



ISD *Connection*

The Official Newsletter of the International Society of Dermatology

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Dr. Gail Todd's Mission: Training Nurses in Skin Care in Africa



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IN APPRECIATION

It is customary to acknowledge people who have made your life easier, or have helped you in more ways than one. Whether it be at the end of a project, or a book beginning or middle of a career-term, recognizing the contribution of someone is but a simple way of expressing one's gratitude. It gives both the giver and the recipient of acknowledgment a certain kind of positive feeling, an upbeat sense of happiness and fulfillment.



The ISD leadership has so many individuals to thank. Some are think tanks and provide advice, some serve as appointees to committees, others volunteer to man the ISD booth in meetings, or who simply help set up the registration table during ISD receptions. Without these people, ISD work would not be nearly as much fun and things would not run as smoothly as they do with their involvement.

Two individuals I have to recognize and present to you are the two ladies of our vibrant and colorful newsletter: Dr. Ma. Juliet E. Macarayo (Philippines) and Dr. Esperanza Welsh (Mexico), editor-in-chief and associate editor of the *ISD Connection*, respectively. They live half way across the globe, but they put together our beautiful newsletter that we enjoy reading to know more about the society's activities. They gather and edit news (past ISD activities), worthwhile articles about our members (Members in the News

and Staying Connected sections), interview prospective community dermatology volunteers, and provide announcements of ISD's future regional meetings, Continental Congress and International Congress.

Very briefly and up close, JMac -- as we fondly call Dr. Macarayo -- served as Secretary-General of the Philippine Dermatological Society, was Scientific Committee chair of the very successful 4th Continental Congress of Dermatology in the Philippines last year, and a member of various important groups including the Acne Board of the Philippines. She has co-authored several chapters in international books and, really, writing and editing is her "second" career. Espie, as we call Dr. Welsh, is actually the beautiful daughter of our Board member Dr. Oliver Welsh. She is credited for doing the first Spanish version of our *ISD Connection*. Both are members of the ISD Communications Committee.

I salute both of you. Your dedication and volunteerism are worthy of appreciation. From the heart, thank you.

Salamat!

Evangeline B. Handog, MD
ISD President

XII International Congress of Dermatology

April 18-22, 2017 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sheraton Hotel & Convention Center

Visit Argentina
Las Glaciares National Park

Magnificent natural beauty, it constitutes a wonder in the world, and was declared "World Heritage" by UNESCO in 1981.

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The Big Challenge: Precision Medicine

FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is my true joy to recap one of the most successful regional meetings of the year -- the International Summer Academy in Munich. It was a much-anticipated event and, certainly, exceeded all expectations in scientific excellence, plenary sessions, practical workshops, and not to mention extensive social programs. My personal kudos goes to the meticulously performed presentations by residents and fellows that raised the bar for future meetings. And, as one ISD member stated, "I personally was successful in making contacts with dermatologists from at least 25 countries". (Please see the detailed report in this issue on page 4.)



At the end of the day, the intention of physicians is to provide the best care possible to patients. In order to achieve this, we must be able to access and discuss the latest information, technology and share experiences among peers. That's why the International Society of Dermatology is a global all-inclusive platform for the learning, exchange, collaboration, and most importantly, building personal connections with colleagues throughout the world.

And that's why the ISD Board and Executive Committee work hard to plan our meetings and congresses. In January 2016, our regional meeting will take place in Moshi, Tanzania, in conjunction with the 2nd African Dermatopathology Conference. The center in Tanzania has become an academic pan-African reference centre for the management of skin diseases and dermatological training. The other important duty is the continuation of education of community dermatologists and residents which started in 1992.

ISD's next exciting and most-awaited destination is the United Arab Emirates! The 5th Continental Congress of Dermatology will run in conjunction with the annual Dubai World Dermatology and Laser Conference, April 12-14, 2016.

This meeting promises to be a romp of who's who of dermatology speakers from around the world. The innovative, multi-track platform for the meeting will be implemented. This will allow more expertise to be presented to an audience interested in the many facets of dermatology, including specialties such as medical, pediatric and surgical dermatology. There will be a few sessions where the international scholarship recipients will present their work in medical, surgical and cosmetic dermatology. Given that the meeting has attracted more than 5,000 participants in previous years, this upcoming one looks to be bigger and more exciting with ISD support and active participation.

As your colleague and friend, let me invite you to the vibrant and multicultural city of Dubai to show and share our love of dermatology. I agree and resonate with Hippocrates, "Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of Humanity".

With all my respect to you,

Nellie Konnikov, M.D.

Nellie Konnikov, MD
ISD Secretary-General

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ISD Hosts Sister Society Meeting During 4th Munich International Summer Academy of Practical Dermatology

The ISA2015 took place July 28 - August 1, 2015, in Munich, Germany, attracting 930 participants from 81 countries. The comprehensive scientific program included unique, single-strand plenary sessions containing highly rated keynote lectures covering all aspects of dermatology.

ISD members attending the meeting convened for the educational and fun-filled ISD Sister Society Meeting with the theme “Pearls from Around the World”. Hosted by ISD Executive Committee members Drs. Evangeline Handog (Philippines), Nellie Konnikov (US/Russia) and George Reizner (US), the informative program included the following presentations from ISD leadership and five ISD scholarship recipients:

George Reizner, MD -- “Advances in Melanoma”

Nellie Konnikov, MD -- “Pearls of Procedural Dermatology”

Evangeline Handog, MD -- “Cosmetic Dermatology: Cosmeceuticals - What Works Best?”

Marion Odette Alonzo, MD (Philippines) -- “Hansen’s Disease in the Rural Setting”

Bashir Ahmad Barakzaie, MD (Afghanistan) -- “SJS/TEN Cases Due to Oral-Paracetamol During September-November 2014”

Casia Gomes, MD (Brazil) -- “Entodermoscopy: Dermoscopic Findings in 10 Presentations of Unusual Leprosy”

Kateryna Karpenko, MD (Ukraine) -- “Treatment of Stable Segmental Vitiligo with Combination of UVB and Cell Technologies”

Qing Yang, MD, PhD (China) -- “Psoriatic Arthritis in China”

As a way to introduce young dermatologists to the many benefits of ISD membership, the ISD conducted a first-of-its-kind lottery during the meeting that awarded 10 one-year ISD memberships. Dr. Konnikov conducted the raffle and complimentary ISD memberships were bestowed to the following 10 dermatologists:

- **Sandra Kopp (US)**
- **Cassia Maria Gomez dos Santos (Brazil)**
- **Evelyn Lina Nainggolan (Indonesia)**
- **Marion Odette B Alonzo (Philippines)**
- **Kateryna Karpenko (Ukraine)**
- **Saragnal Rishu (India)**
- **Lakshmi Bhuvaneshwar (India)**
- **Bashir Ahmad Barakzaie (Afghanistan)**
- **Brikena Bezati (Albania)**

ISD members enjoyed the chance to spend quality time with their colleagues and friends from around the world, all the while taking part in the meeting’s many educational offerings and Munich’s rich cultural attractions.



From left to right: Drs. Evangeline Handog (Philippines), George Reizner (US), Nellie Konnikov (US/Russia) and Mohammad Rafiqul Mowla (Bangladesh)



Female Skin Session faculty members (from left to right): Drs. Jakki Junkins Hopkins (US), Wendy Roberts (US), Thomas Ruzicka (Germany), Dedee Murrell (Australia/UK), Martin Kassir (US), and Rashmi Sarkar (India)



ISD scholars and members gather with the ISD Executive Committee, representing the countries of Indonesia, China, Brazil, Mexico, US, Philippines, India, and Ukraine.



Dr. Martin Kassir (US) presenting on “Maintaining the Best Face” in the Female Skin Session



Attendees of the Female Skin Session



From left to right: Drs. Jorge Ocampo Candiani (Mexico), Dedee Murrell (Australia/UK), Shyam Verma (India) and Marina Landau (Israel)



New ISD member applicants from Ukraine (far left and far right) discuss the benefits of membership with ISD Treasurer Dr. George Reizner (second from left) and ISD Secretary-General Dr. Nellie Konnikov (second from right).



From left to right: Dr. Dagmar Whitaker (Cape Town), President of the Dermatology Society of South Africa; and Dr. Evangeline Handog (Philippines), President of the ISD



From left to right: Shyam Verma (India) and Dr. Nellie Konnikov (US/Russia)



From left to right: Drs. Dedee Murrell (Australia/UK), Michael Meurer (Germany), Luitgard Weist (Germany) and Martin Kassir (US)



Innovative Training Program Gives Nurses the Tools to Provide Dermatologic Care to Those in Need in Sub-Saharan Africa

An interview with ISD Member Prof. Gail Todd, who initiated and planned the course, and Pat Kelly, CPN, co-coordinator/convener/tutor of the Regional Dermatology Nursing Program in Sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

The Community Dermatology project you started, “Nurses provide skin care for all”, recognized the need for dermatologic care in sub-Saharan Africa. Describe how training nurses in dermatology is helping people in this region who otherwise would not have access to skin care.

Because of poverty, overcrowding and lack of access to safe water, skin diseases are prevalent in the developing world. There is a lack of health care resources and few appropriately trained professionals to treat and manage skin diseases. Since 1997, the development of the dermatology nursing training course has empowered nurses working in primary care clinics, particularly in rural areas, to diagnose and treat common skin diseases. They are also aware of who needs to be referred for specialist attention.

On completion of the course, these graduates return to their areas of work and establish a day care clinic in their communities. These community-placed dermatology nurse practitioners provide an excellent service while maintaining contact with tertiary services. In some rural areas, nurses have no access to dermatologists and have to work alone.

What were some of the hurdles you faced in setting up this program?

One obstacle we faced was the historical prejudice around skin disease and the need for skin care. In the beginning, educators and administrators were reluctant to support and finance the program, and getting nursing managers to appreciate the need for skin care in the communities and to release staff for training presented a challenge.

How did you overcome these obstacles?

Passionate desire, determination, persistence and never taking no for an answer! We provided statistics and data to support the needs burden and justify the program, and all levels of health care workers were included in our planning. We made regular presentations to senior health care nursing managers showcasing our achievements, and we encouraged multi-level support with cooperation and buy-in from government, communities and those affected by skin disease. In the end, funding was obtained independently of government and educational structures. We included modules that expanded the course beyond skin disease, such as leprosy (was recommended by LEPRA) and wound/ulcer management.

How is this regional project funded?

Initially, funding was a major stumbling block and all teaching was voluntary, but we sought independent funds from Rotary International (Rotary Road to Skin Health) and unconditional grants from industry for textbooks and bursaries. With documentation of achievements, committed financial support has been made available from the University for the salary of the nurse co-coordinator and bursaries. We hope fees paid by students for the course will allow it to become self-sustaining.

How many nurses have you trained over the years?

To date, 157 nurses have trained from throughout South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Niger.

What are some of the greatest needs in dermatologic care for the people of this region?

Having access to health personnel with dermatological expertise in their communities is sorely needed, as is having appropriate treatment available in their community health clinics. Even access to things as simple as facilities offering showers with hot running water are lacking.



South African dermatology nurse practitioners presenting their work at the ISD's 3rd Continental Congress of Dermatology in Durban, South Africa

Describe a few of the recent developments of this nursing program.

Nurse-run day care dermatology units have been opened in key areas and provide reliable, appropriate, affordable and accessible care to patients with skin disorders in the communities. Community-based care means huge savings for patients, as travel costs and the need for whole days off work are reduced. Increased awareness of skin diseases, their relevance and appropriate treatment required has spread amongst other health care workers in the community centres involved. In addition, diagnosis of common skin diseases and their management improve the selection of patients for referral to tertiary care, thus reducing costs and overcrowding of facilities at hospital level.

Are there any plans to replicate the project in other areas of South Africa?

Kwazulu-Natal Province has expressed an interest, as well as Moshi, Tanzania, and Malawi.

Recently you participated in a two-week tour of India with ISD Community Dermatology Chair Prof. Terence Ryan (UK). Was it beneficial to see firsthand how Community Dermatology programs are helping those in greatest need in India? Can you describe a few observations?

It was very insightful to see how so much can be done with few resources. The entire experience was inspiring and uplifting and provided many new ideas to use for growing our nursing service, even though it was a brief visit. The Community Dermatology Diploma certainly needs replication globally. The incredible community impact and value of integrated medicine with the active involvement of all levels of healthcare, including conventional medicine, Aruvedic medicine, yoga, massage, psychosocial practitioners and patients, was a revelation. Especially valuable was the appreciation of patients as equal partners in the evaluation of a lymphoedema program in order to make the program more patient friendly. This equal partnership underpins true community dermatology.



Dermatology nurse practitioner assisting a patient with psoriasis and explaining a topical treatment to him

How would you advise fellow ISD members who may be interested in either initiating a Community Dermatology program in their country or volunteering in some way to provide dermatologic care at home or abroad?

Consider what has been done internationally and what would best suit your chosen community and country, and be sure to discuss options widely with government, managers and patients to define needs and feasibility. Do not take no for an answer but find like-minded collaborators to make the project a reality. Adapt aims as the opportunities or hurdles present themselves relative to what is offered in your community and combine aspects of different programs so that managers are not inundated with a series of specialist services at community level but generalists with special interests. Always build local expertise and independence as no service should ever be dependent on one person/group.



Pat Kelly (left) and Prof. Gail Todd (right) at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University in Moshi, Tanzania

Behind the Scenes: Getting to Know ISD Board Members

Despite busy professional and personal lives, members of the ISD Board of Directors spend a significant amount of time working to improve the quality of all the benefits the Society offers its members. Whether its enhancing the ISD website with more user-friendly tools or expanding the reach of its top-notch educational programs in all corners of the world, ISD Board Members play a vital role in nearly all aspects of ISD.

Here, meet two ISD Board Members who have been heavily involved in ISD committees and programs over the years -- Dr. Martin Kassir (US) and Dr. Antonella Tosti (US/Italy).

Dr. Kassir, your interest in dermatology focuses on aesthetic and laser procedures. What inspired you to do so?

MK: I have always loved 3 dimensional thinking and the laws of physics. Aesthetics and laser procedures are a fusion of these principles. Imagining and planning for what happens under the skin with light energy, toxins, fillers, and other aesthetic procedures is both challenging and fun; mixing in different ages and skin types makes it even more interesting. The best inspiration comes from the final result which brings a smile to the patient's face.

Being busy and successful in your practice, what makes up most of your day?

MK: When I am in Dallas, most of my day is typically patient care, most of which consists of lasers and needling procedures. We also have a Laser School, Worldwide Laser Institute, for which we are always planning the next course or event.

How do you juggle life, family and work?

MK: I have to be extremely organized and I have wonderful people helping me. My travel schedule for the Laser School and for Conferences all over the world is usually very hectic; just managing that part is a full-time job. As an example, I just returned from a trip during which I lectured in conferences in New Delhi and Cannes, and was the Best Man at my brother's wedding in New York!

With your involvement in different organizations, you have devoted much of your time to ISD. What makes ISD a Society to get involved in?

MK: ISD is the most truly international organization, but it's the people that really make it special. I am also quite privileged to be involved in the Mentorship Committee, which affords me the opportunity to help young dermatologists worldwide. I have friends in every country who are as dedicated and committed to global dermatology as I am. The ISD seems to be the perfect gathering point for all of us!

The ISD Mentorship Committee is so close to your heart. What motivates you to be a mentor to these aspiring dermatologists?

MK: The history of the Mentorship Committee and the mentors I have worked with make it truly special. I really need no motivation to help young aspiring dermatologists from all



Dr. Martin Kassir

over the world as this represents a passion of mine; however, witnessing the hope of these young dermatologists turn into reality is very inspiring. Arriving in New Delhi at 3 a.m. and having 3 former mentees turn up at the airport to pick me up is one of the true special experiences of my career. Observing the progress of these young dermatologists is truly inspiring.

ISD has grown to gather the best dermatologists around the world. How can you encourage each one to give their best to ISD?

MK: I can only relate my own satisfaction and gratification from serving in the ISD and the global dermatological community. We are all very fortunate to be dermatologists, and we should all give back to our specialty. ISD serves as the best platform for service to worldwide dermatology.

For young aspiring dermatologists, what does ISD offer them?

MK: Our Mentorship Program is the best tool ISD has to offer. Also, we have our ISD Congress every 4 years (next one in Buenos Aires in 2017), our Continental Congresses, and, of course, Membership which affords exposure to our worldwide membership.

If you were not a dermatologist, what would you be doing?

MK: I would definitely be a history professor and writing travel books!

Dr. Tosti, what called you to be a dermatologist?

AT: My father was a dermatologist, and this is probably why I chose our specialty. After many years, I would definitely take the same choice.

Why did you decide on hair as your main area of expertise?

AT: I met Bill Montagna when I was a university student and became interested in hair biology very early in my life. I always say that I learned by myself how to diagnose and treat the disorders, but I had the best hair biology teacher in the world.

What do you enjoy the most of your daily work?

AT: Teaching residents and interacting with patients.

How do you balance work and your job and kids?



Dr. Antonella Tosti

AT: I have a very good balance now. I always have dinner with my family and weekends and vacation days are dedicated to them!

What do you like the most to research about?

AT: New treatments and diagnostic tools. Scalp and nail dermoscopy was my main interest in the last few years.

What advice would you give to young dermatologists from around the world?

AT: The only way to learn is to study. Every day I still study a topic that I am supposed to be a world expert of!

How is your practice different from what you did in Italy, as what you do now at the University of Miami?

AT: I still work in Italy -- 2 weeks every 3 months -- as I kept my practice there. System is different, medications are different, it helps keeping me updated.

As a leader in your field what do you need to do to be on top of the game?

AT: The secret is to keep asking yourself questions and look for possible answers.

What other things do you enjoy doing besides dermatology?

AT: My family, traveling, good friends, my dog and my husband's great cooking.

How has the International Society of Dermatology impacted your career?

AT: The Society helped me to make some of my best friends, and I love to mentor young dermatologists from around the world.

ISD Membership Reflects New Global Trend

The 21st century ushered in a new membership dynamic that reflects the growing economic strength of Asia, led by China and India. The charts below illustrate the increase in membership led by the Philippines, India and China, which moved the percentage of Asian members from 12 percent in 1998 to 43 percent in 2015.

“The ISD has definitely been more active in Asia over the past 20 years,” noted Dr. Thomas Ruzicka (Germany), chair of the ISD Membership Committee. “Two of our last three International Congresses of Dermatology have been held in Asia (China and India), a very successful Continental Congress of Dermatology in the Philippines and many Regional Meetings.”

The reverse trend, however, was true for North America (Canada and the US), which dropped to 23 percent in 2015 from 44 percent in 1998. The US still has the highest total number of members at 314, but the Philippines is close behind at 241 members. Western Europe decreased to 7 percent from 15 percent, while Eastern European membership -- while still small -- increased from one percent to three percent.

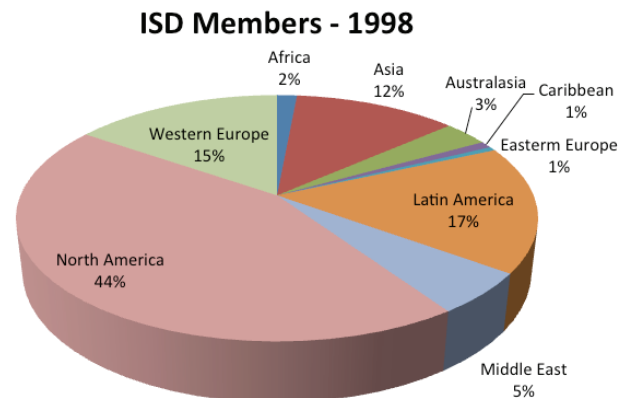
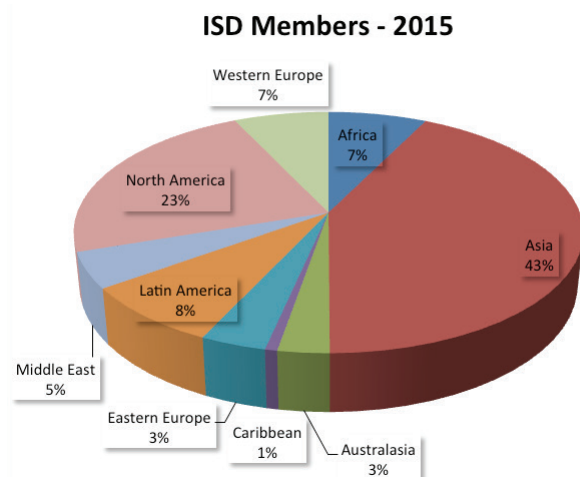
Latin American membership has, as a percentage of total membership, also decreased from 17 percent of the membership in 1998 to 8 percent in 2015.

Africa, which was barely two percent in 1998, has increased to 7 percent in 2015, led by Nigeria with 33 members in 2015 compared to two members in 1998. The newly formed African Society of Dermatology & Venereology is one more indication that African dermatology is on the rise.

The change in ISD demographics signals new challenges and opportunities for ISD to continue its mission to open new channels for the exchange of information, experiences and cooperation in dermatology.

Table 1: Based on a total of 1,502 members on January 1, 2015

Table 2: Based on ISD membership data of 1,356 members in 1998



ISD Mentorship Program Thrives, Thanks to Committed Mentors!

A Month in Munich Gives Young Dermatologist Experience to Last a Lifetime

During her month-long training at the Ludwig-Maximilian University Klinikum of Dermatologie and Allergologie in Munich, Germany, ISD mentorship awardee Dr. Anne Marie Alcantara-Gamboa (Philippines) was eager to learn and absorb everything she could at this well-known teaching institution. Her mentor was Prof. Thomas Ruzicka (Germany), who was very willing to share his knowledge and expertise with this bright, young dermatologist.

Having the chance to see cases which were not very common in Asia and in her own practice in the Philippines, such as acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans and melanoma, was an incredible opportunity. She also observed alternative treatments for psoriasis and lichen planus, which she noted provided excellent results that she hopes to replicate at home.

"During my stay, I met several colleagues from other nations that were there to train and learn just like me. We have developed a friendship that we will all take with us when we go our separate ways. We share our knowledge with each other, and I was able to learn from them."

-- Dr. Anne Marie Alcantara-Gamboa

Since the hospital has several subspecialty departments that she could rotate in, Dr. Alcantara-Gamboa relished being able to experience all of them given her limited time. She found the state-of-the-art laboratory and other work-up techniques to be a great benefit to the patients and the dermatologist. Access to up-to-date therapeutic regimens was one of the best things, which she plans to try in the Philippines.

On her last few days in Munich, Dr. Alcantara-Gamboa attended the 4th Munich International Summer Academy of Practical Dermatology and was able to supplement her knowledge by learning various suturing techniques at the surgical dermatology course.



Dr. Alcantara-Gamboa (left) with mentor Prof. Thomas Ruzicka (right)

ISD Mentorship in U.S. Focuses on Treating Ethnic Patients with Latest Cosmetic Procedures

Working with mentor Dr. Martin Kassir (US) at his aesthetic dermatology and laser practice in Dallas, Texas, ISD mentorship awardee Dr. Shilpa Garg (India) had the unmatched opportunity to learn a variety of aesthetic procedures.

While Dr. Kassir taught her the techniques of giving botulinum toxin injection and a variety of fillers for different areas of the face, he also explained the art of assessing each patient individually through knowledge of anatomy and muscle strength -- which varies from individual to individual. This insight would prove to be invaluable, as Dr. Garg noted it has helped her in assessing her own patients better and decreasing the chances of side effects.

Since Dr. Kassir has patients of all ethnicities, he has an in-depth knowledge of how a patient's ethnic background impacts their treatment outcomes. Dr. Garg found this to be especially true while using lasers and of special significance to her, as her practice in India sees patients with Fitzpatrick skin types III-VI. Careful consideration must be made when choosing the right parameters for laser treatment in skin of color, and Dr. Kassir's in-depth knowledge in this area has helped Dr. Garg in providing safe and effective laser treatment for her own patients in India.

"On a personal level, Dr. Kassir is wonderful, warm, kind, full of life and a very interesting person who always keeps the atmosphere light, even when he is teaching you. He has an in-depth knowledge of his subject and is always willing to impart it to you."

-- Dr. Shilpa Garg

In addition to learning the use of radiofrequency and Dermafrac for collagen remodeling and anti-aging treatments, she also learned how to counsel patients who might insist on a certain cosmetic procedure -- particularly when the treatment is not indicated for this procedure.

Dr. Garg was impressed by how well Dr. Kassir educated and counseled his patients regarding their treatment and answered all their questions with patience. She found the same to be true when Dr. Kassir was teaching her about a procedure -- he always welcomed her questions without hesitation.



Dr. Shilpa Garg (left) with mentor Dr. Martin Kassir (right)

Local Mentorship Opportunity Strikes the Right Balance for Busy Dermatologist

Since missing out on the opportunity to work as an observer under a renowned cosmetic dermatologist immediately after her post-graduation, ISD mentorship awardee Dr. Resham Vasani (India) jumped at the chance to fulfill her wish through the ISD mentorship program.

The two-week mentorship gave her the flexibility to train in Mumbai with mentor Dr. Rekha Sheth (India) in the morning and afternoon during Dr. Vasani's summer vacation, allowing her the convenience of seeing her two-year-old son in the evenings.

“Dr. Rekha Sheth's ever-smiling face, the polite and understanding demeanor, and the capability to answer every small query very patiently, highly impressed me. I believe this doctor/patient relationship that I witnessed is worth emulating.”

-- Dr. Resham Vasani

Having always worked in clinical dermatology throughout her post graduation and serving as an assistant professor at K J Somaiya Medical College for five years, Dr. Vasani wanted to learn the basics of cosmetic dermatology. Throughout the two weeks of the mentorship program, Dr. Vasani had the opportunity to personally observe the regular activities of Dr. Sheth's two clinics. There, she gained a better understanding of the need for an in-depth clinical history and examination of a patient, coupled with meticulous record keeping. This experience

provided Dr. Vasani with her first exposure to a medical record keeping software and learned its importance and utility in daily clinical practice.

Dr. Vasani was guided by Dr. Sheth regarding how she should start performing cosmetic procedures, which machines she should purchase, and which books she should read. The training allowed her to observe procedures such as Botox, fillers, intense pulsed light, Q Switched Nd Yag Laser, Diode laser for hair reduction, microdermabrasion, electrofulguration, chemical peels, Dermaroller and Mesotherapy for hair.

In addition, Dr. Vasani also learned the correct approach to evaluating common conditions in clinical practice, including acne and androgenetic alopecia. She also learned to see the subtle signs of polycystic ovarian disease and rosacea, which could be easily missed otherwise. Dr. Vasani appreciated the opportunity to learn from Dr. Sheth and will surely use these new skills and insights throughout her career in dermatology.



Dr. Resham Vasani



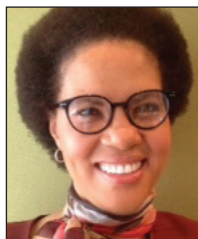
Dr. Rekha Sheth

The ISD proudly recognizes members who are accomplishing great things and fulfilling the mission of the ISD. Congratulations to all! Here's a sampling of a few recent notables:

Three ISD members recently were appointed interim officers of the newly formed African Association of Dermatology and Venereology (ASDV). They include **Dr. Adebola Ogunbiyi**, Vice President (Nigeria), **Dr. Ncoza Dlova**, Treasurer (South Africa), and **Dr. Nejjib Doss**, Representative (Tunisia). The meeting of the ASDV and election of interim officers took place at the recent World Congress of Dermatology in Vancouver in June.



Dr. Adebola Ogunbiyi



Dr. Ncoza Dlova



Dr. Nejjib Doss

ISD member **Dr. Elizabeth Bahar Houshmand** (US) has been selected as an official mentor to share pearls for a new mentorship resource for dermatology residents -- www.dermmentors.org.



Dr. Elizabeth Bahar Houshmand

ISD Treasurer **Dr. George Reizner** (US) delivered the Ganesapillai Memorial Lecturer on new options for melanoma treatment at the 40th Annual Dermatology Conference of the Persatuan Dermatologi Malaysia (PDM) held in September 2015 in Ipoh, Malaysia.



PDM President Dr. Henry Foong Boon Bee (left) and Dr. George Reizner (right)



Dr. Aisha Sethi (US) Puts Feelings into Words on Current Refugee Crisis

An original writing submitted by former ISD Connection Editor Dr. Aisha Sethi (US), asethi@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu



Dr. Aisha Sethi

The photograph of the dead Syrian toddler on the Turkish beach recently aroused a worldwide outcry to deal with the refugee crisis and upheaval in Syria. It is important to remember what factors lead to the mass migration of populations from their native land. Those on the receiving end may also sometimes struggle to come to terms with accepting populations culturally and ethnically different from them.

There are no easy solutions but sometimes writing, painting or singing about one's feelings help to get the message across. I wrote this poem after seeing the photo of the poor sweet innocent Syrian boy – he is gone too soon. We in dermatology hopefully can act as a community to help these neglected people and volunteer our efforts to provide dermatologic care to these special populations.

The land and the sea

My land behind me
 A sea before me
 What awaits me?
 What is my fate?
 Is unknown, is not known
 A mass of people moving through the dark night
 The sea is stormy, the moon is still
 My soul is screaming, but my lips are still
 I just move with the masses
 Leaving behind a land I love
 Leaving behind memories afloat
 I venture where? I don't know
 Who will take me? Who will take us?
 Women, children with me in the boat
 Is this the childhood they will remember
 Dark nights, tears of fear, death despair
 Who is to say what in this world is fair?
 Is faith the cause of this chaos my friend?
 Is faith the reason I am on this bend?
 Does faith not teach us to love thy neighbor
 Does faith not teach us to heal each other
 Faith has been lost, or maybe lost is our faith
 That has come to driving people from their land away
 Dark souls that now inhabit my land
 Dark warriors that claim the desert sand
 They are faithless for sure
 But how strongly they tout their flags
 Ashamed am I of such men who brag
 That theirs is the right way to live
 But die in error for sure they will
 I see land before me now
 I see hope before me now
 But what I left behind you must know
 The dark army behind me must now go
 The land and people before me are unsure
 How to greet me and how to do more
 A warning to humanity, the stark sound of this alarm
 As I hold this drowned lifeless child in my arm
 See his innocent face, his clothes, his small face
 He looks like he's sleeping but he died what a disgrace
 Remember this innocent image as you doubt
 That your faith does not teach this, yes SHOUT!
 Where is humanity when your soil rejects me
 Where is humanity when your country dejects me
 Refugee my name, freedom my cry
 Save me now, please don't let me die

2016 Meetings Calendar

2016

January 2016

January 11-12, 2016
2nd African Dermatopathology Conference*
 Moshi, Tanzania
 Contact: helmut.beltraminelli@insel.ch

March 2016

March 7, 2016
ISD Member Reception at the AAD
 Washington, DC USA

April 2016

April 12-14, 2016
5th Continental Congress of Dermatology & Dubai Derma 2016
 Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 Contact: mark.anthony@index.ae
 Web Site: www.dubaiderma.com

April 15-17, 2016
International Congress of Dermatology, Cosmetic & Laser
 Tehran, Iran
 Contact: dowlatiy@yahoo.com
 Web Site: <http://crtSDL.tums.ac.ir>

July 2016

July 28, 2016
Ethiopian Dermatology and Venereology Society* 4th Annual Scientific Conference
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 Contact: edvsociety@gmail.com

August 2016

August 11-14, 2016
International Congress of Tropical Dermatology*
 Colombo, Sri Lanka
 Web Site: www.ictd2016.org

SAVE THE DATE!

April 18-22, 2017
XII International Congress of Dermatology
 Sheraton Hotel & Convention Center

Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Contact: icdbue2017@anajuan.com
 For more information:
<http://icdbue2017.com.ar/>
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International Society of Dermatology

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E-mail _____ Birthdate _____
(Month/Day/Year)

Scientific Degree (e.g., M.D., M.B.B.S., Ph.D., M.S., B.S., etc.) _____ Gender: Male Female

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_____ **Regular Member** US \$125.00
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_____ **E-Member** US \$45.00
This is a new category of membership, which is available to members living and practicing in a Group A or Group B country as defined by WHO and the World Bank.* Available to those who are eligible, e-members will receive only electronic access to the *International Journal of Dermatology* and all correspondence will be electronic. (If you are a current member wishing to switch to this level, you need to contact the ISD office in order to change your membership status)
*A complete list of those countries can be found at <http://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/>.

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