the best examples is the itch-scratch cycle, in which psychological stress increases itching, scratching worsens skin inflammation, and increasing disease severity further intensifies emotional distress.

A growing body of evidence links chronic skin conditions to depression, anxiety, loneliness, and reduced quality of life. Young people with acne, for example, report higher levels of depressive symptoms and feelings of worthlessness than their unaffected peers. Similarly, many patients with hidradenitis suppurativa describe the onset of psychological difficulties following the development of their skin disease. These psychological comorbidities may also reduce treatment adherence and contribute to poorer clinical outcomes.

Alopecia areata represents another example of the interaction between psychological and biological factors. It is a non-scarring hair loss disorder associated with genetic susceptibility, autoimmune mechanisms, and environmental triggers. Stressful life events have been proposed as possible triggers, although the available evidence remains inconsistent. Some studies support a relationship between stress and disease onset, whereas others have failed to demonstrate a significant association.

Psychological characteristics such as low social support and alexithymia have also been reported in patients with alopecia areata. Alexithymia, which refers to difficulty identifying and expressing emotions, may increase vulnerability to stress-related illness. Research suggests that autonomic nervous system dysregulation and immune alterations, including changes in natural killer cell activity, may contribute to the relationship between psychological stress and alopecia areata.

Mental health disorders, particularly anxiety and depression, are more common among patients with chronic skin disease than in the general population. However, psychological distress may not always be detected by standard self-report questionnaires, especially in children and adolescents. This highlights the importance of early recognition, appropriate psychological assessment, and integrated patient care.

Research, Education, and the Role of Scientific Societies

Recent years have seen a noticeable increase in adult psoriasis cases, alongside a rise in alopecia areata and vitiligo, particularly among children. These trends may be linked to psychological and psychosocial stressors arising from environmental, social, and logistical factors. This growing public health concern warrants societal support and targeted research to fully understand these underlying factors. Fortunately, academic investigation is already underway; several ongoing MSc and Dermatology Board theses are currently dedicated to investigating these associations at the Department of Dermatology, Benghazi University. However, more educational programs and multicenter studies are needed across the country, including Tripoli, Misurata, Al-Bayda, and other cities.

As dermatology continues to evolve, greater attention must be given to the psychological and social dimensions of skin disease. Scientific societies play an essential role in promoting awareness, supporting education, encouraging research, and advocating for a holistic approach to patient care. Through its educational activities, meetings, and international collaborations, the Society of Dermatology and Aesthetics continues to contribute to improving dermatologic care and advancing skin health in Libya.



LSDA Representation at the Meeting of the Authority for Scientific Research, Benghazi, December 2025



Participation of the LSDA in the Zayed Derma Conference, Cairo, June 11–12, 2026.

Society of Dermatology, Cosmetology and Laser Therapy

Advancing Dermatology Capacity in Libya Through Innovation, Collaboration, and Leadership

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Theme: Training and education

The future of dermatology depends on the strength of its educational foundations. In Libya, where healthcare systems continue to evolve and adapt to emerging challenges, investment in education and professional training has become a strategic priority for advancing dermatological care and improving patient outcomes.

During 2025–2026, the Society of Dermatology, Cosmetology and Laser Therapy intensified its efforts to strengthen dermatology education, promote continuous professional development, and support the next generation of dermatologists. Through a comprehensive program of scientific activities, national conferences, specialised workshops, and online educational initiatives, the Society has contributed significantly to building clinical expertise and fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

A major achievement during this period was the expansion of continuing medical education opportunities for dermatologists across Libya. Educational activities addressed contemporary challenges in dermatology, including inflammatory skin diseases, pigmentary disorders, dermatologic surgery, cosmetic dermatology, laser technologies, infectious skin diseases, pediatric dermatology, and evidence-based therapeutic advances.

These programs enabled participants to remain aligned with international standards and emerging scientific developments.

Empowering Young Dermatologists Through Collaboration and Innovation

The Society has also placed particular emphasis on empowering young dermatologists and residents. By creating platforms for scientific presentation, case discussions, mentorship, and research engagement, the Society has encouraged early-career professionals to develop leadership skills and actively contribute to the advancement of dermatology within Libya. Supporting young physicians remains one of the most sustainable investments in the future of the specialty.

International collaboration has been another cornerstone of our educational strategy. Partnerships with regional and global dermatology organisations have facilitated the exchange of expertise and strengthened professional networks. Participation in international scientific meetings and collaborative educational activities has enabled dermatologists to engage with global best practices while sharing local experiences and challenges.

Recognising the transformative role of digital technology, the Society has increasingly integrated virtual learning into its educational framework. Webinars, hybrid conferences, and online scientific forums have expanded access to training opportunities for healthcare professionals throughout the country, helping overcome geographical barriers and ensuring broader participation.

Beyond professional education, the Society has actively supported public health awareness initiatives aimed at improving community understanding of skin diseases, early diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. These activities have reinforced the important role of dermatologists not only as clinicians but also as educators and advocates for skin health.

Building the Future of Dermatology in Libya

The achievements of 2025–2026 demonstrate that meaningful progress can be achieved even in resource-constrained environments when commitment, collaboration, and vision are aligned. Nevertheless, challenges remain, including the need for greater access to subspecialty training, enhanced research infrastructure, and expanded opportunities for international academic exchange.

Looking forward, the Society of Dermatology, Cosmetology and Laser Therapy is committed to further strengthening dermatology education through innovative training models, research development, digital learning platforms, and international partnerships.

Our vision is to cultivate a highly skilled dermatology workforce capable of addressing national healthcare needs while contributing to global dermatological knowledge and practice. Education is more than the transfer of knowledge - it is the foundation upon which stronger healthcare systems are built.

By investing in training and professional development today, Libya is helping shape a more resilient, innovative, and patient-centered future for dermatology



Malagasy Society of Dermatology

Improving dermatological care and research in Madagascar

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

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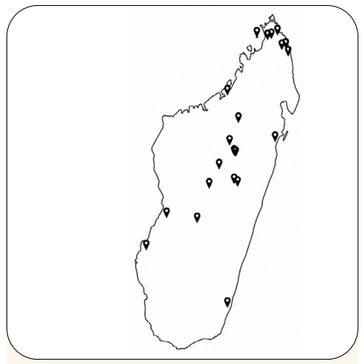
Dermatology in Madagascar is a growing specialty, addressing the needs of a population of more than 33 million people[1], faced with major challenges in accessing specialised care, particularly in rural and remote areas. Dermatological diseases in Madagascar are often associated with infectious, inflammatory, and chronic conditions.

Dermatology services in Madagascar are organised around key referral centers, including two major dermatology and research units in Antananarivo, as well as facilities in Antsiranana in the north and Toamasina in the east. These structures provide clinical care, train physicians and specialists, and contribute to research activities adapted to the local epidemiological context. Free mass consultations are held twice a week within these services, making it possible to treat a large number of patients. They also manage complex cases and patients referred from remote regions. In addition, outreach missions are regularly organised to reach isolated and often vulnerable populations.

Moreover, particular attention is given to protecting people with albinism, who remain highly exposed to stigma and violence. Dedicated programs aim to improve their access to dermatological care. Awareness-raising activities are also carried out to combat discrimination and strengthen their safety, in collaboration with local authorities and civil society organisations.



Dermatological conditions encountered during our consultations



Localities visited as part of our dermatology activities, reflecting our commitment to reaching populations, including those in the most remote areas

April 2025

A mass consultation mission was organised in the DIANA region by the team from Place Kabary Hospital Antsiranana, led by Professor Ranaivo Irina Mamisoa and supported by residents in dermatology and infectious diseases. A total of 152 patients were examined.



May 2025

World Lupus Day was celebrated in Antananarivo, with awareness-raising, informational, and care activities for patients living with lupus.



July 2025

The International Congress of the Malagasy Society of Dermatology was held in Antananarivo, bringing together national and international experts to share scientific advances and strengthen collaborations.



A consultation mission was carried out in Ranomafana and Ampasimanjeva, in collaboration with the dermatology team of Madagascar, a dermatologist from La Réunion notably Professor Bertolotti Antoine, as well as the CICM team.



October 2025

Representatives from Madagascar participated in the congress of the International Society of Atopic Dermatitis in Melbourne, thereby strengthening the international visibility of Malagasy dermatology and facilitating scientific exchanges.



Throughout the year, a weekly joint meeting is organised every Monday with dermatologists from the Indian Ocean. These meetings provide an opportunity to present and discuss complex clinical cases, contributing to the continuous improvement of medical practices and regional strengthening. Malagasy dermatology is undergoing significant development, driven by strong local initiatives and growing international partnerships.

These activities highlight the commitment of Malagasy teams to improving access to dermatological care, strengthening medical training, and advancing research. Collaborations with regional and international partners play an essential role in this momentum.

Reference

1. Worldometer [Internet]. [25 May 2026]. Madagascar Population (2026). Available: https://bit.ly/4bCTJVl

Middle East International Dermatology & Aesthetic Medicine Association (MEIDAM)

From Grand Rounds to Global Reach: MEIDAM's Educational Ecosystem

https://www.meidamassociation.com

Theme: Training and education

The Middle East International Dermatology & Aesthetic Medicine Association (MEIDAM) stands as a beacon of scientific excellence, professional growth, and innovation. Beyond its flagship congresses, MEIDAM's outreach to the dermatology community reflects its vision to build a comprehensive framework in training and education — empowering dermatologists, residents, and allied professionals across the region while connecting them to a global platform. From monthly grand rounds to hands on workshops, digital learning initiatives, and the launch of its official journal, MEIDAM continues to shape the future of dermatology education.

Launch of the MEIDAM Association Journal (MAJ)

A landmark achievement in MEIDAM's educational journey is the **launch of the MEIDAM Association Journal, with Volume 1**, Issue 1 published in January 2026.

MAJ is a **Platform for Regional Research** providing a dedicated space for dermatologists in the Middle East, Africa, and beyond to publish original research, reviews, and case reports. The journal amplifies regional voices while contributing to global dermatology discourse. Residents and early career professionals will benefit from exposure to peer reviewed content, fostering academic growth and encouraging research participation.



The first MEIDAM Association Journal, published in January 2026

The journal represents MEIDAM's commitment to advancing scientific excellence and ensuring that regional innovation is recognised globally.

The **Volume 1, Issue 1 published in January 2026** included the following:

1. An editorial
2. A Review article co-authored by our very own ILDS President Prof. Henry Lim: Updates and Emerging Concepts in Photoprotection (available: https://bit.ly/4c96xDm)
3. 2 Original Articles
4. 4 Case Reports &
5. A letter to the Editor

We invite colleagues to visit the website and submit and subscribe to the MAJ Journal content to receive more updates. The MAJ Volume 1 issue is accessible here: https://bit.ly/4hpfOe3

Monthly Grand Rounds

At the heart of MEIDAM's educational mission are its **monthly grand rounds** organised in collaboration with national dermatological societies, delivered through an interactive webinar program, which is now in its 40th session.

Case Discussions of real patient cases guided through **expert moderation** by senior dermatologists ensuring evidence based conclusions and inspiring younger clinicians to adopt best practices.

CME Points: Beginning in 2026, MEIDAM introduced Continuing Medical Education accreditation, rewarding participation and aligning the rounds with international standards.

20 national dermatology societies including the following societies will present in the 2026 calendar; Kuwait, Cameroon, Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa, North Africa, Oman, Libya, Ethiopia, Bahrain, Syria, Jordan, Russia, Morocco, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Tunisia, Nepal, Senegal, and the United Arab Emirates.



MEIDAM monthly grand rounds calendar 2026

This breadth of participation underscores MEIDAM's role as a unifying platform for dermatology education, where rare and region specific case anecdotes are shared and transformed into collective learning experiences.

Suture Workshop at MEIDAM Congress 2025

Practical skill development remains central to MEIDAM's educational vision. As a first time initiative to empower young dermatologists, the 2025 Congress introduced a three hour suture workshop with a capacity for 36 trainees, residents were inducted at no cost, underscoring MEIDAM's commitment to accessible training. Guided by **two program directors and six faculty members**, participants practiced wound suturing techniques under close supervision.



Delegates during the suture workshop at MEIDAM Congress 2025

Objectives:

- Residents gained hands on experience refining suturing skills under supervision.
- The workshop bridged theory with practice, building confidence for surgical and aesthetic procedures.
- Tailored for early career professionals, it emphasised both core and advanced methods.

Broader Impact of MEIDAM's Educational Initiatives

Together, these initiatives are created through a cohesive ecosystem of training and education under MEIDAM Academy:

- **Regional Empowerment**: Supporting residents and early career dermatologists strengthens the foundation of dermatology in the Middle East and Africa.
- **Global Collaboration**: Webinars, podcasts, and the journal connect regional expertise with international leaders.
- **Future Vision**: CME grand rounds, workshops, and digital platforms ensure sustainable, continuous education.

MEIDAM Academy Webinars and Podcasts

MEIDAM has embraced digital transformation by launching a pipeline of **academy webinars and podcasts**.

- Webinars: Covering topics from clinical dermatology to aesthetic innovations, these sessions link regional experts with international participants worldwide..
- Podcasts: Designed for busy professionals, MEIDAM's podcasts offer accessible learning through doctors' personal journeys, career growth, real patient experiences, and reflections from clinical practice.
- Future Expansion: With plans to diversify formats and topics, MEIDAM's academy is poised to become a year round educational resource.

This digital expansion ensures inclusivity and accessibility, democratizing dermatology education across borders.

Conclusion

The initiatives crafted under MEIDAM not only enhance professional competence but also foster a culture of lifelong learning.

By combining traditional case based teaching with modern digital platforms and scholarly publishing, MEIDAM is ensuring that dermatology professionals remain equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow.



ILDS IFD 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 centre for dermatology training and clinical care in sub-Saharan Africa. Through its partnership with the ILDS, the RDTC has trained more than 290 dermatology professionals from 17 African countries.

Its annual CME Conference and Past Graduate Reunion, alongside the Regional Youth Dermatology Summit, provide opportunities for learning, collaboration and professional development, helping to build the next generation of dermatology leaders across Africa.

Through its partnership with the ILDS, the RDTC continues to build local expertise, strengthen networks and improve skin health across the region.



Pacific Dermatology Training Centre (PDTC) | Suva, Fiji

In 2024, the ILDS committed US$1 million to strengthen dermatology training and access to care across the Pacific. The funding supports the Pacific Dermatology Training Centre (PDTC) in Suva, Fiji, expanding its Diploma and Master's programmes and building a sustainable regional dermatology workforce.

In 2026, PDTC hosted the 1st Pacific Islands Dermatology Conference, bringing together dermatology professionals for CME, knowledge sharing and regional collaboration under the theme Advancing Skin Health for Pacific Communities.

Together, these initiatives are building local expertise and improving skin health across the Pacific.

Mongolian Dermato-Venereological Society

AI-Assisted Debate-Based Learning for Rare Dermatologic Diseases: A National Educational Initiative to Strengthen Clinical Reasoning in Mongolia

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Theme: Training and education

The diagnosis and management of rare dermatologic diseases remain among the most challenging aspects of clinical dermatology. Although these disorders are uncommon, their diverse clinical manifestations and infrequent occurrence in routine practice increase the risk of diagnostic errors, delayed treatment, and inappropriate management. Traditional continuing medical education programs primarily rely on didactic lectures and case presentations, which may not fully develop advanced clinical reasoning, diagnostic accuracy, and evidence-based decision-making skills.

To address this gap, the Dermato-Venereological Society of Mongolia, in collaboration with AllergyMed Hospital, organised Mongolia's first national AI-assisted debate-based educational program for dermatologists and dermatology residents. The initiative aimed to enhance clinical reasoning through structured diagnostic debates using AI-generated rare dermatologic case simulations.

Objective

To improve clinical reasoning, differential diagnostic skills, evidence-based decision-making, therapeutic planning, and professional communication among dermatologists and dermatology residents through an AI-assisted, case-centered debate format focused on rare and challenging dermatologic diseases.

Methods

The educational event, entitled "*Diagnosis and Management of Rare and Challenging Dermatologic Diseases*," was held on March 28, 2026, at AllergyMed Hospital in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

A total of 48 participants from across Mongolia attended the program, including 26 board-certified dermatologists and 22 dermatology residents. Participants were organised into eight competitive teams. To encourage academic excellence, professional engagement, and active participation, the event incorporated a competitive format supported by educational awards and professional development incentives.

Thirty rare and diagnostically challenging dermatologic conditions were selected and transformed into standardised AI-generated clinical simulation scenarios.

The cases represented a broad spectrum of uncommon dermatologic disorders, including Bullous Pemphigoid, Urticaria Pigmentosa, Pyoderma Gangrenosum, Acrodermatitis Continua of Hallopeau, Sweet Syndrome, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (Lyell Syndrome), Incontinentia Pigmenti, Mammary and Extramammary Paget Disease, among others.



Participating teams engaging in the debate during the educational event in Mongolia

Using an AI-assisted simulation platform, clinical scenarios were presented in a stepwise manner, including patient history, symptoms, physical examination findings, dermatologic manifestations, and relevant clinical clues. Teams were required to obtain key clinical information, formulate differential diagnoses, identify appropriate investigations, justify diagnostic reasoning, evaluate treatment options, and develop evidence-based management plans.

Participants actively challenged opposing viewpoints, defended diagnostic hypotheses, and engaged in structured clinical debates. Performance was evaluated by a panel of four senior dermatologists, including medical doctors, clinical professors, and nationally recognised consultants. Assessment was based on a standardised scoring system evaluating history-taking strategy, clinical reasoning, differential diagnosis, evidence-based justification, diagnostic investigations, treatment planning, presentation skills, communication abilities, and diagnostic confidence.



The panel of judges during the debates

Results

The debate-based educational model generated a high level of engagement, participation, and academic discussion among both practicing dermatologists and dermatology residents.

A major outcome of the program was the opportunity to reduce diagnostic discrepancies in rare dermatologic diseases and strengthen participants' ability to integrate dermatologic findings with systemic clinical conditions when developing diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. The AI-generated environment encouraged participants to explore multiple diagnostic hypotheses, reconsider assumptions, and continuously refine their clinical reasoning as new information became available.

This process closely reflected real-world clinical practice and promoted analytical thinking, evidence-based decision-making, and systematic diagnostic approaches. Participants demonstrated active engagement in defending diagnostic conclusions, interpreting clinical findings, and applying current scientific evidence and clinical guidelines to support treatment decisions.

The competition was highly competitive, with only small differences observed between the leading teams. The first-place team achieved a combined score of 17.0 points, followed by the second-place team with 16.5 points and the third-place team with 14.0 points. Outstanding teams were rewarded with educational grants and opportunities to participate in international scientific meetings and academic presentations.

Financial support for these educational awards was provided through contributions from Professor Jean L. Bolognia and the Dermato-Venereological Society of Mongolia, reinforcing the initiative's commitment to professional development and international collaboration.

Post-event evaluations demonstrated high participant satisfaction. Attendees reported increased confidence in diagnosing rare dermatologic diseases, improved differential diagnostic skills, enhanced evidence-based decision-making, and greater readiness to manage complex clinical presentations.

Educational Innovation and Significance

The most innovative aspect of this initiative was the integration of AI-generated clinical simulations into a structured debate-based educational framework. Rather than focusing solely on identifying the correct diagnosis, participants were challenged to demonstrate the reasoning process underlying diagnostic and therapeutic decisions.

The debate format encouraged active learning, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving while closely mirroring the realities of clinical practice, where physicians must frequently make decisions in the context of uncertainty and incomplete information.

The involvement of experienced professors, consultants, and senior dermatologists provided immediate expert feedback and facilitated meaningful interactions between trainees and experienced clinicians. This mentorship component enhanced knowledge exchange and strengthened professional collaboration within Mongolia's dermatology community.

Furthermore, the use of AI-generated rare disease simulations provided exposure to clinical conditions that many participants may encounter only rarely throughout their careers. Such exposure is difficult to achieve through routine practice alone and may contribute to improved diagnostic accuracy, reduced diagnostic delays, and better patient outcomes.



CAPTION NEEDED

Conclusion

This national AI-assisted debate-based educational initiative demonstrated that combining rare dermatologic disease simulations, structured academic debate, expert mentorship, and evidence-based discussion can effectively strengthen clinical reasoning and diagnostic competency among dermatologists and dermatology residents.

The program represents a novel and scalable model for continuing medical education in dermatology and may serve as a valuable approach for improving preparedness for rare diseases, particularly in settings where opportunities for direct clinical exposure are limited.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, dermatology education, rare skin diseases, clinical reasoning, debate-based learning, differential diagnosis, continuing medical education, dermatology residents, medical simulation, Mongolia.

ILDS

From Resolution to Action: WHA Resolution Implementation Task Force (WHARI)

In May 2025, the 78th World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA78.15, Skin Diseases as a Global Public Health Priority.

The WHA Resolution Implementation Task Force (WHARI) was established by the ILDS to support the coordinated implementation of the Resolution through global dermatology leadership, technical input and coordinated action.

Turning the Resolution into action

WHARI TF brings together dermatologists, patient representatives, civil society organisations, industry partners and WHO advisors to contribute expertise and support collaboration across the global skin health community.

The Task Force is working to support implementation of WHA78.15 through:

WHO Global Action Plan on Skin Diseases

contributing expert input to the development of the Global Action Plan and related WHO consultations.

National implementation

supporting national action planning, technical assistance and capacity building.

Policy and advocacy

helping translate the Resolution into relevant advocacy, policy and technical outputs.

Capacity strengthening

supporting initiatives that strengthen knowledge and skills, including discussion and development around training resources for skin health.

Data and evidence

contributing to discussions on skin disease data, surveillance and reporting to strengthen the evidence needed for implementation.

Global collaboration

connecting with WHO, Member States, regional bodies and other partners to support coordinated implementation.

Stay connected with WHARI

Sign up for the WHARI Newsletter

Moroccan Society of Dermatology

Pediatric atopic eczema: the impact of an educational intervention

Theme: Training and education

http://smdermato.org/PSO/

Atopic dermatitis is a common chronic inflammatory skin condition with a recurrent course[1]. It mainly affects children, with onset often occurring during the first months of life[1]. This study aims to assess how structured therapeutic education influences the clinical management, disease control, and quality of life in children with atopic dermatitis.

Methods:

This was a prospective, comparative, controlled, randomised interventional study, between 2015 and 2025. The first group participated in four educational sessions at the Atopy School, each lasting half a day and conducted at one-month intervals. The second group received standard dermatological follow-up without attending the Atopy School.

All participants were initially evaluated using the SCORAD (Scoring Atopic Dermatitis) index at baseline to assess disease severity. Follow-up SCORAD assessments were planned to evaluate changes in disease severity and control. Secondary outcomes included pruritus control, adherence to skin care routines, and the frequency of flare-ups.

The first group participated in four therapeutic education sessions, each lasting approximately three hours and spaced one month apart. The sessions were designed to be age-appropriate and the groups were stratified as follows: infants, children, and adolescents. Educational tools included interactive games, educational videos, psychological assessments, individual counseling sessions, and multilingual brochures. At the end of the last session, a comprehensive knowledge assessment was conducted for all participants.

Results:

A total of 649 children were included in the study, with 400 participants assigned to the control group and 249 to the intervention group. The demographic characteristics of participants were as follows: in the intervention group, there were 134 boys and 115 girls, with a mean age of 5 years (2 months-10 years). In the control group, the mean age was 27 months (1 months -14 years), including 188 boys and 212 girls.

We also adapted the questionnaire to our context: 89% of the children attended the Moroccan bath (Hammam) at an average frequency of twice per month for the purpose of skin exfoliation. We succeeded in reducing this social practice for some patients and eliminating it for others, depending on social circumstances such as the lack of available showers. After four sessions at the school for atopy, 75% of the therapeutic objectives were achieved in the first group, while 40% were achieved in the second group.



Therapeutic education study - November 2015

The evaluation of the different therapeutic objectives showed a progressive improvement across all assessed domains throughout the workshops. Disease-related knowledge and the ability to explain it to others improved significantly (*Figure 1*). Participants also demonstrated a marked increase in their ability to adapt skin care according to disease severity without the assistance of a healthcare professional (*Figure 2*), as well as an improved capacity to manage pain (*Figure 3*). Knowledge of the different treatments used in atopic dermatitis also increased over the course of the workshops (*Figure 4*). In parallel, a substantial reduction in harmful practices was observed, with the average monthly frequency of traditional exfoliation decreasing from 2.7 during the first workshop to 0.2 by the final session.

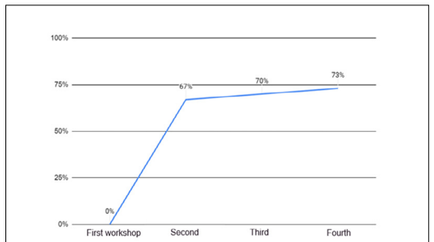


Figure 1 - Evolution of disease knowledge and the ability to explain it to others through the workshops

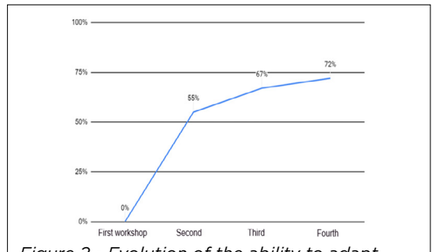


Figure 2 - Evolution of the ability to adapt care to the skin condition without the help of a healthcare professional through the workshops

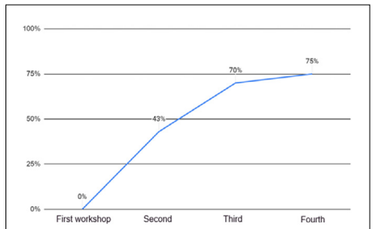


Figure 3 - Evolution of the ability to manage pain through the workshops

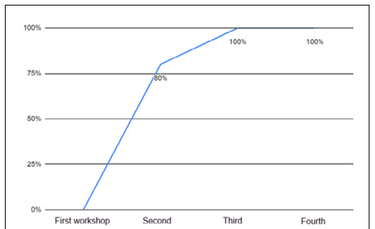


Figure 4 - Evolution of knowledge of the different treatments applied through the workshops

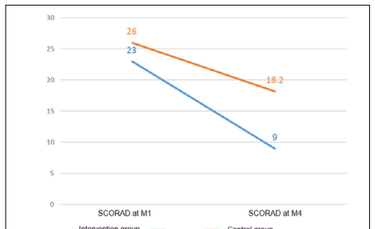


Figure 5 - Evolution of SCORAD in intervention and control groups

Moroccan population suffers from a marked corticoid preference: topical corticosteroids are overused due to their low cost, rapid effectiveness, and accessibility. At the Atopy School, we educated families on the correct use of topical corticosteroids, emphasising the risks associated with misuse, while promoting the regular use of emollients, which are essential but have a more gradual effect. As a result, frequence of corticoid overuse decreased from 100% to 13% by the last workshop.

For the intervention group, the initial average SCORAD was 23, then decreased to 9. The average SCORAD of the children in the control group was 26 at the first consultation, and then dropped to 18.2 after four dermatology consultations (*Figure 5*). An improvement in SCORAD was observed in 95% of cases, but therapeutic goals were achieved in only 40% of cases. Furthermore, a significant reduction in the number of topical corticosteroid tubes used was observed in the intervention group.

Discussion and conclusion

Our study demonstrates the beneficial effects of the atopy school on the severity of atopic dermatitis after four months. This marked improvement in disease severity in the studied population can be attributed to better adherence and the quality of care during the educational management. Our results are consistent with those reported in several studies which demonstrated a beneficial effect of education on disease severity[1].

References:

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Nigerian Association of Dermatologists

Advancing Skin Health in Nigeria Through Education, Advocacy and Community Engagement

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

https://nigassderm.org

The Nigerian Association of Dermatologists (NAD), established in 2004, is the premier professional body of dermatologists in Nigeria. With approximately 250 dermatologists and residents, the Association advances the practice of dermatology and venereology through education, continuing professional development, research, advocacy and public engagement. NAD collaborates with government agencies, healthcare institutions and local and international partners to improve skin health, strengthen dermatology services and raise public awareness of skin diseases.

A significant milestone was the adoption of the World Health Assembly resolution recognising skin diseases as a global public health priority. Represented by Dr Sebastine Oiwoh, NAD contributed to advocacy efforts led by the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and helped secure support from Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. This resolution provides a vital foundation for strengthening skin health services, funding and policy in Nigeria and globally, and NAD continues to support the development of the Global Action Plan on skin diseases.

NAD also remains actively engaged in addressing skin-related neglected tropical diseases (Skin NTDs). Members participated in the Second WHO Global Meeting on Skin NTDs in Geneva, contributing Nigerian perspectives and supporting discussions on integrated approaches to prevention, diagnosis and management — reinforcing NAD's commitment to Skin NTD control through research, advocacy, training and service delivery.

Expanding Community Outreach and Supporting Vulnerable Populations

A major highlight was NAD's participation in World Skin Health Day 2025. A multi-partner outreach in Kano brought dermatologic services to internally displaced and underserved communities, where 15 dermatologists and 20 healthcare workers provided free consultations and treatment to 1,264 patients across three IDP camps. Over 1,200 community members received skin health education through awareness activities amplified by radio and television. Additional programmes were held in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Abuja, Ile-Ife and Enugu, encompassing awareness walks, public education and free consultations — collectively reaching more than 10,000 individuals and providing care for approximately 1,000 patients. In Lagos, NAD trained 150 frontline healthcare workers — including general practitioners, pharmacists and nurses — on managing common skin conditions, and convened a patient summit enabling dermatology patients to share their needs directly with providers.



For World Skin Health Day 2025, our dermatologists brought free education, skin screening and consultation to the community



Patients were registered for the outreach and then provided a free individual consultation

At the community level, NAD has leveraged the ILDS DermLink grant programme to support projects raising awareness of conditions including scabies, Skin NTDs, albinism and psoriasis through sensitisation and health worker training. These programmes have strengthened prevention and treatment efforts while promoting earlier healthcare-seeking in affected communities.

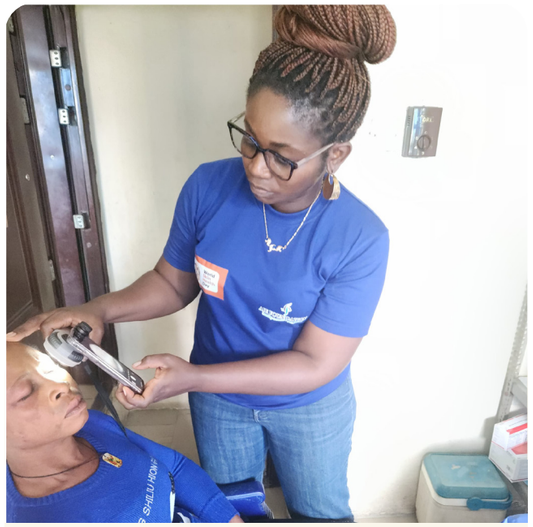
NAD has also deepened its commitment to persons with albinism — a highly marginalised group facing stigma, visual impairment and elevated skin cancer risk. In partnership with the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT), the "Shade the Sun" campaign delivered healthcare worker training, community awareness and skin cancer screening in Lagos, Kano and Abuja. Complementing this is the ALBI-IMPACT project, funded through a La Roche-Posay International Research Grant, which investigates quality-of-life challenges while providing educational interventions for persons with albinism, their families, teachers and healthcare workers across Nigeria. Together, these initiatives have strengthened awareness, promoted early detection and advanced a more comprehensive model of care.

Strengthening Prevention, Research and Evidence-Based Dermatology

Recognising the public health risks of harmful skin-lightening practices, NAD has collaborated with Eucerin and other stakeholders on anti-skin bleaching campaigns, educating the public on the dangers of unsafe products and promoting healthy skin practices and positive perceptions of natural skin tones.

To strengthen evidence-based care, NAD has supported the development of national disease registries for atopic dermatitis and psoriasis. These initiatives aim to generate robust epidemiological and clinical data, facilitate research collaborations and inform evidence-driven policy and practice.

Together, these efforts reflect NAD's vision of a future in which quality dermatologic care is more accessible, skin diseases receive greater policy attention and vulnerable populations are better supported.



An NAD member dermatologist screens a patient for skin cancer using dermoscopy

Through advocacy, research, community engagement, workforce development and data-driven innovation, the Nigerian Association of Dermatologists — under the leadership of Professor Dasetima Altraide and a dedicated executive team — remains steadfast in advancing skin health and contributing to global efforts to improve dermatologic care for all.

Pakistan Association of Dermatologists

Dermatology Without Barriers: Supporting Patients, Advancing Science, Expanding Global Reach

Theme: The future of dermatology: threats and opportunities

https://www.pad.net.pk

The Pakistan Association of Dermatologists (PAD) shapes the landscape of dermatologic care in Pakistan by advancing education, research, and innovation. In the context of the future of dermatology - marked by both emerging threats such as rising disease burden, antimicrobial resistance, and digital disruption, as well as opportunities in AI, precision medicine, and global collaboration - PAD is strengthening clinical capacity and academic excellence through national and international engagement.

PAD Annual meeting

PAD Annual Conference (visit: https://45thpadcon.com/) remains a key platform for addressing future challenges in dermatology while exploring new opportunities in research and clinical practice. It brings together dermatologists, researchers and international faculty for scientific exchange and collaboration. The programme includes keynote lectures, panel discussions, free papers, posters, and hands-on workshops in clinical dermatology, dermoscopy, dermatopathology, aesthetics and pediatric dermatology.

The upcoming 45th Annual Conference will be held in Faisalabad this year followed by the 46th meeting in collaboration with the South Asian Regional Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (SARAD) in 2027, reinforcing regional academic unity and shared responses to evolving dermatologic challenges across South Asia.

Patient Support Programmes

PAD's patient-centered initiatives aim to reduce inequities in dermatologic care, particularly for chronic and complex diseases. The Pemphigus Support Programme addresses treatment barriers by providing treatment to underprivileged patients requiring biological therapies.

Psoriasis Registry strengthens national data collection, helping identify disease trends, treatment gaps, and emerging therapeutic needs. These programmes reflect both the threat of increasing chronic skin disease burden and the opportunity to build sustainable, evidence-based care systems.



Connecting the Dots Practical Dermatoscopy Bootcamp held in Karachi, Pakistan in 2026 bringing together dermatologists and dermatology residents from all over the country

Advancing Dermoscopy Together

Through collaboration with the Dermoscopy Onychoscopy Trichoscopy Society (DOTS Society- https://dotspk.org/), PAD is expanding diagnostic precision in dermatology. This initiative promotes early detection of skin cancers and improves non-invasive diagnostic skills through workshops, teledermatology, and academic exchange.

Hands-on training sessions held in Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta, along with international expert-led online lectures, highlight the opportunity of digital learning in overcoming geographic barriers.



Professor Mohammad Jafferany receiving the shield from Professor Dr Rabia Ghafoor during the Psychodermatology Seminar in Karachi, Pakistan in 2026

PAD Beyond Borders

Global collaboration is central to the future of dermatology, where shared knowledge helps address disparities in training, research, and patient care. PAD has strengthened international partnerships through meetings between its leadership and global dermatology organisations, including the American Academy of Dermatology and the International Society of Dermatology.

These engagements focus on advancing education, research collaboration, and training exchange, addressing the threat of widening global inequality in dermatologic expertise while opening pathways for shared innovation.

AI & Computer Vision in Dermatology

Artificial intelligence and computer vision represent one of the most significant opportunities in modern dermatology, offering enhanced diagnostic accuracy, teledermatology expansion, and predictive analytics. PAD organised a landmark seminar in Karachi featuring international experts who discussed AI-driven tools for dermoscopy, lesion analysis, and remote care delivery.

While AI offers transformative potential, it also introduces challenges such as ethical concerns, data bias, and clinical validation needs. PAD's initiatives aim to prepare clinicians for this rapidly evolving digital transition.

International Collaboration in Psychodermatology

Psychodermatology highlights the growing recognition of the mind–skin connection in dermatologic care. PAD's seminar featuring international experts emphasised multidisciplinary approaches to managing conditions influenced by psychological factors.

As mental health disorders increasingly intersect with chronic skin disease, the field presents both a challenge—due to underdiagnosis and stigma—and an opportunity for integrated care models that improve patient outcomes through holistic management strategies.

Academic Activities & CME Programmes

PAD continues to expand continuous medical education through clinics, workshops, and academic sessions addressing emerging dermatologic threats such as fungal resistance, tuberculosis of the skin, and evolving ethical challenges. CME programmes, hands-on training, weekly resident quizzes, and research mentorship initiatives are designed to strengthen clinical competence and academic growth.

These activities ensure dermatologists remain equipped to manage complex and evolving disease patterns while adapting to new scientific advancements.

Our Official Publications

The Journal of the Pakistan Association of Dermatologists (JPAD Pakistan - https://bit.ly/4wR3qbH), a Scopus-indexed peer-reviewed journal, reflects PAD's commitment to global academic integration. With DOI/Crossref integration, OJS modernisation, and international editorial collaboration, the journal is expanding its visibility and scientific rigor.

Efforts such as scientific writing workshops, reviewer recognition, and author support programmes are enhancing research quality. Future goals include Web of Science indexing and achieving an official impact factor, ensuring stronger global representation of regional dermatologic research.



Dr Irfan Tareen with Dr Murad Alam at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) in Denver, USA in March 2026

Teaching, Serving, Transforming Lives

We are committed to teaching and mentoring future dermatology leaders while serving patients with compassion. Our focus remains on improving care for those suffering from severe and disabling skin diseases, particularly underprivileged patients, and making treatment more accessible and improving their quality of life.

Resources

1. *PAD Overview and Additional Materials - https://bit.ly/3TLFVSK*



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Palestinian Society of Dermatology & Venereology

Dermatology in Palestine: Navigating Systemic Challenges, Clinical Gaps, and the Path to Standardisation

ijeer@yahoo.com

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

The Palestinian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (PSDV) operates as a specialised medical body under the umbrella of the Palestinian Medical Association. It functions as the principal organising entity for registered dermatologists within Palestine, steering clinical education, setting local practice standards, and maintaining professional continuity across both the West Bank and Gaza.

While practicing in a fragile, conflict-affected healthcare environment, the society works to address systemic infrastructure shortages, elevate national clinical guidelines, and foster a unified professional community for local specialists.

Clinical Context and Systemic Challenges

The PSDV operates within a fragmented healthcare ecosystem where dermatological care is frequently marginalised in favor of other emergency medical specialties[4]. In the public sector, the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) struggles to provide sufficient coverage; for instance, in 2022, approximately 34,757 specialised dermatological visits were documented under the primary healthcare framework across the nation[4].

This institutional strain is severely compounded by a workforce shortage. By mid-2024, the structural density of dermatologists in Palestine was documented at just 1.16 specialists per 100,000 individuals[4]. This figure includes registered physicians who are retired or currently practicing abroad, highlighting the critical lack of localised, readily available care[4].

Consequently, dermatological medicine in Palestine has largely shifted toward private practice monopolisation[4]. While this shift ensures access to advanced therapeutic modalities and aesthetic dermatology for some, it yields significant societal side effects:

High Financial Burden: Patients encounter rising out-of-pocket costs, often resulting in catastrophic health expenditures or entirely deferred medical attention[4].

Delayed Consultations: Substantial scheduling wait times in the private sphere - frequently extending beyond two months - risk the progression of severe clinical dermatoses before proper diagnosis[4].



Members of the Palestinian Society of Dermatology and Venereology, May 2026

Bridging the Gap: Guidelines and Prescribing Standards

One of the primary implicit missions of professional groups like the PSDV is establishing adherence to standardised clinical guidelines to combat fragmented, unregulated care. This is particularly vital regarding high-risk systemic therapies widely utilised in Palestine, such as oral isotretinoin for severe acne vulgaris. A 2024 cross-sectional analysis evaluating isotretinoin usage among university students in Palestine revealed significant variance in provider compliance with international safety protocols[1]:

Guideline Compliance: Approximately 60.2% of surveyed dermatologists strictly adhered to the AAD guidelines (Abukhalil et al., 2024). Laboratory Monitoring: Only 48.7% ordered mandatory pre-treatment laboratory panels (such as baseline lipid profiles and liver function tests) prior to initiating therapy[1].

Teratogenicity Safety: Out of the sexually active female cohort in the study, a staggering 93.2% reported not being requested to take a recent pregnancy test before receiving their prescription - highlighting a critical gap in teratogenicity counseling and risk-management enforcement[1].

Furthermore, community pharmacies across the West Bank frequently serve as the initial point of contact for routine dermatological concerns like acne[3]. However, studies indicate that a mere 7.7% of surveyed community pharmacists exhibit a high level of therapeutic competence regarding independent acne management, though the majority demonstrate a positive attitude toward appropriate clinical referrals[3]. These gaps underscore the essential role of the PSDV in expanding continuous medical education (CME) and formalising multi-disciplinary safety protocols across the territory.

The Academic and Research Landscape

Historically, the national output of peer-reviewed dermatological research emerging from Palestine has faced extreme structural limitations due to heavy clinical workloads, fragmented private patient documentation, and a lack of dedicated research infrastructure[4].

Bibliometric analyses showed that up until 2021, Palestine had published an aggregate of only 27 scientific papers in the field of dermatology, placing it behind several regional peers in research contributions[4]. Specific public health challenges, such as the alarming spread of contagious ectoparasitic infestations like scabies (Sarcoptes scabiei) within dense, high-risk populations, remain highly critical areas requiring rigorous localised epidemiological documentation and institutional advocacy[2].

By hosting regular scientific days, national conferences, and regional symposia, the PSDV acts as a vital bridge - encouraging younger-generation specialists to transition from purely clinical roles into active contributors to regional dermatological data and clinical trials.

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Panamanian Association of Dermatology

From prevention to policy: Integrating skin cancer control and environmental health in Panama

Theme: Advocacy and regulatory issues in dermatology

https://apderma.org.pa/

Introduction: A Growing Public Health Priority

Skin cancer represents a growing public health concern worldwide, particularly in countries with high ultraviolet (UV) exposure such as Panama. While largely preventable, its increasing incidence highlights persistent gaps in early detection, prevention, and equitable access to dermatologic care. Addressing these challenges requires an integrated approach that combines clinical expertise, public health strategy, environmental awareness, and regulatory action.

Community Action: Early Detection and Public Engagement

In February 2026, in the context of World Cancer Day, a large-scale community outreach initiative was conducted through a joint effort involving ANCEC, Fundacancer, and the National Oncology Institute (ION). Held at Urraca Park, this initiative demonstrated the impact of coordinated, patient-centered interventions.



Volunteer dermatologists and dermatology residents from APDERMA during a free community skin cancer screening initiative at Urraca Park

During this campaign, more than 200 individuals received free dermatologic evaluations, including screening of moles and suspicious skin lesions. These evaluations enabled early identification of warning signs and timely referral for further care. Public awareness was significantly increased, encouraging individuals to monitor skin changes and seek specialist consultation when needed.

In addition to dermatologic services, the initiative expanded its impact through integrated cancer prevention strategies. A total of 26 free mammograms were provided with support from the Office of the First Lady, reinforcing the importance of comprehensive, multidisciplinary approaches to cancer prevention.

Environmental and Global Health: Addressing Emerging Risks



Participant of the global closing workshop of the Elimination of Mercury in Skin-Lightening Products in Panama

While ultraviolet radiation remains the primary driver of skin damage and cancer, broader dermatologic health strategies must also address harmful environmental and chemical exposures.

In this context, Panama demonstrated regional leadership by hosting, also in February 2026, a regional and global technical workshop organised by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) focused on the elimination of mercury in skin-lightening products.

These products are widely used globally and may contain hazardous substances such as mercury, which is associated with significant health risks including renal, neurological, and dermatologic damage, as well as environmental contamination.

Addressing these risks is essential to protecting skin health and ensuring patient safety.

This initiative emphasised the importance of strengthening regulatory frameworks, promoting safe cosmetic practices, and fostering multisectoral collaboration under international agreements such as the Minamata Convention.

Policy and Leadership: Strengthening National Strategy

Building on these community and global health efforts, Panama achieved a major milestone in April 2026 with the issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 254, which formally established the National Integrated Commission for Skin Cancer.



Minister of Health presenting the resolution for the National Integrated Skin Cancer Plan, designating Dr. Shariel Saldaña as National Coordinator

This Commission is responsible for coordinating national strategies across prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care, in alignment with the National Strategic Plan for Cancer Prevention and Control (2019–2029).

The Commission integrates key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Social Security Fund, Hospital Santo Tomás, the Panamanian Association of Dermatology, and the National Cancer Society, ensuring a coordinated and multidisciplinary response.

As part of this initiative, Dr. Shariel Saldaña was appointed National Coordinator for Skin Cancer, strengthening leadership and facilitating the implementation of nationwide dermatologic health strategies.

Advocacy for Prevention and Patient Safety

A central pillar of this national strategy is the promotion of photoprotection as a public health priority. Despite strong evidence linking UV exposure to skin cancer, preventive behaviors remain inconsistent.

Current efforts focus on advancing policies that integrate sun protection into school-based education, occupational health regulations, and national awareness campaigns. These actions aim to shift dermatology toward a prevention-centered model that extends beyond clinical care.

At the same time, regulatory initiatives addressing harmful exposures - such as mercury-containing cosmetic products - reinforce a broader commitment to patient safety and dermatologic health.

Challenges and Future Directions

Despite these advances, important challenges remain. Access to dermatologic care continues to be uneven, particularly in rural and underserved populations.

Key priorities moving forward include strengthening referral systems, expanding teledermatology services, and enhancing primary care training for early detection of skin cancer. Addressing these gaps is essential to achieving equitable access to care.

Conclusion: A Model for Integrated Dermatologic Health

Panama's experience demonstrates a clear progression from community-based action to global engagement and national policy development.

By integrating prevention, environmental health, advocacy, and clinical leadership, the country is advancing toward a comprehensive and sustainable model of dermatologic care. This approach not only reduces the burden of skin cancer but also strengthens dermatology's role within national and global health systems.

As dermatology continues to evolve, Panama offers a replicable framework for countries seeking to improve access, prioritise prevention, and address emerging challenges in skin health.

Author | *Dra. Shariel Saldaña, Dermatologist, President of the Panamanian Association of Dermatology*

Paraguayan Society of Dermatology

Bridging the Gap: Transforming Access to Dermatologic Care and Education in Paraguay

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

https://soparder.org.py/

The Paraguayan Society of Dermatology (SOPARDER) continues to work toward equitable access to dermatologic care for Paraguay's seven million inhabitants. With only 150 active dermatologists nationwide - a specialist density of 2.14 per 100,000, below the recommended ratio of four - patients with chronic immune-mediated skin diseases such as psoriasis and atopic dermatitis face significant barriers to specialised care.

Biologic and JAK-targeted therapies have transformed the management of moderate-to-severe psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, offering long-term disease control and improved quality of life. In Paraguay, however, access remains markedly limited and uneven. For psoriasis, the public system provides only biosimilars of infliximab and adalimumab, while the private sector offers etanercept and adalimumab. For atopic dermatitis, the public system relies exclusively on conventional therapies - no JAK inhibitors or biologics are available - while upadacitinib can only be accessed privately. There is no formal reimbursement mechanism, and access to newer-generation biologics is generally only possible through individual legal injunctions ("recursos de amparo") - a route that is costly, time-consuming, and far from a sustainable pathway to care.

In response, SOPARDER recently established its first dedicated Working Groups on Psoriasis and Atopic Dermatitis, bringing together specialists in an effort not previously formalised. These groups are now developing the country's first National Consensus documents on each condition, establishing standardised criteria for severity assessment and clear indications for systemic and biologic therapy. Beyond their clinical value, these consensus documents aim to support dialogue with health authorities and insurers to improve inclusion of biologic therapies in essential medicines lists and reimbursement schemes.



Members of the SOPARDER Psoriasis Working Group

Reaching communities beyond the capital - where specialist density is even lower - is central to closing this gap. In February 2025, the World Health Organization declared cutaneous diseases a global public health priority, citing their underdiagnosis and undertreatment in developing countries[2]. These conditions affect quality of life across all ages, including neglected tropical diseases endemic to Paraguay such as leprosy and leishmaniasis[3,4].



Part of the SOPARDER and MSPBS team at the 7th edition of Pire Porã in Concepción

Pire Porã Rekávo, now in its eighth edition, is a joint initiative of SOPARDER and Paraguay's Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPBS), coordinated by Dr. Olga Aldama and Dr. Romina Contreras, combining training for primary care teams with free specialised consultations. On 10–11 July 2026, the campaign will be held in Villarrica, Guairá, where 600–1,000 patients are expected, with emphasis on neglected tropical diseases, skin cancer, and photoprotection. In recognition, Pire Porã Rekávo was selected by the ILDS and ISD as one of only 15 projects worldwide marking World Skin Health Day 2026, themed "Better Knowledge, Better Skin Health."

Training and Education

Another noteworthy initiative is Gaceta Dermatológica, led by Dr. Verónica Rotela — an annual peer-reviewed journal compiling articles by Paraguayan dermatologists, with an editorial committee and training cycles. In a context where social media disseminates medical information of variable quality, peer-reviewed publications represent both an essential tool and a professional obligation[1]. Key goals include increasing publication frequency and achieving indexing in virtual libraries to project Paraguayan research globally. The journal may also serve as a platform for disseminating the clinical guidelines developed by the Society's working groups.

These activities and the international recognition obtained through the initiative of SOPARDER members serve as a driving force to continue fulfilling the Society's founding objectives: ensuring high-quality continuing medical education and guaranteeing access to dermatological healthcare for the Paraguayan population. Through national clinical guidelines, advocacy for equitable biologic access, and outreach campaigns such as Pire Porã, SOPARDER remains committed to reducing these inequities, and looks forward to continued collaboration with the ILDS and the global dermatology community.



SOPARDER members at CILAD Mexico 2025, celebrating the selection of Asunción as host city for the TERACILAD 2029 Congress

Authors | *MD Romina Contreras, MD Verónica Rotela*

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PADSFI OPERATION T.E.A.M. (Teach, Educate and Aid through Medical Mission)

https://www.padsfi.org

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

Bringing Dermatologic Surgery and Skin Health to Underserved and Indigenous Communities in the Philippines

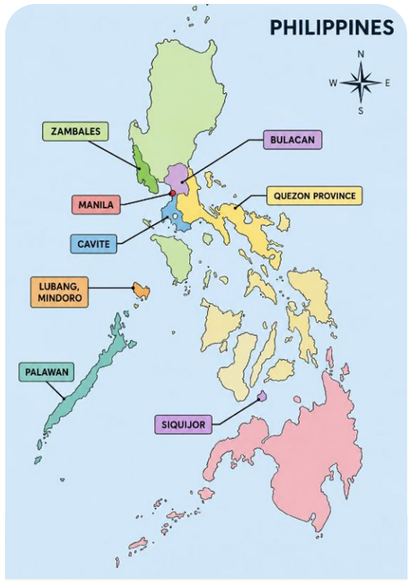
The Philippines is an archipelago of more than 7,600 islands with a population exceeding 117 million people. Despite advances in healthcare, access to specialised dermatologic services remains limited in many geographically isolated and underserved communities, particularly in remote islands and indigenous areas where dermatologists and dermatologic surgeons are rarely available.

The Philippine Academy of Dermatologic Surgery Foundation Inc. (PADSFI) is a unique and highly specialised organisation composed of approximately 150 members, including dermatologists, dermatologic surgeons, cosmetic surgeons, psychiatrists, and other medical specialists united by a commitment to dermatologic surgery, education, and humanitarian service. For more than two decades, PADSFI has extended its expertise beyond urban clinics and hospitals by conducting outreach missions throughout the country.

Guided by the Filipino spirit of Bayanihan, symbolising communal unity and cooperation, PADSFI established OPERATION T.E.A.M. This initiative delivers dermatologic surgery, medical education, humanitarian assistance, and environmental advocacy directly to marginalised and underserved communities across the Philippines.

Through collaboration with the Philippine Rotary Club, local government agencies, and provincial healthcare coordinators, PADSFI has been able to organise and sustain medical-surgical outreach missions in underserved provinces. Prior to each mission, provincial healthcare coordinators and local health workers conduct pre-screening and patient identification to ensure that individuals with significant dermatologic conditions, suspicious skin tumors, chronic skin diseases, and surgical needs are properly evaluated and referred during the mission. This coordinated system improves efficiency, strengthens continuity of care, and allows volunteer specialists to maximise the impact of each outreach activity.

One of the organisation's most meaningful missions involved the remote island municipality of Lubang, Mindoro. Reaching the island reflected the dedication of the volunteer physicians and healthcare workers. The team traveled for nearly two hours by land before boarding a boat for several more hours across rough waters to arrive at Lubang Island. Despite the difficult travel conditions, PADSFI remained committed to bringing specialised dermatologic care to communities with limited or no access to dermatologists.



Map of the Philippines identifying areas where Medical Missions were conducted

During these outreach missions, PADSFI provides free dermatologic consultations, skin cancer screening, treatment of common and complex skin diseases, and minor dermatologic surgical procedures. Volunteer specialists examine and excise benign and malignant skin tumors, including epidermal cysts, lipomas, sebaceous cysts, keloids, dermatofibromas, neurofibromas, and suspicious skin lesions requiring biopsy and histopathologic evaluation. Medications, wound care supplies, and postoperative instructions are also provided free of charge.

Building Sustainable Local Healthcare Capacity

Beyond direct patient care, OPERATION T.E.A.M. also serves as an educational platform for mentoring local healthcare providers and resident physicians. PADSFI specialists teach diagnostic skills, dermatologic surgery techniques, early recognition of skin cancer, wound care, and management of common dermatologic conditions. This mentorship strengthens local healthcare capacity and empowers community physicians and healthcare workers to continue patient care after the mission.

PADSFI's missions also include health education programs and lay fora emphasising proper skin hygiene, prevention of infectious skin diseases, sun protection, and early consultation for suspicious skin lesions. Through lectures and counseling, communities gain a better understanding of skin health and the importance of early skin cancer detection. Hygiene kits and basic skin care products are distributed during these missions to promote preventive healthcare practices.



PADSFI medical mission in Tiaong, Queson Province



PADSFI medical mission in Lubang, Mindoro



PADSFI gift giving for Orphans at Christmas

A Holistic Approach to Community Health and Humanitarian Service

Recognising the close relationship between environmental and human health, PADSFI volunteers also participate in environmental conservation activities during outreach missions. These include tree planting, mangrove planting initiatives, and beach clean-up drives in coastal communities. Such activities encourage environmental stewardship while helping protect fragile ecosystems that sustain island communities.

PADSFI also extends compassion during times of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic and after typhoons and other natural calamities, the organisation conducted relief operations providing food, medicines, hygiene supplies, and essential assistance to affected communities. Volunteer physicians and members worked tirelessly to deliver aid and medical support despite difficult conditions.

During the Christmas season, PADSFI organises gift-giving programs for orphaned and disadvantaged children. Through meals, games, gifts, and shared activities, the organisation seeks to bring joy, dignity, and hope to children who may not otherwise experience the warmth of the holidays.

Over the years, PADSFI has conducted missions in underserved areas including San Marcelino, Los Baños, General Mariano Alvarez, El Nido, Santa Maria, Tiaong, and Lubang, Mindoro. Through OPERATION T.E.A.M., the organisation demonstrates how a subspecialty medical society can extend its expertise far beyond operating rooms and private clinics.

By combining dermatologic surgery, education, environmental advocacy, disaster response, and humanitarian outreach, PADSFI continues to bridge healthcare disparities and bring healing, compassion, and hope to underserved Filipino communities nationwide.

Pigmentary Disorders Society

News from Pigmentary Disorders Society 2026

Theme: Training and education

https://www.pigmentarydisorderssociety.com

The Pigmentary Disorders Society (PDS) was formed in 2012 to give a platform for in depth discussion of pigmentary diseases, encourage scientific research and foster collaborations with other such societies in India and abroad.

IPCC 2026: Bringing Global Expertise to India

The 26th International Pigment Cell Conference (IPCC 2026) and 7th Pigmentarycon was organised at India Habitat Center, New Delhi, India from April 30 to May 3, 2026. Organised under the aegis of Pigmentary Disorders Society and Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research (ASPCR), the International Pigment Cell Conference returned to India after over a decade and brought together delegates from over 18 countries around the world. Around 30 international and 70 national experts participated as faculty sharing their experiences and expertise during the sessions. The programme included keynote lectures, panel discussions, clinical workshops and demonstrations with sessions focused on vitiligo, melasma, hyperpigmentation, albinism and related areas in pigmentary dermatology.



Lamp lighting during inauguration ceremony of IPCC



Press meeting (R to L) Dr Latika Arya, Dr Henry Lim, Dr Rashmi Sarkar, Dr Surabhi Sinha

The conference served as a platform for scientific exchange bringing together perspectives across dermatology, genetics and patient care. Prof Henry W. Lim, President of the International League of Dermatologic Societies, in a press meeting before the conference, expressed concern over misuse of corticosteroid creams and mercury based skin lightening creams. He further emphasised the need for strengthening awareness and clinical standards to improve dermatology care in alignment with the World Health Organisation's emphasis on skin health and patient safety.

Dr Rashmi Sarkar, President of Pigmentary Disorders Society and organising chair of IPCC and Pigmentarycon 2026, brought attention to the concerns in India around colour perception, misinformation and over the counter product use which influence patient behaviour and delay correct diagnosis and treatment.



Delegates and faculty of IPCC and Pigmentarycon

Raising Awareness and Looking Ahead

The Pigmentary Disorder Society takes pride in organising different activities throughout the year to increase awareness of the pigmentary disorders. A painting competition had been organised on the psychological distress due to hyperpigmentary disorders and these paintings were also displayed during the four day conference. Also, these paintings featured in an annual calendar which was distributed during the conference.



Display of entries in the Painting competition



Interaction with Judges during the poster session

The first day had workshops on lasers, chemical peels and periorbital pigmentation which were very well attended. The four poster sessions spread over 3 days were interesting with the presenters present to answer any queries that the judges had. With participation from leading international faculty, this conference facilitated exchange across research, clinical practice and patient care. The conference placed focus on improving understanding of pigmentary disorders, strengthening safe treatment practices and encouraging informed decision making among both clinicians and patients.

Looking ahead, the Society plans to undertake initiatives for Vitiligo Day and strengthen collaboration with the Global Albinism Alliance.

Authors | *Mala Bhalla and Rashmi Sarkar*

Professional Association of German Dermatologists

Haut+job – Healthy Skin for a Healthy Workforce

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

https://www.bvdd.de/

Occupational skin diseases are among the most common work-related health conditions worldwide. Yet despite their considerable impact on workers, employers, and healthcare systems, many cases are preventable. Recognising this opportunity, Germany launched ***haut+job*** ("skin + work"), a nationwide initiative dedicated to improving occupational skin health through prevention, education, and early intervention.

Accessible through **www.haut-und-job.de**, the programme was developed within the framework of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) campaign "Healthy Skin @ Work". Supported by the **German Association of Dermatologists (BVDD)**, the **German Dermatological Society (DDG)**, and the **German Working Group for Occupational and Environmental Dermatology (ABD)**, the initiative brings together scientific expertise, clinical practice, and public awareness efforts. Among its key initiators is Professor Swen Malte John, whose pioneering work has helped establish Germany as an international leader in occupational dermatology.

Prevention and Early Intervention in Occupational Skin Health

What makes *haut+job* particularly remarkable is its focus on keeping people healthy and employed. Rather than concentrating solely on treatment, the initiative promotes prevention before skin diseases become chronic, career-threatening, or disabling. Through educational campaigns, practical resources, awareness weeks, and digital outreach, workers and employers receive evidence-based information on protecting skin health in the workplace.

The programme focuses primarily on occupational hand eczema and occupational skin cancer caused by ultraviolet radiation - two major occupational skin conditions affecting workers worldwide. Healthcare professionals, construction workers, farmers, hairdressers, cleaners, and many other occupational groups are exposed to risks that can lead to significant health problems if left unaddressed. Early recognition and intervention are therefore essential.

Germany's long-standing tradition of occupational dermatology has shown that prevention works. Dermatologists play a crucial role in identifying early signs of disease, initiating preventive measures, educating patients, and collaborating with occupational physicians, employers, and insurance providers. By intervening before severe disease develops, workers are often able to remain in their professions and avoid long-term health consequences.



haut+job graduation ceremony in Osnabrück

Wider Societal Impact and Lessons for Global Dermatology

The benefits extend far beyond the individual patient. Occupational skin diseases are associated with sickness absence, reduced productivity, retraining costs, disability claims, and rising healthcare expenditures. Effective prevention therefore creates value on multiple levels: it improves quality of life, preserves workforce participation, reduces costs for employers and insurers, and strengthens economic resilience. In an era of labour shortages and growing pressure on healthcare systems, maintaining a healthy workforce has become a strategic priority for many societies.

For this reason, *haut+job* represents more than a dermatological awareness campaign. It demonstrates how dermatology can contribute directly to public health, preventive medicine, and economic sustainability. The initiative also highlights the importance of translating scientific knowledge into practical measures that deliver measurable benefits for workers, employers, and healthcare systems alike.

The German experience offers valuable lessons for the international dermatology community. While healthcare structures vary between countries, the principles underlying *haut+job* - prevention, education, early intervention, and interdisciplinary cooperation - are universally applicable. The programme provides a scalable model that could be adapted internationally to reduce the burden of occupational skin disease and strengthen the role of dermatology in public health.

Ultimately, protecting skin health at work is not only a medical responsibility; it is an investment in healthier individuals, more productive workplaces, and stronger economies. *haut+job* demonstrates how a coordinated prevention strategy can create lasting benefits for patients, employers, and society as a whole.

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Psoriasis Awareness Club

Concept of Psoriasis clinic in tertiary centers, reduces the burden of psoriasis in low resource countries.

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

www.psoriasisawarenessclubbd.com

The Psoriasis Awareness Club Bangladesh (PACB) has introduced an innovative and context-appropriate model of establishing **dedicated psoriasis clinics** within medical college hospitals and tertiary care centers. This concept is particularly relevant for low-resource countries, where the burden of psoriasis is rising but specialised care remains fragmented, under-resourced, and often inaccessible.

Psoriasis is a chronic, immune-mediated inflammatory disease affecting approximately 2–3% of the global population. Beyond skin involvement, it is associated with multiple comorbidities such as psoriatic arthritis, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, and depression. In low-resource settings like Bangladesh, delayed diagnosis, irrational treatment, and lack of patient education contribute significantly to disease severity and disability.

Establishing Dedicated Psoriasis Clinics for Comprehensive Care

The PACB model proposes the integration of **structured psoriasis clinics** within existing dermatology departments of tertiary hospitals. These clinics function as **specialised service units** operating on designated days (e.g., weekly or monthly), where trained dermatologists, nurses, and allied health professionals provide comprehensive and standardised care. The model emphasises a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating rheumatology, cardiology, psychiatry, and nutrition services when needed.

One of the key strengths of this model is **early and accurate diagnosis**. Standardised protocols and clinical scoring systems such as PASI (Psoriasis Area and Severity Index) and DLQI (Dermatology Life Quality Index) are utilised to assess disease severity and monitor treatment outcomes. This reduces misdiagnosis and ensures timely initiation of appropriate therapy.

Another major contribution is the rational use of therapies, particularly in resource-limited settings where biologics may not be widely available. The clinics promote stepwise treatment approaches using cost-effective options such as topical agents, phototherapy, and conventional systemic drugs (e.g., methotrexate, cyclosporine), following international guidelines adapted to local contexts. This minimises complications from inappropriate steroid use and unsafe treatments.

The clinics also serve as hubs for **patient education and counseling**, which is often neglected in routine practice. Patients are educated about the chronic nature of psoriasis, treatment adherence, lifestyle modification, and triggers such as stress, smoking, and obesity. Improved awareness helps reduce stigma, enhances adherence, and ultimately improves quality of life.

Strengthening Capacity, Research, and Public Health Impact

Importantly, this model facilitates **screening and management of comorbidities**, which are frequently underdiagnosed in psoriasis patients. Regular monitoring for hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and joint symptoms enables early intervention and reduces long-term morbidity and mortality.

From a public health perspective, these clinics contribute to **capacity building and training**. Medical students, residents, and healthcare workers gain exposure to standardised psoriasis care, creating a ripple effect that strengthens dermatology services across the country. Additionally, the clinics can act as platforms for **data collection and research**, generating local evidence to inform policy and practice.

The economic impact of this model is also significant. By reducing disease severity, hospital admissions, and complications, psoriasis clinics help lower the overall healthcare burden. Structured care pathways improve efficiency and optimise resource utilisation, which is crucial in low-resource settings.

Psoriasis Awareness Club Bangladesh advocates establishing dedicated psoriasis clinics within dermatology departments of medical college hospitals to improve comprehensive care. These clinics aim to maintain patient registries and standardised data for better disease monitoring and research. They ensure a steady supply of essential medications and logistics, while also providing structured training for healthcare professionals to enhance clinical capacity. Additionally, the initiative emphasises patient education and awareness to improve adherence and quality of life. This model can strengthen early diagnosis, optimise management, and ultimately reduce the burden of psoriasis in resource-limited settings like Bangladesh.



Psoriasis clinic inauguration in Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura by Prof A Z M Maidul Islam, Ex Chairman BMU.

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Rwanda Dermatology Society

Innovation and Excellence in Clinical Care: Highlights from the 3rd Rwanda Dermatology Society's Annual Conference

Theme: Training and education

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The global dermatology community gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, from 20-22 May 2026, for the 3rd Annual Conference of the Rwanda Dermatology Society (RDS). The three-day meeting brought together clinicians, researchers, trainees, and allied health professionals to exchange knowledge, discuss complex cases, and explore advances in dermatological care relevant to Rwanda and the broader African region.

Approximately 100 delegates participated, including 75 in person and 25 virtually. Attendees represented multiple disciplines, including dermatology, pediatrics, ophthalmology, internal medicine, pathology, nursing, and pharmacy. The conference also welcomed residents from the University of Rwanda across several specialty training programs, reflecting the event's strong educational and multidisciplinary focus.

The scientific program covered a broad range of topics, including dermatopathology, inflammatory skin diseases, genodermatoses, autoimmune disorders, venereology, allergology, dermato-oncology, and dermatosurgery, highlighting both global advances and practical solutions for local healthcare challenges.

Day 1: Advanced Diagnostics and Inflammatory Disease Management

The conference opened with registration, networking, and welcoming remarks from the RDS Chairperson before launching into a series of scientific sessions focused on diagnosis and inflammatory dermatology.

The first session on dermatopathology explored inflammatory reaction patterns such as lichenoid, spongiotic, psoriasiform, vasculitic, granulomatous, blistering disorders, and panniculitis. Speakers emphasised the value of histopathology and discussed the potential role of immunohistochemistry in resolving difficult cases, particularly in settings where access to advanced diagnostic tools remains limited.

Presentations on non-infectious granulomatous disorders demonstrated how special staining techniques can help distinguish infectious from non-infectious conditions. Pediatric dermatopathology sessions reviewed a diverse range of disorders, including epidermolysis bullosa congenita, incontinentia pigmenti, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, fixed drug eruption, lichen planus, pemphigus vulgaris, infantile hemangioma, and juvenile xanthogranuloma. A notable presentation on emerging infectious threats examined a monkeypox infection during pregnancy, highlighting treatment challenges and a complex case associated with pregnancy loss.

Subsequent sessions focused on nail disorders and implantation mycoses. Experts reviewed the differential diagnosis of nail psoriasis, current approaches to onychomycosis management, and practical strategies for treating ingrown toenails. Updates on implantation mycoses concluded with interactive discussion among participants.

The afternoon addressed common inflammatory skin diseases. A foundational lecture on skin anatomy and morphology linked cellular structures to the development of inflammatory and neoplastic conditions. Additional presentations reviewed pityriasis rosea, lichen planus, atopic dermatitis, and psoriasis, emphasising evolving diagnostic approaches and emerging therapies. Discussions also highlighted the limited availability and affordability of biologic treatments in Rwanda, prompting calls for stronger advocacy to improve access.



Delegates actively participating in an engaging and insightful session during the 3rd Annual Conference of the Rwanda Dermatology Society, held in May 2026

Day 2: Genetics, Oncology, and Emerging Challenges

The second day expanded the focus to genetic skin disorders, oncology, infectious diseases, and advanced therapeutics.

Morning sessions reviewed the diagnosis, management, and patient education aspects of rare genodermatoses, including X-linked ichthyosis, tuberous sclerosis, aplasia cutis congenita, and xeroderma pigmentosum. Dermatopathology updates covered vasculitis, panniculitis, and autoimmune blistering diseases, with particular attention to the diagnostic value of direct and indirect immunofluorescence, immunohistochemistry, and morphological analysis.

Speakers also shared Rwandan experiences with infectious granulomatous diseases, superficial mycoses, and pseudomycoses, outlining ongoing diagnostic and treatment challenges. A presentation on laser dermatology showcased practical experience with laser-based therapies through a series of clinical cases from private practice.

The afternoon focused on dermato-oncology and dermatosurgery. Presenters reviewed the management of dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, including a successful surgical case with three years of follow-up. Additional talks examined outcomes of surgically treated acral lentiginous melanoma, reporting favorable survival without locoregional metastasis. Updates on Kaposi sarcoma and basal cell carcinoma highlighted current approaches to diagnosis and treatment. The session concluded with an overview of contemporary dermatosurgical techniques and best practices.

The day ended with a Gala Dinner that fostered networking, collaboration, and professional exchange among local and international participants.

Day 3: Autoimmunity, Public Health, and Allergology

The final day addressed autoimmune diseases, sexually transmitted infections, allergology, and emerging public health concerns.

Experts presented clinical updates on dermatomyositis, lupus erythematosus in pregnancy, and pyoderma gangrenosum, emphasising the importance of multidisciplinary care involving dermatologists, obstetricians, ophthalmologists, surgeons, and other specialists. Additional discussions highlighted treatment outcomes in lichen sclerosus and broader approaches to pigmentary disorders.

One of the most engaging presentations examined the growing influence of social media on dermatology. Drawing on experiences from Tanzania, the speaker discussed the widespread use of skin-lightening products and misuse of topical corticosteroids, illustrating how online beauty trends can undermine evidence-based medical advice.

The conference then shifted to sexually transmitted diseases and genital dermatology. Speakers reviewed genital dermatoses and syphilis, emphasising early diagnosis and appropriate management.



RDS members alongside distinguished speakers and delegates at the 3rd Annual Conference of the Rwanda Dermatology Society, held in May 2026.

Presentations also highlighted the importance of recognising cutaneous manifestations of HIV infection as a pathway to timely diagnosis and treatment.

Industry representatives provided an overview of Pfizer's dermatology development pipeline and discussed collaborative initiatives under the "Accord for a Healthier World" partnership with the Government of Rwanda.

The final scientific session focused on allergic and hypersensitivity disorders, covering allergic and irritant contact dermatitis, acute urticaria, adverse drug reactions, and pediatric allergology.

Looking Forward

The conference concluded with panel discussions, closing remarks, and certificate presentations. The 3rd Rwanda Dermatology Society Annual Conference successfully provided a platform for education, collaboration, and advocacy. By promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and international exchange, it equipped healthcare professionals with updated knowledge and practical strategies to address both longstanding dermatological conditions and emerging challenges, including the increasing impact of cosmetic misinformation and social media influences.

As dermatology continues to evolve, the Rwanda Dermatology Society remains committed to strengthening professional capacity, advancing patient care, and promoting evidence-based dermatological practice across Rwanda and the wider region.

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Saudi Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery

From Fragile Skin to a National Care Pathway: Saudi Arabia's Epidermolysis Bullosa Journey

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

www.ssdds.org

Epidermolysis bullosa (EB), often known as the disease of "butterfly children," is a rare inherited disorder in which the skin and mucous membranes blister with minimal friction. Behind this simple description is a lifelong journey of painful wounds, infection risk, nutritional challenges, disability, psychosocial burden, and the need for highly specialised multidisciplinary care.

In Saudi Arabia, EB has become a clear reminder that rare diseases require more than clinical compassion; they require system design, procurement pathways, trained teams, family education, and national data. The Saudi Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery (SSDDS), in collaboration with the Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH) and other relevant sectors, has contributed to a national effort to strengthen EB care and address these needs.

The initiative subsequently expanded from improving supply access to strengthening national visibility and understanding of EB. Efforts were undertaken to map known patients and affected families, understand geographic distribution, and collect information on genetic mutations and disease patterns. These activities were important for service planning, prevention, genetic counselling, and future research.

> *As Leader of the Dermatology Specialty at the Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH), and in collaboration with the Saudi Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery (SSDDS), I have had the privilege of contributing to a national EB transformation journey.*
>
> *The early work in 2018-2019 addressed urgent gaps in specialised non-adherent dressings, wound-care consumables, and EB supplies that were not sufficiently available through routine pathways. This was followed by efforts to define specifications, facilitate procurement discussions, and support inclusion of EB-related consumables within national supply channels.*
>
> *EB in Saudi Arabia is not merely a dermatology diagnosis; it intersects with genetics, neonatology, pediatrics, wound care, nutrition, dentistry, rehabilitation, obstetrics, infertility services, home healthcare, schools, and social support. Therefore, the project increasingly adopted a multidisciplinary and intersectoral model.*
>
> **Dr Maysa Tariq Eshmawi, Leader of the Dermatology Specialty at the Saudi Ministry of Health and SSDDS Board Member**

Building Capacity and Supporting Families

Capacity building became one of the most meaningful milestones of the initiative. In 2022, the first national hands-on EB training workshop for nurses was conducted, shifting the focus from awareness to practical competence in dressing changes, atraumatic wound care, pain reduction, infection prevention, and family guidance.

In 2024, this was followed by a national workshop for home healthcare teams, recognising that EB care does not end at the hospital door. Families require skilled support at home, while healthcare teams need the confidence and expertise to manage wounds that can be severely harmed by routine handling.

In parallel, work with national leaders and relevant specialties explored the potential inclusion of EB-related genetic mutation testing within premarital screening pathways for affected families. This prevention-oriented approach supported early detection and genetic counselling while aligning with Saudi Arabia's broader commitment to value-based healthcare. Public awareness also became a central pillar of the initiative. Family campaigns conducted in 2023 and 2024 helped translate technical knowledge into accessible messages, reduce stigma, and promote dignified social inclusion for individuals and families living with EB.

Towards National Governance and Standardised Care

The next phase focused increasingly on governance and evidence. Several meetings supported efforts toward establishing a national rare disease registry and collaboration with relevant sectors on EB data, care pathways, and future centres-of-excellence models.

Registry development is particularly important because it connects clinical care with resource planning, equitable access, outcome measurement, research, and preparedness for emerging therapies.

A major milestone was reached in 2025 with the publication of ***The Saudi National Policy and Protocol for Epidermolysis Bullosa***. The protocol represents more than a scientific publication; it provides a framework for standardising recognition, referral, wound care, multidisciplinary management, family education, and prevention strategies within the Saudi context.

> *The Saudi EB experience illustrates how dermatology leadership can bridge policy, clinical care, education, registry development, and patient advocacy. It is a story of fragile skin, but also of resilient families, committed professionals, and a health system learning to respond to rare diseases with structure and humanity.*
>
> **Dr Maysa Tariq Eshmawi, Leader of the Dermatology Specialty at the Saudi Ministry of Health and SSDDS Board Member**



A child living with EB alongside her dermatologists, reflecting the compassion, trust, and long-term support at the heart of EB care

Today, EB is increasingly recognised and understood among the people of Saudi Arabia. Healthcare workers, families, and decision-makers are becoming more aware that children and adults living with EB require lifelong, specialised, and coordinated support.

The Saudi EB experience demonstrates the value of collaboration between dermatology leadership, government institutions, healthcare professionals, families, and patient advocates. It represents an important example of how a health system can move from addressing immediate clinical needs toward developing sustainable national structures for rare disease care.



A creative child with EB draws a butterfly, a symbol of EB, at a national awareness event in Saudi Arabia



Two siblings, one living with EB, at a national awareness and family support event in Saudi Arabia



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Skin of Color Society

Driving excellence, inclusion and innovation in skin of color dermatology

Theme: Training and education

https://skinofcolorsociety.org/

The Skin of Color Society (SOCS) is a globally recognised leader in advancing skin of color dermatology, with members from 22 countries.

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. Newer initiatives dedicated to community service, leadership training, and global collaboration are propelling the continued evolution of the organisation worldwide.

SOCS membership includes internationally recognised dermatologists, many of whom serve as mentors across dermatology subspecialties and practice settings.

Hundreds of medical students, dermatology residents, and fellows have been mentored through SOCS, while numerous early and mid-career dermatologists have received research, observership, fellowship, career development, and innovation grants through the Society.

SOCS offers many signature programs, initiatives, and resources, including:

SOCS Annual Scientific Symposium

The SOCS Annual Scientific Symposium showcases research and insights from leading experts and emerging researchers. In March 2026, nearly 500 attendees from 13 countries participated in the 22nd Annual Scientific Symposium, "Championing Evidence-Based Dermatology and Collaboration."

The 23rd Annual SOCS Scientific Symposium will take place on March 18, 2027, in San Francisco, California.

SOCS Research Programs

- **The SOCS Career Development Award**: Awards up to $100,000, which can be used over two years. This award supports a research focus on inflammatory dermatologic diseases in skin of color in areas where further clinical, translational, and basic research is needed.
- **The SOCS Dermatology Research Award**: Provides annual research grants (each up to $25,000) to promote dermatology research within the field. The grant is intended to assist dermatologists in furthering their academic careers.
- **The SOCS Early Career Innovations Award**: Provides startup funding for visionaries who have solutions addressing needs and opportunities within the skin of color dermatology ecosystem. Funding can be used to develop an idea, advance, or scale up an idea in progress.
- **The SOCS Institutional Research Fellowship Grant**: Provides up to $40,000 to support a researcher who has an interest in skin of color dermatology and/or health equity research.

SOCS Center for Leadership

The SOCS Center for Leadership, a newer initiative, develops leaders who will move the dermatology field forward with excellence, innovation, and inclusivity.

The curriculum includes online programming and a structured cohort experience that blends webinars with immersive, in-person leadership development.

The Dermatologists of Tomorrow Scholarship (DOTS) Presented by Clinique & SOCS Foundation, provides financial support and mentorship to rising 4th-year medical students, who are committed to health equity in pursuit of dermatology careers. 66 medical students have received DOTS awards to date.

Mentorship and Observership Opportunities

We greatly value mentorship to foster a diverse, highly skilled workforce.

- **The SOCS Mentorship Program** connects young physicians and medical students with a SOCS mentor.
- **The SOCS Observership Grant** awards up to $2,500 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

Introduced in 2022, this initiative has resulted in these accomplishments:

- **An inaugural Summit (December 2022)**: Meeting the Challenge: Diversity in Dermatology Clinical Trials, convened diverse professionals representing the clinical trials ecosystem. This Summit led to two journal manuscripts and the creation of a groundbreaking Clinical Investigator Training and Mentorship Program, in collaboration with the National Medical Association Dermatology Section.
- **The 2nd Meeting the Challenge Summit (2023)**, focused on population descriptors in dermatology research studies. This Summit resulted in the publication of an additional journal manuscript.
- **The 3rd Meeting the Challenge Summit (2025)**, focused on expanding outcome measures to advance dermatology in clinical trials. Future plans are in development.



SOCS leaders gathered at the 22nd Annual SOCS Scientific Symposium (2nd from left): Drs. Victoria Barbosa, Rebecca Vasquez, Nada Elbuluk, and Crystal Aguh, flanked by SOCS Executive Director Kymika Okechukwu, MPA (far left) and SOCS Foundation Executive Director Kimberly J. Miller (far right).

Educational Resources

SOCS offers extensive resources for physicians, patients, and the public on its website.

To learn more about SOCS - visit: http://www.skinofcolorsociety.org/

Society of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists of Nepal

Combating Quackery in Dermatology in Nepal

https://sodvelon.com/

Theme: Advocacy and Regulatory Issues in Dermatology

Dermatology in Nepal has witnessed remarkable progress over the past decade. Advances in medical therapeutics, dermoscopy, lasers, aesthetic procedures, and teledermatology have significantly improved the quality of skin care available to patients. Alongside this growth, however, a concerning parallel trend has emerged—the rapid rise of quackery and unregulated dermatologic practice.

Quackery has become a growing threat to patient safety and ethical medical practice in Nepal. Starting from unauthorised cosmetic clinics, social media "skin experts" to invasive aesthetic procedures performed by inadequately trained personnel. The increasing commercialisation of skin and cosmetic care, combined with weak regulatory oversight and limited public awareness, has created an environment where unqualified individuals are able to diagnose and treat skin diseases with little accountability.

Understanding Quackery in Dermatology

Quackery refers to the practice of medicine by individuals who lack recognised qualifications, training, or legal authority to provide medical care. In dermatology, this may include beauticians, aestheticians, unlicensed cosmetic centers, or even medical practitioners working beyond their scope of expertise.

In Nepal, the overlap between aesthetic services and medical dermatology has blurred professional boundaries. Cosmetic procedures such as chemical peels, lasers, fillers, hair transplantation, and scar revision are increasingly marketed through beauty clinics and social media platforms without appropriate medical supervision. Patients treated by unqualified individuals may experience steroid abuse and skin barrier damage, permanent scarring and disfigurement and emotional distress and loss of trust in healthcare systems.

The rapid growth of cosmetic clinics in Nepal, many operating without clear medical regulation, has further intensified these concerns.

Social Media and the Rise of Misinformation

It has transformed healthcare communication, however it has also enabled the spread of misinformation and unethical promotion. Unqualified individuals frequently market themselves as "skin specialists," "cosmetic experts," despite lacking formal dermatology training. Public understanding of medical qualifications remains limited, allowing many patients to confuse beauticians or cosmetologists with certified dermatologists. This environment not only threatens patient safety but also undermines evidence-based medicine and ethical healthcare delivery.

The Role of SODVELON

As the national professional organisation representing dermatologists in Nepal, the Society of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists of Nepal (SODVELON) has a critical responsibility in safeguarding patient welfare and promoting ethical dermatologic practice.

SODVELON has consistently been sending representatives for the formulation of guidelines. Recently we had the opportunity to attend formulation of guidelines for beauticians where we could give our input as dermatology experts. The aesthetic clinics and other fields need clear evidence-based guidelines as follows: Which procedures require specialist dermatology training, minimum safety standards for aesthetic clinics, certification requirements.

Collaboration with government authorities, regulatory councils, and public health institutions is essential to strengthen legislation and monitoring mechanisms. SODVELON has been regularly approaching the government body, sending petitions and letters to convey the need for proper legislation. We have been in constant touch with the authorities to raise awareness and help in regulation about the safety of the patients. However, we have a long way to go in this matter.

SODVELON has also tried to raise awareness this year by creating videos of certified dermatologists regarding safe practices and it was shared on social media for general population. Educational campaigns can help patients verify specialist registration, understand risks of unsafe cosmetic procedures, differentiate between qualified dermatologists and untrained practitioners, report negligence and unethical practices. Therefore, dermatologists themselves must maintain high ethical standards in advertising, patient communication, and procedural practice. Professional integrity remains the strongest defense against commercialisation-driven medicine.



Against Quackery SODVELON - Meeting with former Health Minister by the Executive Committee

Conclusion

Combating quackery is not solely about protecting a profession—it is about protecting patients. Public trust in healthcare depends on accountability, transparency, scientific integrity, and ethical practice.

The future of dermatology in Nepal should be guided by evidence-based care rather than commercial exploitation. Quackery flourishes where awareness is low and regulations are weak. Addressing this challenge requires collective action from professional societies, policymakers, healthcare institutions, media platforms, and the public itself.

Nepal stands at a crucial moment in the evolution of dermatologic care. Advances in technology and aesthetics have created unique opportunities, but they have also exposed substantial regulatory and ethical vulnerabilities. The rise of quackery in dermatology threatens patient safety, undermines professional credibility, and weakens public confidence in healthcare systems. Stronger regulations, public education, ethical leadership, and multidisciplinary collaboration are urgently needed.

The Society of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists of Nepal (SODVELON) remains committed to promoting safe, ethical, and evidence-based dermatologic care for all Nepalese patients.

Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology

Healthy Skin Foundation Strengthens Commitment to Dermatological Health Education

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

ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA DE DERMATOLOGÍA Y VENEREOLOGÍA

https://aedv.es/

The Healthy Skin Foundation (Fundación Piel Sana - FPS - available: https://bit.ly/4zaQvmq) of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV) has consolidated its "All About Your Skin" event as one of the leading dermatological health education initiatives in Spain. Held on June 5–6 at Casa de Vacas in El Retiro Park in Madrid, this third edition reaffirmed the Foundation's role as a bridge between dermatology and the public.

More than a thousand people took part in the event, which combined meetings with dermatologists, open Q&A sessions, and practical workshops aimed at all audiences. This approachable format made it possible to deliver rigorous information on skin care, the prevention of skin diseases, and the adoption of healthy habits in an accessible and participatory way.

Interactive Education and Public Engagement

One of the most highly valued features was the "Ask Your Dermatologist" space, where attendees were able to resolve their questions directly with specialists. In addition, the program addressed topics of great social interest such as the relationship between sport and skin, dermatological care in women, hair health, and skin cancer prevention.

The event also included dynamic workshops - such as skin self-examination, cosmetic routines, and children's activities - which reinforced its practical nature. In addition, the presence of the 'Bulo Fighters' tent (https://bit.ly/4wfFnlH), focused on debunking myths related to sun protection as part of the **Euromelanoma 2026 campaign**, further enriched the experience. This comprehensive approach helped turn the event into a complete educational experience, combining outreach, prevention, and active participation.



Left to right: Yolanda Gilaberte (AEDV Past-President and AEDV Foundation Director), Isabel Belinchón (AEDV President) and Agustín Buendía (Past Director of the AEDV Foundation)

The success of the initiative would not be possible without the voluntary involvement of dozens of dermatologists. The director of the AEDV Foundation, **Dr. Yolanda Gilaberte**, highlighted that this commitment makes it possible to bring scientific knowledge to the public in a direct and approachable way. Along the same lines, **Dr. Agustín Buendía**, past director of the Foundation, stressed the importance of creating spaces where science is shared accessibly to improve people's quality of life. Meanwhile, AEDV President **Dr. Isabel Belinchón** reaffirmed the continuity of these initiatives as a strategic priority for the organisation.

Within the framework of the event, the Foundation also held, on the previous evening (June 5) at the Duques de Pastrana Palace in Madrid, the **third FPS Awards ceremony**. These awards recognise the work of organisations, professionals, and media outlets committed to dermatological outreach. They highlight the importance of cross-sector collaboration in amplifying the impact of health education and bringing it closer to society.

Expanding Skin Health Education Through National Campaigns

Beyond this event, the AEDV Foundation carries out a wide range of programs and campaigns aimed at improving the population's skin health. Among them is the Euromelanoma campaign, focused on the prevention and early detection of skin cancer, as well as specific photoprotection initiatives such as "**Live with the Sun**" (Convive con el sol), which promotes safe sun exposure habits from childhood.

In the field of promoting healthy lifestyles, the Foundation also drives projects such as "**Healthy is Sexy**", particularly aimed at young people, providing information on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). It also develops initiatives targeted at specific groups, such as **educational sessions in jails** where dermatologists share key knowledge on prevention, hygiene, and early detection of skin diseases and STIs among the inmate population.

Alongside these initiatives, the **Dermohealthy Seal** (Sello Dermosaludable) recognises organisations, cities, and environments committed to promoting skin health in their settings. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Seville and Madrid have obtained this recognition so far.

A Broader Commitment to Public Health and Prevention

Taken together, these actions reflect a strong and ongoing strategy that combines outreach, prevention, and direct intervention across different areas of society, with the aim of improving skin health and overall quality of life.

The AEDV Foundation currently has more than 2,800 members, including dermatologists and other healthcare professionals, which strengthens its capacity to develop large-scale initiatives.

ILDS IFD International Foundation for Dermatology

Find out more about our grant programmes

ILDS Grant Programmes:

Through the International Foundation for Dermatology, the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) offers two types of grant programmes.

These grant programmes support projects and initiatives that aim to strengthen capacity building and improve care for patients with skin diseases in underserved regions and communities.

	DermLink	DermImpact
No. projects selected	15 - 20 projects per year	5 projects per grant cycle
Funding available	US$ 3,000 - 5,000 depending on category	Up to US$ 20,000
Grant cycle	One year	Two years
Additional information	All applications need to be supported by an ILDS Member	Applications that involve multiple stakeholders, with a focus on capacity building and sustainability are preferred

Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine

Creative Dermatology Education Through Community and Student Engagement

https://www.slcd.lk

Theme: Training and Education

Celebrating 40 Years of the Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine

In 2025, the Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine (SLCDA) celebrated its 40th anniversary by launching two national educational competitions designed to promote dermatology awareness, reduce stigma related to skin disease, and encourage evidence-based skin health education among the public and future healthcare professionals.

The initiative consisted of an inter-school art competition and a medical student video competition conducted across Sri Lanka. Both competitions used creative expression as a tool to communicate important dermatological health messages in a manner that was engaging, culturally sensitive, and accessible to the wider community.

Promoting Inclusion and Challenging Skin-Related Stigma

The inter-school art competition, titled "Fair, Dark or Brown – We Are All Beautiful," focused on promoting positive body image, reducing colour-based stigma, and encouraging self-confidence among adolescents. The competition was open to students in grades 9–13 and received approximately 45 submissions from schools representing multiple regions of Sri Lanka. Participants used various artistic media to communicate themes of inclusivity, self-worth, and healthy attitudes toward skin colour.



Interschool art competition (Left - junior category and right - senior category)



Video Competition Winners-Medical Faculty Jaffna

The medical undergraduate video competition, themed "Beyond the Skin: Break the Myths and Heal with Truth," invited students from medical faculties across Sri Lanka to create short educational videos for the general public. Fourteen videos were submitted, with participation from nearly all medical faculties in the country. The selected topics addressed several important and timely dermatological concerns including acne myths, leprosy stigma, leishmaniasis awareness, unsafe cosmetic practices, fungal infections, psoriasis-related stigma, and misleading skincare marketing practices.

Using Creative and Digital Media to Extend Public Education

The competition encouraged medical students to translate scientific knowledge into clear and accessible public health messages. Videos were judged by a panel based on accuracy, creativity, clarity, and impact. In addition, a "Most Popular Video" category incorporated public engagement through social media interactions, further extending the educational reach of the campaign.

Winning artworks and videos were showcased through the official social media platforms of the SLCDA, particularly Facebook, where the videos were released weekly and received significant public engagement. This online dissemination enabled the educational messages to reach audiences beyond the original participants and created sustained discussion on common misconceptions and stigma related to dermatological conditions.

Recognising Young Talent and Building the Future of Dermatology

The winners were formally recognised during the International Conference on Tropical Dermatology (ICTD) 2026, where certificates and monetary awards were presented. Importantly, the event also provided opportunities for students and school participants to interact with dermatology professionals, fostering mentorship, inspiration, and future interest in the specialty.

This initiative demonstrated how creative arts and digital media can be effectively integrated into dermatology education and advocacy. By engaging school children, medical undergraduates, educators, healthcare professionals, and the general public, the project strengthened community awareness while empowering young individuals to become advocates for skin health.

The SLCDA hopes to continue similar initiatives in the future as part of its commitment to public education, stigma reduction, early healthcare seeking behaviour, and the development of future leaders in dermatology.

Official Social Media Platforms of SLCDA

Educational content, winning campaign materials, and public awareness activities were further disseminated through the official social media platforms of the Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine (SLCDA), enabling wider national and international outreach through digital engagement and public education initiatives.

- YouTube | @slcda - https://bit.ly/4hmiLft
- Facebook | @srilankacollegeofdermatologyandaestheticmedicine - https://bit.ly/4fQqDEX
- Instagram: @ slcd_pubedu - https://bit.ly/4fPlYTB
- TikTok | @skinhealthbeautychats - https://bit.ly/4grNYvN

Taiwanese Dermatological Association

Shaping the future of dermatology in Taiwan and fostering collaboration with the global dermatological community

Theme: Training and education

https://www.derma.org.tw

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.

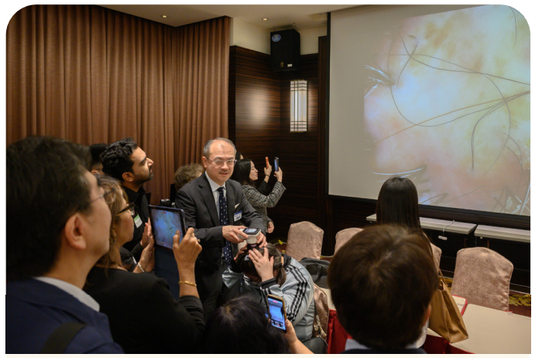
Advancing dermatology education and international collaboration

Since 2017, the TDA Spring Meeting has been held under the AMWC Asia-TDAC brand. Under the 2026 theme, “Beyond Aesthetics, Towards Well-Being,” the congress expanded its focus from medical dermatology and dermatologic surgery to a broader vision of holistic health, highlighting Healthy Aging, Regenerative Aesthetics, and Mind–Skin Interaction, thereby reflecting the evolving role of dermatology in whole-person care.



AMWC Asia 2026 in Taiwan

A major highlight of 2026 was the continued expansion of international and interdisciplinary collaborations. Joint sessions with organisations including the Dermatological Society of Thailand (DST), the Indonesian Society of Dermatology & Venereology (PERDOSKI), and the Association of Korean Dermatologists (AKD) fostered academic exchange on emerging injectables, pigmentary disorders in Asian skin, and energy-based devices. Cross-specialty collaborations with plastic surgery, facial plastic surgery, ophthalmology, and obesity medicine societies further strengthened integrated education and patient safety initiatives. In parallel with Taiwan’s newly implemented aesthetic medicine regulations, the congress also introduced coordinated continuing education programs across specialties, emphasising professional governance, clinical safety, and standardised training.



Trichology hands on workshop in 2026 AMWC Asia

Improving access to dermatologic health and care for patients with hidradenitis suppurativa in Taiwan

The TDA has prioritised addressing unmet needs in dermatology through the development of national consensus recommendations for hidradenitis suppurativa (HS). After years of continuous advocacy, a major milestone was achieved in 2026 with the approval of National Health Insurance Administration (NHIA) reimbursement for biologic therapy for patients with moderate-to-severe HS in Taiwan. Through guideline development, professional education, and collaboration with health authorities, the TDA continues to promote equitable access to effective dermatologic care and improve the quality of life of patients with HS and other skin diseases in Taiwan.

Enhancing real-world understanding of generalised pustular psoriasis through a multicenter registry

Since 2025, our society has established a registry for patients with generalised pustular psoriasis (GPP). Building upon this foundation, we hope to further collect multicenter real-world data from different hospitals regarding the long-term outcomes of patients treated with spesolimab. By integrating these clinical data, we aim to better understand the long-term effectiveness and disease control achieved with spesolimab in patients with GPP in routine clinical practice.

In addition to evaluating treatment efficacy, this registry will also allow us to longitudinally assess improvements in patients’ quality of life, disease stability, and overall disease burden. We believe that collecting and analysing these real-world data will provide meaningful evidence regarding the long-term management of GPP and contribute significantly to the growing body of real-world evidence for spesolimab treatment.

Advancing shared decision-making for atopic dermatitis and psoriasis through multidisciplinary collaboration

Over the past few years, the TDA has actively collaborated with patient advocacy groups, including atopic dermatitis and psoriasis patient associations, to promote shared decision-making (SDM) in the management of atopic dermatitis and psoriasis.

These SDM programs focus on helping patients better understand and discuss available treatment options, including biologic therapies, small-molecule therapies, phototherapy, and conventional systemic treatments.



Shared-decision making (SDM) activities of TDA

Through comprehensive evaluation frameworks and the development of multiple SDM tools - including educational articles, printed materials, and patient-centered discussion aids - both patients and physicians are able to engage in more meaningful treatment discussions based on individual patient needs, expectations, and lifestyles. In addition, these efforts have helped strengthen physician–patient communication, improve mutual understanding, and enhance overall patient satisfaction. Promoting patient-centered care and shared decision-making has become one of the major ongoing missions of the TDA in recent years.

With a strong focus on education, collaboration, and innovation, the TDA offers a wide array of academic events and training programs designed to keep dermatologists informed of the latest developments in clinical practice and scientific research.

The Japanese Dermatological Association

Building the Next Generation of Global Dermatology Education

Theme: Training and education

https://www.dermatol.or.jp/dermatol/

The Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA), established in 1900, currently represents approximately 13,000 dermatologists across Japan. As dermatology continues to evolve through globalisation, rapidly advancing therapeutics, and growing demands for accessible, high-quality education, the JDA has expanded its efforts to strengthen international collaboration, support the next generation of dermatologists, and contribute to the future development of global dermatology.

Advancing International Collaboration and Global Engagement

International exchange has become one of the JDA's major priorities. The JDA Annual Meeting is held in a hybrid format and features daily English-language sessions designed to promote global participation and scientific exchange. At the 2025 Annual Meeting in Yokohama, the JDA welcomed distinguished guests and speakers from the ILDS and the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV). These sessions provided valuable opportunities to discuss current challenges and future perspectives in global dermatology, including inflammatory skin diseases, leadership development, and international collaboration.



Dermatologists at the 2025 JDA Annual Meeting in Yokohama



The EADV–JDA Joint Session at the EADV Congress in Paris (2025).

The JDA has also continued to strengthen partnerships with international dermatological societies. The first-ever EADV–JDA Joint Session was held at the EADV Congress in Paris in September 2025. Featuring speakers from both societies, the session highlighted the importance of international scientific exchange and collaborative learning in dermatology. This mutual academic exchange will continue in 2026, with EADV sessions planned for the 2026 JDA Annual Meeting in Kyoto, as well as another EADV–JDA Joint Session at the EADV Congress in Vienna, Austria, in October 2026.

In addition, as part of its broader international engagement, JDA representatives, including senior and early-career dermatologists, participated in the 58th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian College of Dermatologists, held in Melbourne in May 2025, further strengthening academic exchange and international collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region.

Supporting the Next Generation of Dermatologists

To further encourage international engagement among younger dermatologists, the JDA recently launched an "International Activities" section on its website. The section introduces global dermatology organisations and features reports from Japanese dermatologists who conducted research abroad through JDA-supported scholarships. These initiatives aim to foster internationally connected future leaders in dermatology and to encourage broader participation in the global dermatology community.



Hands-on training and interactive learning at the 2025 Summer School.

Education and professional development remain central missions of the JDA. Across Japan, the JDA designates approximately 100 core training institutions and several hundred affiliated and associated facilities that provide structured clinical training for dermatology residents and contribute to board certification in collaboration with the Japanese Medical Specialty Board.

The JDA also organises several educational initiatives for early-career dermatologists. The Dermatology Summer School is a popular two-day hybrid seminar for junior residents considering careers in dermatology, offering hands-on training and interactive learning opportunities. The Clinical Dermatology Leadership Seminar further supports young dermatologists preparing for or recently obtaining board certification through lectures, statistics workshops, and practical training sessions. In addition, the JDA eSchool provides supplementary online educational resources, including lectures by leading dermatologists and virtual dermatopathology learning programs, helping to expand access to continuing education opportunities.

Promoting Evidence-Based Care and Public Awareness

The JDA further contributes to evidence-based dermatologic care through publication of The Journal of Dermatology, an international English-language journal established in 1974, and through the development of clinical practice guidelines in both Japanese and English. Public education also remains an important activity, including the "Skin Health Q&A" section on the JDA website, public lectures during annual meetings, and awareness activities conducted for Healthy Skin Day.

Looking Toward the Future of Global Dermatology

Through international collaboration, educational initiatives, and support for early-career dermatologists, the JDA aims to contribute to the future development of dermatology while strengthening international partnerships and promoting the shared advancement of global skin health.

For more information, visit: https://bit.ly/4g3FV7Y

Tunisian Society of Private Dermatologists

The future of dermatology in Tunisia: Threats and opportunities in a rapidly changing healthcare landscape

Association Tunisienne
Des Dermatologistes Libéraux

contact@atdl.com.tn

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

Dermatology in Tunisia is undergoing profound transformation. While artificial intelligence (AI), telemedicine, and aesthetic medicine are reshaping the specialty worldwide, Tunisia continues to face important public health challenges, including healthcare inequalities, infectious diseases, and limited access to specialised care in underserved regions. The future of dermatology in Tunisia will depend on the country's ability to combine innovation with equitable, evidence-based healthcare.

Tunisia's Dermatological Landscape and Access to Care

Tunisian studies have highlighted the country's unique dermatologic landscape. A large epidemiological study analysing 28,244 outpatient consultations in Tunis showed that infectious skin diseases remained highly prevalent, alongside acne, eczema, and sebaceous disorders. Unlike many high-income countries where dermatology is increasingly dominated by aesthetic medicine and skin cancer screening, Tunisian dermatologists continue to manage both infectious and chronic inflammatory conditions. This dual burden reflects persistent socioeconomic disparities and ongoing public health challenges.

The persistence of diseases such as cutaneous tuberculosis further illustrates these realities. Healthcare access also remains uneven. Recent research on migrants and refugees in Tunisia identified administrative, financial and structural barriers to medical care, highlighting inequalities that can delay dermatological diagnosis and treatment.

Digital Innovation and Artificial Intelligence in Dermatology

In this context, teledermatology represents one of the greatest opportunities for the future of Tunisian dermatology. As a highly visual specialty, dermatology is particularly suited to remote consultations, which can improve triage, follow-up, and specialist access in remote areas. A Tunisian teledermatology program implemented in prison healthcare settings demonstrated improved practitioner training and patient management despite limited resources.

Social media and digital communication are also transforming patient behavior. While digital platforms can improve public education, they may also facilitate misinformation regarding depigmenting agents, topical corticosteroids, acne treatment, and unregulated aesthetic procedures. Future dermatologists will therefore need to become reliable digital educators as well as clinicians.

Artificial intelligence is expected to further reshape dermatology in the coming years. AI-assisted diagnostic systems may improve lesion screening and teledermatology efficiency. However, most existing dermatologic AI databases are predominantly based on lighter Western skin phototypes, while North African and Mediterranean skin types remain under-represented. This limitation risks reducing diagnostic accuracy for Tunisian patients and highlights the need for locally relevant research and regional image databases.



The ATDL Team: united by passion, expertise, and a shared commitment to advancing dermatology. Together, we learn, innovate, and inspire as colleagues, as professionals, and as a team

The future of dermatology in Tunisia will also depend on academic training and workforce retention. Research now increasingly encompasses dermoscopy, biologic therapies, lasers, regenerative medicine, and AI. Yet retaining young dermatologists has become a growing challenge as many specialists pursue opportunities abroad, while public hospitals often struggle with limited resources and heavy workloads.

Tunisia also processes unique scientific advantages. Its population represents a remarkable genetic and phenotypic mosaic shaped by Mediterranean, Arab, Amazigh, African, Ottoman, and European influences. This diversity generates a wide spectrum of skin phototypes and dermatologic presentations, creating valuable opportunities for clinical and translational research.

Education, Research, and Tunisia's Regional Potential

The future of dermatology in Tunisia will not be determined solely by technological innovation, but by the country's ability to transform its unique challenges into scientific opportunities. By combining digital health, equitable access to care, strong academic training, and research grounded in the diversity of its population, Tunisia has the potential not only to adopt the future of dermatology, but also to help shape it for Africa and the Mediterranean region.

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Venezuelan Society of Medical, Surgical and Aesthetic Dermatology

Beyond Biologics: Addressing the Unmet Needs in Modern Dermatology

Theme: What Are the Truly Unmet Needs in Dermatology?

Sociedad Venezolana de Dermatología Médica, Quirúrgica y Estética

https://www.svderma.org/

Dermatology is often underestimated as a specialty, yet skin disease is a major cause of non-fatal disability worldwide. Skin disorders do not only produce visible lesions; they also cause pain, itch, sleep disturbance, functional impairment, stigma, and psychological distress. Although biologics and targeted therapies have transformed parts of the field, they have not eliminated its central unmet needs. The most important are earlier diagnosis, fairer therapeutic innovation, better control of symptoms and quality of life, integration of mental health care, improved access to specialists, and stronger workforce capacity.

Key Unmet Needs in Diagnosis, Treatment, and Patient-Centred Care

First, dermatology still needs earlier and more accurate diagnosis. Chronic inflammatory and immune-mediated skin diseases are often underrecognised, especially when they are uncommon, heterogeneous, or confused with other conditions. This is particularly harmful in hidradenitis suppurativa, where delayed diagnosis allows ongoing inflammation to progress to tunnels, scarring, and permanent tissue damage. Early intervention is therefore essential, not only to control symptoms but also to prevent irreversible structural injury. Better recognition pathways, referral systems, and earlier phenotyping are as important as better treatment.

Second, therapeutic progress has been uneven across diseases. Psoriasis and atopic dermatitis have benefited from multiple approved systemic therapies, while other chronic inflammatory skin diseases such as hidradenitis suppurativa, alopecia areata, and vitiligo remain relatively underserved. Even when several agents are available, treatment response is still difficult to predict. For this reason, dermatology needs not only more drugs for neglected diseases but also validated biomarkers that help identify which patients are most likely to benefit from specific treatments. Personalised medicine remains a promising goal, but its practical application is still incomplete.

Third, there is a persistent gap between clinical improvement and lived patient experience. Standard outcome measures often fail to capture the full burden of skin disease, including pain, itch, drainage, odor, fatigue, sleep loss, and embarrassment. This is especially clear in hidradenitis suppurativa, which has a profound effect on daily life and is often associated with misdiagnosis, isolation, and mistrust. Patient-centered studies show that unmet needs extend beyond disease-modifying therapy to symptom relief, prevention of treatment-related adverse effects, mental health support, and practical products for everyday living. These findings suggest that dermatology must define success not only by lesion counts but also by function, relationships, and social participation.

Mental Health, Equity, and the Future of Dermatology

A further unmet need is psychodermatologic care. Because skin diseases are visible, they can lead to stigma, bullying, social withdrawal, and self-stigmatisation. Studies show that stigma is associated with poorer quality of life and depression, particularly in children and adolescents. Reviews also emphasise that psychiatric comorbidity is common in dermatology and that the relationship between inflammatory skin disease and mental health is bidirectional. Routine mental health screening and integrated psychodermatology should therefore become part of standard care rather than secondary considerations.

Finally, equitable access to care remains a fundamental challenge. In resource-limited settings, dermatology is underserved because of shortages of trained clinicians, weak infrastructure, and limited access to diagnostics and medicines. In some regions of sub-Saharan Africa, dermatologist density remains extremely low. Access problems are also present in high-income countries, where disadvantaged populations may face longer waits and fewer available specialists. The future of dermatology therefore depends not only on scientific innovation, but also on workforce development, education, teledermatology, and stronger integration of skin care into primary health systems.

In conclusion, the truly unmet needs in dermatology are multidimensional. Patients need earlier diagnosis, more equitable therapeutic development, better symptom and quality-of-life management, stronger mental health support, and fairer access to dermatologic expertise. Although dermatology has made major scientific progress, its next challenge is to translate innovation into earlier, more personalised, and more humane care for all.

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Yemeni Society of Dermatology and Venereology and Aesthetics

World Vitiligo Day 2026: Scientific Educational Event Report — Sana'a, Yemen

Theme: What are the truly unmet needs in dermatology?

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In conjunction with World Vitiligo Day, the Yemeni Society of Dermatology, Venereology and Aesthetics (YSDVA) successfully organised a scientific educational event on 25 June 2026, bringing together approximately 200 physicians from different regions of Yemen. The attendees included dermatology consultants, specialists, board residents, and postgraduate students, reflecting a broad range of clinical experience and academic backgrounds.



Scientific Day poster for World Vitiligo Day, organised by YSDVA in Sana'a, Yemen, on 25 June



YSDVA President Dr. Mutaia Abuarij delivering the opening address during the World Vitiligo Day event

The event aimed to enhance awareness of vitiligo and provide participants with an update on current concepts in its diagnosis, pathogenesis, and management. The programme also provided an important platform for scientific exchange, discussion, and sharing of clinical experiences among dermatology professionals. Through this initiative, the YSDVA sought to support continuing medical education, encourage evidence-based approaches to vitiligo care, and strengthen collaboration among dermatologists across Yemen.

Scientific Program Highlights

Session 1 - Vitiligo Updates

- **Melanocyte Biology** - Overview of melanocyte function and pigmentation.
- **Vitiligo Pathogenesis and Morphology** - Key mechanisms, clinical features, and patterns of disease.
- **Management and Updates in Treatment** - Current treatment approaches and recent therapeutic advances.

Session 2 – Senior Round & Case Discussions

- Presentation and discussion of six clinical vitiligo-related cases by senior residents and specialists
- Basic Knowledge and the Importance of Dermatopathology – Associate Professor Huang Changzheng



Delegates during the Scientific Day for the World Vitiligo Day in Sana'a, 25 June 2026.

Recognition Ceremony

At the conclusion of the event, the YSDVA presented certificates of appreciation to the speakers, moderators, and members of the organising committee, recognising their valuable contributions and outstanding efforts in ensuring the success of the Scientific Day. The Society also honoured physicians who had successfully passed the Arab and Yemeni Board examinations, celebrating their academic achievements and dedication to professional development. This recognition reflected the YSDVA's commitment to encouraging academic excellence, continuous learning, and professional advancement among dermatology physicians in Yemen.



YSDVA President Dr. Mutaia Abuarij honouring Dr. Hussein Al-Muntaser, one of the distinguished members of the Society, during the World Vitiligo Day in Sana'a, 25 June 2026.

Key Outcomes

1. Enhanced understanding of vitiligo biology, pathogenesis, and modern therapeutic approaches.
2. Strengthened the role of dermatopathology in dermatologic diagnosis and practice.
3. Encouraged scientific discussion through interactive case presentations.
4. Fostered professional networking and collaboration among Yemeni dermatologists.

Conclusion

The event was successfully conducted and demonstrated the Society's ongoing commitment to continuing medical education, scientific excellence, and improved patient care. In addition to discussing recent advances in vitiligo diagnosis and treatment, the event emphasised that vitiligo is a non-contagious disease, highlighted the importance of psychological support and patient well-being, and promoted public awareness to reduce misconceptions and social stigma associated with the condition.

The Society also reaffirmed its commitment to organising regular scientific meetings, educational activities, and awareness campaigns to support both healthcare professionals and patients throughout Yemen.

Yemeni Society of Dermatology and Venereology and Aesthetics

Advancing Dermatology in Yemen Through Psoriasis Awareness, Scientific Collaboration, and Community Engagement

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Theme: Training and education

The Yemeni Society of Dermatology, Venereology and Aesthetics (YSDVA) continues to promote dermatological education, professional development, and public awareness despite the challenges facing Yemen's healthcare system. Through psoriasis awareness initiatives, scientific meetings, community outreach activities, and continuing medical education programmes, the Society has created valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and professional collaboration across the country.

Eight Years of Psoriasis Awareness

Eight years ago, YSDVA launched its first scientific activity to mark World Psoriasis Day, establishing a platform dedicated to education and awareness about psoriasis in Yemen. The initiative aimed to improve understanding of this chronic inflammatory skin disease, highlight advances in diagnosis and treatment, and address misconceptions that affect patients' quality of life.

Since then, World Psoriasis Day activities have become a recurring educational event bringing together dermatologists, trainees, researchers, and healthcare professionals. Through lectures, case discussions, and scientific exchanges, participants review current evidence on psoriasis management, including comorbidities, systemic manifestations, and emerging therapies.

On 29 October 2025, a scientific day was held in the city of Aden to commemorate World Psoriasis Day. The event provided a platform for dermatologists and healthcare professionals to discuss advances in psoriasis diagnosis and management, promote evidence-based practice, and strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration. Live transmission to Sana'a further expanded participation and facilitated wider access to the educational programme.



Participants at the World Psoriasis Day scientific event organised by YSDVA

Over the years, these activities have transformed World Psoriasis Day into a sustainable educational platform that supports professional development, increases public awareness, and strengthens collaboration among dermatologists throughout Yemen.

Continuing Medical Education and Community Outreach

As part of its commitment to continuing medical education, YSDVA organises regular scientific days at training centres under its supervision. These meetings provide opportunities for dermatologists, residents, and trainees to discuss clinical developments, review challenging cases, and maintain continuous professional development.

The Society also supports educational activities at the Dermatology Center in Al-Sabeen Hospital. These include awareness campaigns on skin cancer, scientific events for World Vitiligo Day, and educational programmes addressing common dermatological conditions. Such initiatives help improve public awareness, encourage early diagnosis, and strengthen connections between dermatologists and the communities they serve.



YSDVA President Dr. Mutia Abuarij (center) with distinguished members during one of the Society's scientific activities

Beyond educational activities, YSDVA participates in community medical camps in several regions of Yemen, including Sana'a University, Al-Hodeidah, and Hajjah. Dermatologists and trainees affiliated with the Society provide free consultations, basic treatments, and health education for underserved populations. These camps serve both as community service initiatives and practical training opportunities for young physicians.

The Fourth Yemeni Scientific Conference

A major milestone in the Society's educational efforts was the Fourth Yemeni Scientific Conference of Dermatology, Venereology and Aesthetic Medicine, held on 23–24 July 2025 at the Saudi German Hospital in Sana'a under the motto "Science and Beauty."

The conference represented one of the largest dermatology gatherings in Yemen, attracting more than 400 physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country. It served as a national platform for continuing medical education, scientific exchange, and professional networking.

A total of 38 scientific presentations were delivered by experts from Switzerland, Italy, the United States, India, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Syria. The programme included lectures, clinical case presentations, original research, panel discussions, and practical workshops covering inflammatory dermatoses, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, acne and rosacea, hair disorders, pediatric dermatology, dermoscopy, dermatologic surgery, skin cancer, cutaneous leishmaniasis, aesthetic dermatology, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence in dermatology.

To expand access to scientific education, conference sessions were broadcast live to Taiz, Aden, and Hadramout, enabling dermatologists who were unable to travel to participate in the discussions and benefit from the programme. This approach helped overcome geographical barriers and broaden access to continuing medical education.

The conference also provided opportunities for mentorship and collaboration, allowing young dermatologists to interact with experienced specialists and gain exposure to international perspectives in dermatology.



A view of the audience during the Fourth Yemeni Scientific Conference of Dermatology, Venereology and Aesthetic Medicine, held in Sana'a, Yemen on 23-24 July 2025

Impact and Future Directions

Together, the Society's psoriasis awareness initiatives, scientific days, community medical camps, educational activities, and national conference demonstrate YSDVA's commitment to strengthening dermatology education in Yemen. These programmes have improved access to updated knowledge, encouraged evidence-based practice, and created opportunities for professional engagement across the country.

Looking ahead, YSDVA aims to expand its educational activities, strengthen partnerships with regional and international dermatology organisations, encourage research and mentorship for young dermatologists, and continue promoting public awareness of chronic skin diseases.

Through sustained educational initiatives, scientific collaboration, and community engagement, YSDVA continues to support healthcare professionals and patients alike, contributing to the advancement of dermatologic care and skin health in Yemen.

ILDS IFD Promoting global Community SkinHealth Through education

The ILDS' Community Skin Health (CSH) is a **twice-yearly, free dermatology resource** supporting primary healthcare workers in underserved and low-resource settings. It provides practical, up-to-date information on the **diagnosis** and **treatment** of skin disease, helping to **educate** healthcare workers and the communities they serve.

From 1 August 2026, CSH became a supplement to Clinical and Experimental Dermatology (CED) and is published on the Oxford University Press platform. All articles will remain free to read.

Find out more

ILDS

Thank you

We extend our sincere thanks to all of the ILDS Member organisations who generously contributed to the ILDS Member Initiatives Directory 2026.

Your time, expertise and commitment have helped make this publication a valuable showcase of the **breadth** and **diversity** of our global membership community.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the **collective impact** of ILDS Members.



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