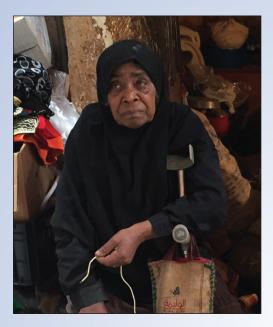


# ISD Connection

The Official Newsletter of the International Society of Dermatology Vol. 10, No. 2 • Summer 2016

# ISD Member Dr. Aldo Morrone Aids Refugees in Lebanon









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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## ACCEPTING CHALLENGES IS ISD'S STRENGTH

2016 is a very busy year for the International Society of Dermatology (ISD).

The recently concluded 5th Continental Congress of Dermatology in Dubai was a huge achievement for the ISD (*see story on page 4*). The organizers, spearheaded by the

ALCON IN

father and son tandem Drs. Ibrahim and Hassan Galadari made sure that no stone would be left unturned to guarantee success.

Six regional meetings were recommended by the Regional Meetings Committee chaired by Dr. Percy Naidu and approved by the Executive Committee for 2016: India, Iran, China, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka. Each sponsoring country-organization is very unique and excited to share their experiences and traditions with the world. The awareness of our members for unique scientific programs is capped by very tempting cultural exchanges.

ISD will join the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology's 2016 annual meeting in Vienna, Austria, late September in a special ISD Session being organized by Prof. Lawrence Gibson, Chair of the Education Committee. The program will be available on our website soon.

The XII International Congress of Dermatology (ICD) will take place in beautiful Buenos Aires in less than a year (April 18-22, 2017). Again, father and son tandem Drs. Ricardo and Gaston Galimberti joined forces to make ICD a phenomenal success. The scientific program is almost ready, so please save the date, check out the early registration deadlines and prepare to enjoy the ICD in Argentina!

The Nominating Committee (NC), which takes care of accepting applications for elective positions, is moving in a timely fashion to prepare the slate of our next leaders. Application eligibility and confirmation will be done in the coming months and then reviewed.

I would like to warmly greet with much appreciation the new corporate members from the Philippines. They support the mission and goals of ISD. Gold members: Galderma Philippines and D'Mark Corporation. Silver members: Beauchamps Pharmacy, Brady, and Eiskin. We thank you very much in believing in ISD.

Ideas become concrete pieces of action. ISD welcomes suggestions and proposals; we are ready to act on them with gusto.

MABUHAY!

Eurangine B. Handeg

Evangeline B. Handog, MD ISD President

ISD welcomes and thanks our new corporate members!

**Gold members:** Galderma Philippines, D'Mark Corporation **Silver members:** Beauchamps Pharmacy, Brady, Eiskin



The early registration deadline for the XII ICD in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is August 29, 2016. Register now at www.icd2017.com.ar



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#### FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I have always dreamed of a strong bond with the world community of Dermatologists. No matter how many national and regional meetings I've attended, I constantly feel motivated to inspire all-inclusive connections between colleagues and encourage new friends to join our International Society



of Dermatology. That being said, the most important objective of ISD leadership while co-sponsoring, participating, or attending international meetings, is to maintain the state-of-the-art scientific programs and share up-to-date knowledge in research and clinical practice.

As was mentioned by ISD President Evangeline Handog, in just one year, our members participated in regional meetings in India, Iran, China, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka. In addition, I need to mention with great pride and excitement that the first exploratory meeting with the Cuban Dermatological Society in Havana, Cuba, took place this past March (see story page 15).

But, so far, the hallmark of the year was ISD's 5th Continental Congress of Dermatology held in conjunction with the 16th Annual Dubai Dermatology and Laser Meeting (Dubai Derma) held in the UAE this April. The detailed report in the newsletter (page 4) about the meeting gives you only a glimpse of the quality and reach of this international congress -- with almost all continents represented there. Only by being in Dubai can one appreciate the endless

potential for collaboration and the generosity of Emirati hospitality.

As a representative of the ISD Executive Board, I've just returned from the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Chinese Society of Dermatology that took place in the beautiful seaside city of Xiamen. Almost 3,000 dermatologists, researchers, and medical students attended three days of non-stop educational activities. The wholeday ISD session was well organized and chaired by Prof. Xing-Hua Gao. It was not the first time that an ISD-sponsored session had standing room only, but what was remarkable was that more than 150 attendees stayed for all four sub-sessions from 10 am until 6:30 in the evening. All in all, there were 23 presentations by young dermatologists in addition to formal lectures by Professors Thomas Ruzicka, myself, and Jouni Uitto. Scientific sessions and social networking, among other reasons, motivated 35 dermatologists to submit applications for ISD membership.

So far, the first six months of 2016 were filled with excellent meetings and new initiatives to make our society reach out to all corners of the world. Please, let us know what role you personally envision for yourself within the global community of ISD in the future.

With my warmest regards,

Nelli Koucker, M.D.

Nellie Konnikov, MD ISD Secretary-General

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

The ISD mourns the loss of a treasured friend and colleague with the passing of **Dr. Sergio Chimenti** (Italy) on February 27, 2016, at the age of 66.

A longstanding member of the ISD, Dr. Chimenti regularly attended the many dermatological conferences sponsored by the ISD and its sister societies around the world.

During the 23rd World Congress of Dermatology (WCD) last June in Vancouver, Dr. Chimenti was elected to serve as president of the 24th WCD to be held in Milan, Italy, in 2019. Dr. Chimenti worked tirelessly to bring this Congress to his beloved Italy.

Widely regarded for his scientific research in the field of cutaneous lymphoma and melanoma, Dr. Chimenti served as a distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Rome.



Dr. Sergio Chimenti at the World Congress of Dermatology in Vancouver, June 2015

We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Chimenti's family and friends. He will be dearly missed.

"Everyone in our scientific community knows the unrivaled academic achievements of Professor Sergio Chimenti. Not all though are aware of his extraordinary generosity, his talent as an actor and singer, his outstanding love for his family and pupils, and the never-ending passion for his beloved soccer team, the glorious Roma!

He confessed once that he could be the only possible recipient of both the Nobel prize for Medicine and the Oscar Award as best actor. Sergio was simultaneously a visionary scientist, an illuminated physician and an excellent artist. All awards could easily have been offered to him, with such an amazing multifaceted and charismatic personality. This was Professor Chimenti, this was Sergio.

I had the unique chance to spend a couple of hours tête à tête with Sergio in the Renaissance Hotel in Zurich, just days before the beginning of his unexpected agony. Still, I feel blessed with this inspiring and extraordinary meeting, full of touching memories and emotionally unforgettable. Sergio will be forever in my heart and in the hearts of all those who met him. His thoughts and his science will illuminate the present and the future of our discipline. Un abbraccio affettuoso."

-- Dr. Torello Lotti (Italy)

### 5th CCD in Dubai Provides Rich Cultural and Educational Experience

The International Society of Dermatology's (ISD) 5th Continental Congress of Dermatology (CCD) was held April 11-13, 2016, in the city of Dubai. The congress was held in conjunction with the 16th annual Dubai Dermatology and Laser Meeting and Exhibition (Dubai Derma), an annual event supported by the Arab Academy of Dermatology and Aesthetics (AADA), the GCC League of Dermatology and the Pan Arab League of Dermatology. This was the first time the CCD was held in the Middle East, calling the beautiful towering skyline and desert scape of Dubai its home for three days.

The meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Humaid al Qutami, Chairman of the Board and Director General of the Dubai Health Authority. True to its ISD roots, the CCD commenced with the Maria Duran Lecturer Prof. Brigitte Dreno (France) doing the honors, discussing the latest advancements in acne pathogenesis and treatment.

For the first time in its 16 years, the meeting offered three categories of scientific sessions, encompassing a wide reach of the specialty: from medical and general, cosmetic and surgical, and the pediatric population. Speakers from over 70 countries gave presentations to an eclectic audience from 100 countries, making this meeting literally a continental one with almost all continents represented.

Given its central location and ease of travel, Dubai allowed many participants to fly in seamlessly. Africa was very well represented by a large delegate from Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. India and the Philippines were the largest countries that represented Asia. ISD scholarship winners were also acknowledged in a session on the third day. Poster presentations played an intricate part in this year's meeting. A competition held among selected paper presentations had ISD Treasurer Dr. George Reizner (USA) as one of the panel of judges.

Attendees experienced a myriad of social events and dinners, including a city tour to explore Dubai, a desert safari where guests bashed through the desert dunes in a SUV, and a calming cruise









ISD speakers included Dr. George Reizner (top left), Prof. Dedee Murrell (bottom left, left) with Dr. Aymen Al Naeem (bottom left, middle) and Prof. John McGrath (bottom left, right), and Dr. Evangeline Handog (bottom right)

across the Dubai Creek. Those dining at Al Hamidieh Middle Eastern restaurant enjoyed the beautiful back drop of the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world). In addition, Al Bait al Oud (The Big House) restaurant served as a makeshift home in the cultural district of Al Bastakiyah, and the gala dinner in Meydan is home of the richest horse race in the world.

Mutual appreciation gifts were exchanged between the two organizing bodies -- the ISD, represented by ISD President Dr. Evangeline Handog (Philippines) and ISD Secretary-General Dr. Nellie Konnikov (USA/Russia) and the Dubai Derma organizing committee, represented by Prof. Ibrahim Galadari (Dubai), Chair of the meeting.

The CCD leaves a strong legacy in Dubai. It allowed the congregation of many experts from across the world to meet in a city whose population is as heterogeneous and as richly cultured as the meeting itself, and holding true to the ISD's tradition of being an international organization.

Report submitted by Dr. Hassan Galadari

"I have had the honor to receive the Maria Duran Fellowship Award to attend the ISD's 5th CCD. There I presented a poster, as well as an oral presentation with the title: Behçet disease with Sweet-like lesions. I would like to thank ISD for choosing me as the recipient of this award. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn, make friends and meet a lot of very well trained doctors."

-- Dr. Mihaela Georgescu (Romania)



View from gala over Dubai



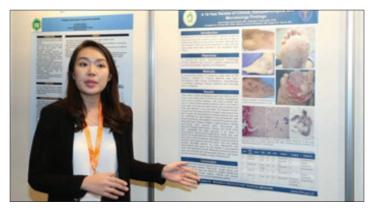
From left to right: Drs. Evangeline Handog, Abdul Wahabal Fouzan, Ibrahim Galadari (receiving the ISD plaque of appreciation for organizing the 5th CCD) and Nellie Konnikov



From left to right: Dr. Ma Teresita Gabriel (Philippines), Maria Duran Fellowship Awardees Drs. Mihaela Georgescu (Romania) and Divya Gupta (India), and Dr. Mercedes Florez-White (USA)



Maria Duran Lecturer Prof. Brigitte Dreno (France)



ISD Global Awardee Dr. Nani Dewi Tasmin (Indonesia) with her poster presentation



Conference organizer Dr. Hassan Galadari



From left to right: Prof. Rokea El Azhary, Prof. Dedee Murrell, medical student Wakithi Maboso and his mother, Prof. Ncoza Dlova



From left to right: Prof. Dreno receiving her award from Dr. Mercedes Florez-White, Maria Duran Committee Co-Chair



Global awardees recognized at the meeting



# ISD Member Heeds the Cry for Help in Lebanon

In his book "Skin Diseases: Case Management Algorithms & Atlas for Lebanon", ISD member Dr. Aldo Morrone (Italy) draws on his years of experience volunteering in Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon to promote the skin health of the most vulnerable people among Syrian refugees and the Lebanese population. Since 2012, Dr. Morrone has organized more than 20 humanitarian and clinical-scientific missions in the region, each lasting 3-4 weeks.

Dr. Morrone shares how he became involved in providing dermatological care to refugees immediately after the civil war began in Syria and the great challenges faced by clinicians dedicated to providing needed care to those most in need.

#### Dr. Aldo Morrone:

Syria's civil war is entering into its sixth year with no end in sight. The conflict has claimed an estimated 250,000 lives and driven over 4.8 million Syrians to take refuge in neighboring countries, making it the largest refugee displacement since WWII. Now, 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian aid in Syria.

With the Syrian crisis, the implications continue to spillover to neighboring countries and beyond. Lebanon is among the host countries that has generously provided assistance to refugees, hosting more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees. Its communities have shared their economy, schools, clinics, water and basic services provided by central and local authorities.

San Gallicano Dermatological Institute (founded by the Pope Benedict XIII in 1725) with the support of International Institute of Social, Medical and Anthropological Sciences (IISMAS), Armadilla Ong and the Makhzoumi Foundation continues to provide comprehensive programs in refugee camps in Lebanon. Our programs include a broad range of services:

- Clinical activities in the Mobile Unit Medical Clinic (MUMC) in the Chouf area (Ketermaya), Sayda district, Khalde and Shatila Refugees Camp and many others.
- Campaign for early detection and treatment of skin diseases in Mazraa Clinic.
- Teaching activities and workshops addressing medical doctors, nurses, social and community health workers to improve their capacities in dealing with refugees and vulnerable people.
- Prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable skin diseases.

#### **Primary Health Care**

We manage health centers in refugee camps and operate Mobile Unit Medical Clinic (MUMC) to reach refugees and internally displaced people(IDPs) who do not have access to local health care. This program provides an effective delivery of basic health care that promotes overall health and early diagnosis of skin and infectious diseases.

#### Skin Disorders and Psychosocial Support

To address the critical skin health needs of children growing up amid armed conflict, we have established child-friendly spaces, both in refugee camps and in urban areas, where many refugees reside. These are places where children can feel safe, play and interact with one another. In this way, the children have no fear and we can visit them openly.

Since the outbreak of the war in Syria, we have received many requests for medical help from various organizations operating in Lebanon with Syrian and Palestinian refugees. It was an ethical, clinical and scientific commitment that could not be ignored. San Gallicano Dermatological Institute and I personally have 30 years of experience working in war crisis areas. We decided to provide dermatological support, because that way we could also make the diagnosis of systemic diseases starting from the skin lesions.

To organize the work, we have support from Armadilla (a local NGO) and Makhzoumi Foundation (Lebanese charitable foundation), that operates throughout Lebanon in favor of the poorest people and refugees. Unfortunately, operating in a war situation is not easy, as there are no drugs or the possibility for laboratory analysis.

I wanted to offer a small contribution to women and children who live the horror of war. Clinic visits every day made us discover great suffering situations. We observed many cases of scabies present for years, eczemas, burns from chemical war agents, alopecia areata due to the psychological stress, skin cancer in elderly people, herpes, ulcers, impetigo, chickenpox, tinea corporis et capitis, pediculosis, molluscum, leishmaniasis, (especially in people coming from Aleppo), lung infections, cases of MERS, polio, thousands of measles cases and in adults a lot of STIs. The Lebanese and Syrian health system is now completely missing, and it is very difficult to get drugs. In Shatila, the Palestine enclave in Beirut, children did not receive vaccinations or medical health care, and the risk of spreading disease is very high.



Dr. Morrone with Syrian refugees at a Mobile Unit Medical Clinic in the District of Khaldeh (Lebanon)

#### A Special Appeal

I suggest our colleagues come to refugee camps in Lebanon to discover the "soul" of our mission as dermatologists. We can help people better than other colleagues because from skin lesions we can suspect internal diseases. In other words, where there are limited medical equipment and technical support, dermatological skill can offer a good solution at very low cost.

I trust that initiatives, such as this clinical and skin care support, can contribute to bolstering relationships with Syrian refugees, in hopes that one day they will be able to return safely to their homeland and look back favorably at the country where they once found refuge and at the people who helped them during war time.

I dream of a world that cares for refugees, that offers fraternal help to the poor and where being a migrant or a refugee is not a crime, but summons to greater commitment on behalf of the dignity of every human being.

Please do make sure that their cry of suffering is mainly collected by our scientific society that was actually born with the motto *Congregat ut Vincat Invidi Morbi Sagittas*.



Dr. Aldo Morrone (fifth from left) with medical and nursing staff in the primary health center in Scythian Beirut neighborhood. The photo was taken 5 minutes before a car bomb exploded near the center on July 9, 2013.

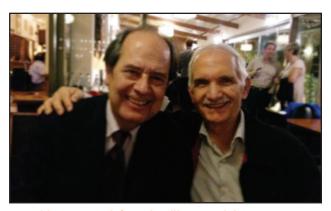
"Over the last few years, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Prof. Aldo Morrone. I found him to be a really impressive man, particularly his involvement in helping people in need all over the world. His center in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, is unique -- bringing good care with a wonderful team. He is acting not only in Ethiopia, but also in Afghanistan, Lebanon and even in Roma within a center taking care of immigrants.

In all of his humanitarian work, he is carried by the will to bring a smile for unhappy kids and to wipe away tears of sick people in the less unreachable areas of the world.

It is obvious that ISD members should give a hand to Prof. Morrone, and the best would be to ask him how -- and which is the best way -- to take part in this huge enterprise.

Prof. Morrone, we are proud of you and we stay tuned...."

-- Prof. Nejib Doss (Tunisia)



Drs. Aldo Morrone (left) and Nejib Doss (right)



This image was taken immediately after the car bomb explosion near the health center, which killed and wounded hundreds of people.



Syrian girl with chemical burns in the Refugees camp in Saida District



With a poignant look, an elderly Syrian woman sheltering in Saida district (Saida is the third-largest city in Lebanon)



Child-friendly space at a refugee camp in Ketermaya

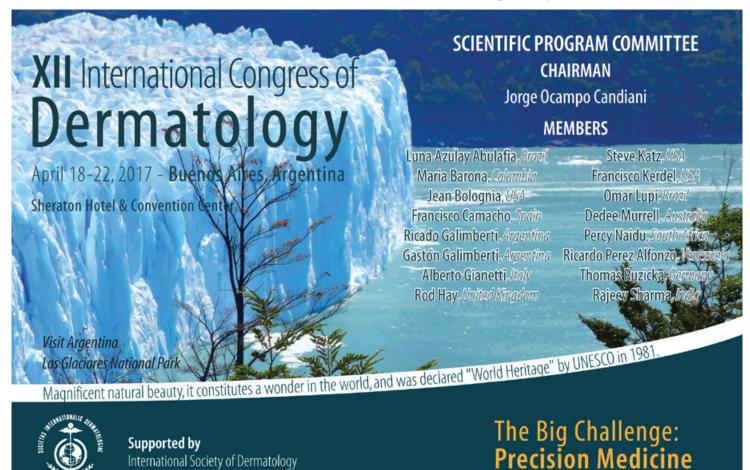


Syrian women and children in the refugees camp of Ketermaya

icd2017.com.ar



Old poor woman selling empty bottles and fragments of cardboard boxes in Shatila Refugees Camp



# ISD Shines at AAD 2016 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

The ISD was front and center at the AAD 2016 Annual Meeting this past March. With the theme "Gaucho Days, Arabian Nights", dermatologists from around the world -- many dressed in clothing celebrating the culture of the locales for the upcoming 5th Continental Congress of Dermatology (CCD) and the XII ICD -- gathered at the annual ISD Reception for an evening of food, fun and, of course, tango dancing.

In addition to celebrating all of the ISD's many accomplishments over the past year, ISD President Dr. Evangeline Handog presented the highlights of upcoming ISD events such as the 5th CCD in Dubai where diverse dermatology topics were covered.

ISD members were also honored for their outstanding achievements. **Dr. Antonella Tosti** received the prestigious International League of Dermatologic Societies (ILDS) Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Harvey Lui, President of the ILDS. **Dr. Tania Cestari** was awarded the Maria Duran Medal for her contributions to women and children in dermatology.

Dr. Ricardo Galimberti, president of the XII ICD, invited everyone to the ISD meeting in Argentina in 2017. It will be a great opportunity to learn and visit this beautiful country with all the culture and excitement it has to offer.

A great tango dance and a toast completed this memorable evening.

Report submitted by Dr. Esperanza Welsh



From left to right: Drs. Stephen Stone, Linda Susan Marks, Martin Kassir and Dedee Murrell



From left to right: Drs. Francisco Kerdel, Samuel Moschella and Abdul-Ghani Kibbi



Dr. Ricardo Galimberti President of ICD 2017 in Argentina



ISD Secretary-General Dr. Nellie Konnikov



From left to right: Joanna Groves, ILDS Executive Director; Dr. Brigitte Dreno, ILDS Treasurer; Dr. Evangeline Handog, Dr. Nellie Konnikov, Dr. Harvey Lui, ILDS President; Dr. Jean Bolognia, ILDS Secretary; Dr. George Reizner and Dr. Marcia Ramos-e-Silva



From left to right: Drs. Frances Ajose, Lawrence Gibson, Olufolakemi Cole and Ehiaghe Anaba



From left to right: Drs. Evangeline Handog, Antonella Tosti, Harvey Lui and Nellie Konnikov

### ISD Honors 2016 Maria Duran Medalist, Lecturer at International Meetings

On March 7, 2016, during the 74th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), the Maria Duran medal was given to **Dr. Tania Cestari** for her leadership and contribution in the field of Dermatology. Dr. Cestari is a renowned Brazilian dermatologist with an extensive academic career and is currently an Associate Professor of the Department of Internal Medicine, Dermatology, at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

Dr. Cestari has participated in several research projects and has authored numerous peer reviewed publications. She is a member of the Brazilian Society of Dermatology, as well as many international associations, holding positions as President of the Latin American Society of Photobiology and Photomedicine, a member of the International Affairs Committee of the AAD and the Women's Dermatologic Society, among other positions, and is also a member of the editorial board of several scientific journals worldwide. We congratulate Dr. Tania Cestari!

During the 5th Continental Congress of Dermatology (CCD) of the International Society of Dermatology, held in Dubai (UAE) from April 12-14, 2016, the Maria Duran Lecturer was **Professor Brigitte Dreno**.

Dr. Dreno, a renowned French dermatologist with an illustrious academic career, is currently a Professor of Dermatology -

Exceptional class, grade II and Chair of the Department of Dermatology Nantes University – France. She serves as the Director of the GMP Unit of Cell and Gene Therapy, Director of the Cancer Research Centre of Nantes University Hospital, Director of the Biotherapy Clinical Investigation Center, INSERM 0503 and Vice Dean for Research Medical Faculty, University of Nantes.

She has received several distinctions, among which are: French Highest Distinction: Knight National Order of the Legion of Honor, Corresponding Member of the French Academy of Medicine and Academic Palms of Nantes University in 2015. She has been president of the French Society of Dermatology and the French College of Teachers in Dermatology. She has authored over 500 original publications in skin cosmetics, cancer, acne, rosacea, and related conditions. Dr. Dreno has been a member and chair of several Boards and honorary member of many international societies of dermatology.

During the opening ceremony of the 5th CCD, Professor Dreno brilliantly presented an excellent review on the pathophysiology of acne that was very well received by the entire audience. Congratulations and our thanks to Dr. Dreno!

Report submitted by Dr. Mercedes Florez-White



Dr. Tania Cestari (right) is presented with the Maria Duran Medal by Maria Duran Co-Chair Dr. Mercedes Florez-White (left) and Dr. Antonella Tosti (center).



The prestigious Maria Duran Medal



From left to right: Drs. Nellie Konnikov, Mercedes Florez-White, Tania Cestari, Antonella Tosti, and Evangeline Handog



From left to right: Prof. Brigitte Dreno receiving her award from Dr. Mercedes Florez-White, Maria Duran Committee Co-Chair

### Hundreds Gather for Pigmentarycon 2016 in New Delhi

Approximately 500 delegates and 140 speakers from around the world gathered for the 2nd Pigmentarycon 2016, the Congress of the Pigmentary Disorders Society (PDS) and the Regional Conference of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD), April 1-3, 2016, at the Hotel Ashok Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India. The successful meeting was organized under the guidance of Dr. Vijay Kumar Garg, organizing chairperson, and Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, organizing secretary.

The conference was preceded by a pre-conference workshop that was held at Maulana Azad Medical College in Delhi, which attracted around 180 delegates from across India who took part in live demonstrations on the latest treatment modalities for pigmentary disorders.

Dr. Reena Nayyar, Secretary of the Medical Council of India, was the guest of honor who inaugurated the conference. ISD President Dr. Evangeline Handog addressed the audience on current and future activities of ISD and also participated in the plenary session by delivering a talk on "Oral Agents in Melasma."

A well-planned scientific program served as the cornerstone of the conference that covered various aspects of pigmentary disorders in the form of talks, lectures, case presentations, panel discussions, rapid fire and debates. The program promoted and encouraged the exchange of information between clinicians and researchers worldwide.

In addition, there was active participation by the supporting societies which added to the overall success of the conference. For example, the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research



From left to right: Dr. Rashmi Sarkar (India) and Dr. Evangeline Handog (Philippines)

(ASPCR) CME included interesting talks and lectures on vitiligo, while the Skin of Color Society Networking Reception boasted active participation of members. The Quiz (conducted by Dr. Biju Vasudevan) had the audience glued to their seats until the end, and the Pigmentary Disorders Residents Session was a huge hit amongst the audience members who had their queries solved by the experts. The PDS meeting was held April 2 and was attended by members of the Society.

Perhaps the most anticipated and special event of the conference was the Gala Dinner hosted by the organizers. The atmosphere was thrilling, with music, dancing and delicious food enjoyed by all.

It was unanimously decided to organize the next Pigmentarycon at Indore. The event will be hosted by Dr. Narendra Gokhale and his team in the third week of November 2017.

Report submitted by Dr. Rashmi Sarkar



Organizers ignite the lamp at the inauguration ceremony to kick off Pigmentarycon 2016



Meeting organizers welcome attendees

# Tehran Hosts Impressive Scientific Gathering of the International Congress of Dermatology, Cosmetic and Laser

Hundreds of dermatologists -- including dozens of ISD members and dignitaries -- from Iran and around the world attended the International Congress of Dermatology, Cosmetic and Laser, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, April 17-19, 2016. A regional meeting of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD), this major international congress was organized by the Center for Research and Training in Skin Diseases and Leprosy (CRTSDL) of the Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

The legendary Yahya Dowlati, Honorary Congress President, President of the Iranian Society of Dermatology and Founding and Honorary Director of CRTSDL, opened the meeting with an inspiring address. ISD President Evangeline Handog thanked President Dowlati and greeted attendees in a pre-recorded welcome.

The event program was highly educational with lectures delivered by international experts in their fields. **Dedee Murrell (Australia)** presented GWAS studies by Eli Sprecher's group explaining why pemphigus is more aggressive in middle eastern populations related to the ST18 genotype. **George Reizner** 

(USA) highlighted new advances in melanoma diagnosis and treatment. Shyam Verma (India) spotlighted tinea incognito, particularly patterns caused by topical steroid-containing products. Constantin E. Orfanos (Germany) summarized recent revolutionary therapeutic advances that add options and challenges to dermatologic care. Bijan Dowlati (USA) stressed a combination of tumor and host factors requiring special consideration in dermatologic surgery. Louis Dubertret (France) proposed focusing psoriasis research on patients with distinct psoriasis phenotypes. Neil Shear (Canada) suggested preventing life-threatening drug eruptions by using genetic screening of selected patients prior to giving them carbamazepine or allopurinol. Ali Nokhodchi (UK) lamented that although nonionic surfactants are the safest and most widely utilized, they are often less effective than ionic and cationic ones. Koushik Lahiri (India) preferred autologous miniature punch grafting as the easiest and least expensive surgical option to treat vitiligo, whereas Noufal Raboobee (South Africa) favored use of the excimer laser, and Torello M. Lotti (Italy) found success with low dose cytokines and

continued on page 13



ISD President Evangeline Handog welcomes attendees by pre-recorded video



George T. Reizner delivers his lecture



From left to right: Drs. Robert A. Schwartz, Torello Lotti, Koushik Lahiri, Dedee Murrell, Honorary Congress President Yahya Dowlati, Congress President Alireza Firooz, Neil Shear and loachim von Finchenstein



Co chairs and speakers, Robert A. Schwartz and Communications Chair, Dedee F. Murrell

continued from page 12

oral low dose bFGF as a beneficial combination. Golara Honari (USA) demarcated challenges with the sensitive skin syndrome. David Mehregan (USA) discussed lichen planopilaris. Robert Schwartz (USA) compared three eponymous angiosarcomas: the Dabska tumor, Kaposi's sarcoma and the Stewart-Treves syndrome. Martin Kassir (USA) utilized microneedling with simultaneous infusion for melasma and scars. Rashmi Sarkar (India) distinguished different types of hyperpigmentation, with lichen planus pigmentosus difficult to treat and suggestive of erythema dyschromicum perstans. Luitgard Wiest (Germany) stressed the lip in harmonizing facial features. Mourad Mokni (Tunisia) analyzed different morphologic types of leishmaniasis. Christos Zouboulis (Germany) shared hidradenitis suppurativa management using a disease-grade relevant plan.

The wonderful hospitality of Prof. Yahya and Mrs. Parichehr Dowlati will long be remembered with affection, as will the sightseeing in Tehran and other cities, including Yazd. Enthusiastic attendees appreciated the extraordinary efforts of Congress President Alireza Firooz and Honorary President Yahya Dowlati and their helpful staff, whose warmth and graciousness were reminiscent of the Persian character Cyrus the Great, known for both his military acumen and his generosity in triumph.

Report submitted by Dr. Robert A. Schwartz and Dr. Dedee Murrell



Speakers from Day 2 of the meeting



Congress Presidents Yahya Dowlati (second from right) and Alireza Firooz (far right) honor the 80th birthday of Constantin Orfanis (second from left) and the 50th birthday of Martin Kassir (middle) with session co-chair Rashmi Sarkar



From left to right: Drs. Maryam Daneshpazhooh (Iran) and Nazanin Dashti (Iran) with Dedee Murrell (Australia) at the ancient desert city of Yazd with its magnificent Amir Chakhmaq Complex



Azadi (Freedom) Monument, Tehran, with admiring congress attendees



### ISD Helps Dedicated Physician Rebuild Homes and Lives in Nepal

Dr. Prakash Karki (USA) recently completed a mission in Nepal to help local volunteers and residents literally pick up the pieces from the destruction of the 2015 earthquake -- considered the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal in nearly a century. Here, Dr. Karki describes his mission and how the ISD provided muchneeded support to assist residents as they begin rebuilding their lives.

Following the devastating earthquake in Nepal on April 25, 2015, which killed over 8,800 people, a group of nurses and myself (a physician of Nepalese origin), led a relief team to Nepal. Our team, Hoosiers Helping Nepal, provided medical and humanitarian assistance to over 500 affected families in the capital of Kathmandu and village of Melamchi. During my time there, I



Dr. Prakash Karki

realized that the medical needs of the victims would soon be overshadowed by more pressing long-term necessities such as shelter.

With the generous support of the International Society of Dermatology and many others, I returned to Nepal in February 2016, partnering with Mission Rebuild Nepal to build houses for families displaced by the earthquake. I felt that providing shelter would be one of the most valuable and effective ways to help entire families. Of the 40 homes under construction, funds received from the ISD are being utilized to build six homes in the village of Sipapokhare in the Sindhupalchowk district, one of the hardest-hit regions. The homes will be completed in the near future.

I plan to return to Nepal in the winter to provide continued assistance in Sindhupalchowk. I want to thank the ISD for their generosity and support.



Nepalese village girl enduring chaupadi by Hana Robinson (from Int J Women's Derm 2016 issue 1, with permission.)



Local volunteers in Sipapokhare village laying the foundation for a home



A man and his son rebuilding their home with clay and stones



A local family takes pride in their newly rebuilt home



Family members outside their new home

# ISD Delegation Travels to Cuba for Historic First Meeting with Cuban Colleagues

When the U.S. government eased travel restrictions to Cuba last year, ISD leadership saw a remarkable opportunity to meet with Cuban colleagues in the remote island nation. Here, ISD Secretary-General Dr. Nellie Konnikov (Boston) and ISD Treasurer Dr. George Reizner (Madison, WI) describe this first face-to-face meeting in Cuba.

The first combined meeting of representatives of the International Society of Dermatology and dermatology faculty of Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital took place in Havana, Cuba, February 29 - March 2, 2016. The ISD delegation was headed by Drs. Konnikov and Reizner and included Drs. Doug Johnson (Honolulu), Ayman Grada (Boston), Ross Zeltser (New York), and Byron Barksdale (North Platte, Nebraska).

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba changed course for the better, as US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro scheduled a meeting for the first time in over 50 years in March 2016. The members of the ISD Executive Board felt that it was the right time to meet faceto-face and establish personal relationships with leaders of the Cuban Dermatological Society.

What was originally planned as an exploratory visit slowly evolved into a three-day, well organized event. At the airport, we were greeted like visiting dignitaries by the residency training program director Dr. Sonia Collazo and the department's secretary Ms. Amarilis Rojas. Throughout our stay in Cuba, Dr. Collazo was our ever-present protective wing at all social gatherings, sightseeing tours, and scientific programs. Dr. Rigoberto Garcia, the Director of International Program, was instrumental in planning, coordinating, and making this meeting happen.

The first morning's official welcome introduced us to the faculty at the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital in central Havana -- the premier hospital in Cuba opened in 1982 " by the Revolution to offer the people service in a best-in-class, world-class environment". We toured the facilities and spent time with faculty and residents of the largest international dermatology training program in Cuba. Here, we also met well-known Professor Julian Manzur, MD, PhD, who was our original contact that led to this visit.

In the afternoon, we were taken to the Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecología (CIGB) research facility near the edge of the city and the medical school. We listened to their leading researchers describe their work with interferon, epidermal growth factor and a placenta-derived treatment for many diseases, including non-melanoma skin cancer, chronic ulcers, and vitiligo. We toured the compound with its director, Dr. Gerardo Guillen, and were impressed by both the quality of the work and the beauty of the campus.

During the next two days, a scientific meeting took place at the Panorama Hotel in Havana

where 75 leading dermatologists from all regions of the country, members of the Cuban Dermatologic Society, gathered to hear formal presentations by our ISD representatives and our Cuban counterparts. We learned of the very centralized structure of medical education and three levels of health care delivery: central, provincial, and municipal. In addition, we were impressed by the rich history and contribution of Cuban dermatologists to the irradiation of congenital syphilis, containment of infectious diseases and Leprosy in Cuba. In spite of daylong presentations, we witnessed our Cuban colleagues' passion to teach, share their knowledge, serve patients and do original research in spite of sometimes challenging conditions.

In the evening, there was time to explore old Havana, the historic Fort el Moro, hear live music pouring into the streets, enjoy the distinctive cuisine and ride in classic vintage cars that have become unofficial moving landmarks. There was a sense of being in a special time capsule on the verge of change.

But the real story of the meeting was the genuine warmth, mutual curiosity and feeling of great potential collaboration as we planted the seeds for a growing relationship. Our deepest gratitude goes to Dr. Collazo and Ms. Rojas, who both went above and beyond to help make our visit comfortable and rewarding. We arrived hoping to make friends in Cuba, and they made us feel more like family.

In this spirit, it was decided to plan an ISD regional meeting in Havana for early 2017. Please watch for future announcements as the times and dates are confirmed. We will also plan a post meeting tour to explore many of the sites that make Cuba and its natural beauty unique. It is our sincere hope that many of our friends and colleagues will join us for the First Cuban-American ISD regional meeting.

Report submitted by Dr. Nellie Konnikov and Dr. George Reizner



Dr. George Reizner (standing, second from left) and Dr. Nellie Konnikov (sitting, on right) with members of the International Society of Dermatology and the Cuban Dermatological Society



The ISD proudly recognizes members who are accomplishing great things and fulfilling the mission of the ISD. Congratulations to all!

#### ILDS Certificates of Appreciation

Two ISD members recently were presented with the prestigious ILDS Certificate of Appreciation Award. ISD Board member **Prof. Antonella Tosti** (USA/Italy) received the award at the ISD's Reunion during the AAD's 2016 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, and ISD member **Dr. Koushik Lahiri** (India) received the award



Prof. Antonella Tosti with ILDS President Dr. Harvey Lui

during Pigmentarycon 2016 in New Delhi, India.



#### Dr. Koushik Lahiri (center)

**Prof. Suzanne Olbricht** (USA) was named president-elect of the AAD. She will be installed as president-elect in March 2017 and hold the office of president for one year beginning in February 2018.

**Prof. Vinod K. Sharma (India)** won the Maibach Travel Award for his presentation at the American Contact Dermatitis Society's Annual Meeting on March 3, 2016, in Washington, DC.



Prof. Suzanne Olbricht with her husband, Dr. Kevin M. Fickenscher



Prof. Vinod K. Sharma (left) with Dr. Bruce Brod, President of the American Contact Dermatitis Society

Dr. Shyam Verma (India) and Prof. Dedee Murrell (Australia/UK) were each honored with the AAD's Members Making a Difference Award at the Stars of the Academy reception held during the AAD's 2016 Annual Meeting. They were recognized for volunteerism and education in India and Vietnam (EB), respectively.



Dr. Shyam Verma and Prof. Dedee Murrell



From left to right: Jamie Campbell-Kraus of the AAD, Dr. Stephen Katz, cofounder of the Strauss and Katz AAD World Congress Scholarships, Dr. Tania Cestari, Dr. Bill Abramovits, Dr. Nellie Konnikov, Dr. Branka Marinovic, Dr. Dedee Murrell, Dr. Dick Scher, Dr. Stan Tolkachjov, Dr. Jean Bolognia, and Steve Debnar of the AAD.

Several ISD board and committee members farewelled **Prof. Dedee Murrell** (Australia/UK) after three years as chair of the AAD's World Congress Task Force, which awards scholarships to about 30 young dermatologists from poor countries to attend the AAD each year.

ISD Secretary-General **Dr. Nellie Konnikov** (USA/Russia) was awarded an honorary degree of Professor of Dermatology at Shenyang China Medical University. The President of the University and Dr. Xing-Hua Gao, Professor and Chairman of Dermatology, No.1 Hospital of China Medical University Shenyang, were present at the event that took place on May 30, 2016.



Dr. Nellie Konnikov (second from left)

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# Young Dermatologist Learns "Art" of Phototherapy via ISD Mentorship Program in Thailand

ISD mentorship awardee and 5-year ISD member **Dr. Vanessa M. Carpio** always had an interest in phototherapy -- having witnessed the dramatic improvement in patients after undergoing it, and its relative safety as a treatment modality. Unfortunately, she saw that there are very few dermatologists who utilize phototherapy in her home country, probably due to lack of access or lack of confidence in administering this form of treatment. Currently, there are no subspecialty training programs in phototherapy being offered in the Philippines, beyond the exposure one undergoes during residency training.

So when she was offered the mentorship opportunity by the International Society of Dermatology to train in phototherapy with mentor **Dr. Pravit Asawanonda** in the Dermatology Department at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, she jumped at the chance to train in this field.

During her three-month training, she learned how to perform phototherapy for common indications -- psoriasis, mycosis fungoides, vitiligo and atopic dermatitis -- but was also enlightened by its multitude of potential uses as well. Here, Dr. Carpio learned that phototherapy is an art, having witnessed the complexity of treatment adjustments based on the patient's condition and the variety of ways available to manage its effects. Because of her focused training in phototherapy in Thailand, she has become more confident in prescribing phototherapy for her patients -- increasing the armamentarium of safe and effective treatment options available to patients.

While her mentorship focused on the intricacies of phototherapy, she was also exposed to the residency and fellowship programs at the university -- giving her a new perspective in diagnosing and managing dermatologic cases. Although the approaches to dermatologic cases were similar to what she learned in the Philippines, Dr. Carpio gained new insights and valuable pearls in diagnosis and management.

Dr. Carpio credits Dr. Pravit, consultants and staff at the Dermatology Department at Chulalongkorn University with making her experience so rewarding. They were accommodating, welcoming and generous with their skills and knowledge, and the state-of-the-art facilities were easily accessible to both trainees and patients. She also appreciated the warmth, cheerfulness and hospitality of the Thai people and culture, which made the environment very conducive to learning.

"My fellowship in Thailand was a very enriching experience for me in more ways than one. I'm coming home to the Philippines more inspired to treat patients and to bring a new dimension to their care."

-- Dr. Vanessa M. Carpio



Dr. Vanessa Carpio (left) with mentor Dr. Pravit Asawanonda

Dr. Vanessa Carpio finished her dermatology residency training at the University of the Philippines – Philippine General Hospital in 2012. She is currently a dermatologist consultant at tertiary hospitals in Metro Manila, Philippines (Asian Hospital and Medical Center; Unihealth-Parañaque Hospital and Medical Center) and also holds various private clinics around the Metro.



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ISD Board members and plenary speakers **Prof. Luca Borradori** (Switzerland), **Prof. Dedee Murrell** (Australia/UK) and **Dr. Shyam Verma** (India) were awarded Honorary Memberships of the Polish Dermatologic Society from ISD Board member and President of the Polish Dermatologic Society Dr. Jacek Szepietowski in May 2016.



From left to right: Prof. Dedee Murrell, Dr. Jacek Szepietowski and Dr. Shyam Verma

### 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. Their commitment to ISD is unwavering, and they play a vital role in nearly all aspects of the Society.

#### Here, meet ISD Board Member Dr. Thomas Ruzicka (Germany), Chair, Membership Committee.

Dr. Ruzicka, you have been a longstanding volunteer with the ISD Mentorship Program over the years and have mentored dozens of aspiring young dermatologists. Why is this program so important to you?

One of the nicest aspects of academic medicine is the exchange with colleagues all over the world. Dermatologists are a small



Dr. Thomas Ruzicka

community, which is almost like a family to us. Meeting young (and not so young), aspiring, motivated and interested young colleagues from various countries and continents is a great reward and experience for me. We always learn from each other. Colleagues give lectures on dermatology in their countries to our residents, which can be quite different from our practice of medicine, and we usually become friends. And it is always nice when I travel around the world to have friends in each country!

#### Give us a glimpse of a typical work day for you.

Fortunately, my work is devoid of routine and has many aspects to it. Since I am heading the largest department of dermatology in Europe and one of the largest worldwide, I see a great number of patients with very special diseases. This professional experience is tremendous and I greatly profit from interaction with the various specialists among my coworkers -- nobody is able to cover the whole spectrum of dermatology at a high level as we practice it today. In Germany, dermatology is a larger specialty than in some other countries. It covers allergy,

venereal diseases, dermatosurgery, histopathology, phlebology, proctology, dermatooncology and other subspecialties. Aesthetic dermatology also became part of the academic curriculum. Besides clinical work, I am involved in administration of the department, student and postgraduate teaching, faculty obligations -- such as being the representative for foreign affairs of the medical faculty of our university -- and supervising the many foreign visitors who come to our department every year. In addition, I am lecturing all over the world and traveling once per week on average.

## If you weren't a dermatologist, what else would you want to be doing?

My dream was to become a musician, but I was realistic enough to see my limits and enjoy music just as a hobby. I also enjoy sports and I would have loved to become a skiing or soccer professional, but it is just pleasant to dream about it. In retrospect, becoming a dermatologist was the best decision I ever made and has influenced my life in many positive ways.

#### What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

I grew up in a communist dictatorship, a country which does not exist anymore, in Czechoslovakia. This may already be a surprise for people who connect me to Germany. Growing up in a dictatorship also means that one wants to keep private and not give many insights into one's life. Therefore, no further surprises to our readers!

### 2016-2017 ISD Meetings Calendar

#### 2016

#### July 12-16, 2016

1st African Society of Dermatology & Venereology Conference

Abuja, Nigeria Contact: conference@asdvafrica.org Web site: https://www.asdvafrica.org/

#### July 28, 2016

Ethiopian Dermatology and Venereology Society\*

4th Annual Scientific Conference

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Contact: edvsociety@gmail.com

#### August 11-14, 2016

International Congress of Tropical Dermatology\*

Colombo, Sri Lanka Web Site: www.ictd2016.org

#### September 1-3, 2016

10th ISD Update Course in Dermatology: Maria Duran Regional Meeting

Cali, Colombia

Contact: falabellarafael@gmail.com

#### October 27-29, 2016

Georgian Association of Photodermatology & Skin Cancer

Tbilisi, Georgia Contact: photocancer@gmail.com Web Site: http://www.photoderm.org/index. php?lang=en

#### \* ISD Regional Meeting

#### 2017

#### February 3-5, 2017

Many Faces of Dermatology - Clinical, Surgical and Aesthetical

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Web Site: www.isdregional2017.org

#### April 18-22, 2017

XII International Congress of Dermatology

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Website: http://www.icd2017.com.ar/

Early registration deadline: August 29, 2016



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Join online at www.intsocderm.org

(Please print or type clearly)

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