

ILDS Strategic Plan

2024 - 2027



International League
of Dermatological Societies

ILDS Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027

Improving access to care and strive for the best possible Skin Health for the World

About the ILDS

The International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) promotes the improvement of dermatological care, education and research around the world. We provide leadership and support initiatives, projects and policies with global impact for those affected by skin disease.

We bring together 205 Members from more than 100 countries representing over 200,000 dermatology specialists. Our programmes and activities are overseen by the ILDS Board of Directors, comprising of 19 Directors, with three officers; President, Secretary-General and Treasurer. For more information [please visit the ILDS website](#).

President's Vision

Once a new ILDS board is elected every four years, one of its most important priorities is to develop a new strategic plan in consultation with our members and partners. This plan sets our direction for the subsequent four years as we work to deliver our mission of Skin Health for the World. It ensures we harness the latest knowledge and understanding to use our limited resources effectively to create the maximum impact for our members, partners and patients globally.

Following the election of the current board in 2023, we're delighted to present our strategic plan for the period 2024-2027, which we will deliver in collaboration with our colleagues at the International Foundation for Dermatology.

2024-2027: Theme: Improving access to care and strive for the best possible 'Skin Health for the World.'

Our strategic plan for 2020-2023 prioritised the development of partnerships. During those four years, we made significant progress in developing closer working relationships and collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO), patient organisations and a range of other stakeholders. While partnerships remain important, the next four years see us focusing internally as we seek to forge stronger relationships with our member societies. We want to learn what you need to support your communities and explore how we can work together to achieve our shared goal of increasing access to dermatological care.

Running in parallel is our support for the WHO's goal to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030. There is 'No health without Skin health' and this will be the theme of World Skin Health Day 2025.

Vision

To attain the best possible skin health for all people around the world

Mission

To increase awareness, cooperation and communication within the global dermatology community to promote high quality clinical care, education, research and innovation to improve skin health globally.

Core Values

1. **Collaboration** – to work with integrity in accountable partnerships with ILDS Members, other stakeholders and policy-makers
2. **Impact** – to maximise impact by measuring and evaluating progress towards our strategic goals
3. **Communication** – to raise awareness and communicate effectively on the work of ILDS and needs and challenges of dermatologists worldwide
4. **Evidence** – to ensure that our work reflects the evidence-based best knowledge and practices
5. **Leadership** – to identify strategic priorities and commit resources based on realistic assessments of our capabilities

Strategic Areas

To drive forward the objectives to improve skin health, for individuals all over the world, by the ILDS and the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) will work on 3 key areas:

- Advocating for Change: To be the leading voice for accelerating access to dermatological care and enhancing the understanding of skin health in the global health community.
- Connecting as a Community: to engage with ILDS Member Societies, to enable members to connect and build a strong network of partners and allies – including patients' organisations.
- Sharing Knowledge: to improve dermatological care worldwide through better knowledge of skin health via education, training and knowledge exchange.

Advocating for Change

To act as the leading voice for increasing access to dermatological care and influencing policy-makers to prioritise skin health in the global health community.



Promoting dermatology as a priority at the global health policy level and contributing technical expertise to the World Health Organization and United Nations on relevant issues to support delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage agendas



Supporting initiatives to make treatment of skin disease accessible and affordable worldwide



Developing a framework and providing tools to empower regional and national dermatology changemakers to engage with and influence policy makers and governmental agencies/bodies



Increase the participation of ILDS Member Societies and other important stakeholders to all our initiatives, for example during the ILDS World Skin Summit and World Congress of Dermatology



Expand the World Skin Health Day (WSHD) campaign and create annual themes to raise awareness amongst a wide audience, including stakeholders as well as the general public, and bring skin health to the forefront



Strengthening meaningful and systematic engagement and collaboration with patients' organisations and patient leaders to advocate for better global skin health



Launch the ILDS Global Health Policy, providing a guide to develop policies, incorporate research, support registries, create guidelines and utilize digital platforms on skin health issues



Raise awareness of specific regional needs to ensure adequate management of Neglected Tropical Diseases is available in all communities and support dermatology leaders to engage with local policy makers and government officials to implement impactful policies and programmes

Connecting Communities

To engage with ILDS Member Societies, enable members to connect and build a strong network of partners and allies to drive the goals of the ILDS and IFD forward and work towards common goals.



Develop frameworks and opportunities for ILDS Member Societies to engage with the ILDS and provide input to help guide its activities, including:

- Conducting regular member surveys to gain insight into the needs and challenges of members
- Reviewing election procedures to ensure they offer the best opportunity for inclusion of our diverse global membership



Ensure the ILDS reflects its diverse membership



Raise awareness of ILDS and IFD and deliver scientific presentations, highlight strategic initiatives and advocacy campaigns at national and international conferences and meetings



Facilitate partnerships and networks among ILDS Members to create a strong global dermatological community in multiple ways:

- Creating networking opportunities both virtually and in person
- Establishing regional networks of ILDS Member Societies led by the ILDS Regional Directors
- Develop groups/forums on relevant topics or expertise areas
- Improving relationships with regional and national members



Evaluating access to skin health care globally by mapping out the care available per country delivered, distinguishing between certified dermatologists or other healthcare professionals



Creating a framework to support and empower dermatologists to start a national dermatological society in those countries without one.



Connecting leaders in underserved communities to share best practices and support each other



Creating a network of committed senior dermatologists and academics as an expert consulting network for residents and trainees, with a focus on those from under-resourced communities

Sharing Knowledge

To improve global access to quality dermatological care and improve skin health knowledge through education, training and information exchange.



Explore opportunities to develop and facilitate more global educational programmes and events both in-person and online



Support local and regional education and training initiatives to increase knowledge and skills, in particular in low-resource areas, for better prevention and management of skin diseases.



Develop an educational portal for the ILDS and IFD to include:

- brief overviews of the main dermatological diseases as a webinar series
- clinical instruction videos, diagnostic and management tools
- resources on practical skills in business for dermatology leaders as well as trainees and residents



Deliver a successful 26th World Congress of Dermatology in Guadalajara, Mexico including:

- Ensuring the Scientific Programme reflects the diverse demographics of the ILDS, in particular in the selection of Chairs and Co-Chairs
- Increasing the scholarships offered to enable dermatologists from LMIC, LIC as well as under-resourced areas in HMIC and HIC countries
- Creating new interactive formats, using the latest technologies and tools



Provide opportunities for reciprocal learning between medical practitioners, frontline healthcare workers, academics, dermatologists and patients across the globe, such as the GPEC program



Facilitate more networking opportunities with a focus to connect members to share ideas and develop local and regional education and training initiatives to increase capacity and achieve sustainability



Leverage the Grand Challenges in Global Skin Health to foster international collaboration, translate research into practical tools and expand educational initiatives, ensuring equitable access to knowledge and addressing disparities in dermatological research



Develop a framework for establishing a Regional Dermatology Training Center (RDTC), assessing facilities/locations in new regions and initiate the establishment of the second RDTC



Facilitate capacity building initiatives, focussed on clinical networks for regional unmet needs