



ISD *Connection*

The official newsletter of the ISD global membership society

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ISD Regional Meeting in Ethiopia

Reported by *Aisha Sethi (US) and Kassahun Bilcha (Ethiopia)*

As it has been said by Africans: “Even if we forget where we are going, we should not forget where we came from.”

The Third International Congress on “Dermatological Care for All: Common Diseases for Neglected People” was held in Addis Ababa and Mekele (Ethiopia), November 24-27, 2009. This ISD regional meeting brought together distinguished dermatologists and public health specialists from 14 different countries, where each shared their unique experiences.

Like the previous two congresses, the third congress focused on community medicine, low-cost technology for the poor, as well as on the interaction among culture, daily life and skin diseases.

“We all depend on the stars..we are all brothers and sisters. While aid pours into African nations, it does not always reach those who need it most. There needs to be wider access to healthcare and basic services.”

– Prof Aldo Morrone (Italy), Congress President

The highlights of the meeting were the premium oral presentations. Prof Terence Ryan introduced the ISD Task Force for Community Dermatology and discussed how cleaning the skin with just water could prevent disabilities associated with dozens of skin diseases. Prof Stephen Tyring spoke about advanced and low-tech prevention methods of sexually transmitted infections. Dr. Ben Naafs shared with the audience his long-term experience on leprosy and HIV/AIDS. Other papers on tropical skin diseases, community dermatology, and anthropological study were part of the colorful congress. Special emphasis on task shifting and training of low-level health workers to manage common skin diseases was given by many presenters.



Congress President Prof. Aldo Morrone (Italy).

Patient live discussions and hospital visits were among the activities of the congress. Dr. Federica Dassoni, a dermatologist working at IDC, presented rare and challenging cases of tropical dermatology. Variants of skin tuberculosis, the challenge associated with treating leishmaniasis caused by *L. aethiopica*, rare genodermatoss, burn and neglect were discussed in detail. The Community Dermatology International (CDI) taskforce of ISD also conducted a meeting to discuss how non-doctor dermatologists could be trained to reach the poor communities, which usually have no access to basic skin care. The outline of this concept was presented by Dr. Kassahun, very much encouraged by Prof Henning Grossmann, and fully approved by the participants – Prof Terence Ryan, Dr. Luitgard Wiest, and Prof Sydney Klaus.

Social events, which included an Ethiopian coffee ceremony, dinner receptions and Ethiopian dance, provided an enjoyable and unique local flavor to the conference.



Left to right: Daniele Lucini (Rome), Paolo Tartaglia (Addis), Dr. Kassahun (Gondar), Dr. Morrone (Rome), Dr. Sethi (Chicago).

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Dr. Luitgard Wiest (left) and Dr. Kassahun (right) departing for Mekele for the subsequent meeting.

Save the Date! The 4th Congress on “Dermatologic Care for All” will be held again this year in Ethiopia in early November.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

It's a new decade and I am pleased to say that the ISD is embracing it enthusiastically by creating new programs and expanding on successful established ones. During the year, your Executive Committee has been regularly meeting to achieve these goals. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce you to the Executive Committee and explain their roles in the EC.



As president, I am the chairman of the Executive Committee and preside over all ISD business and scientific meetings.

The Executive Vice President is Francisco Kerdel, MD (US), who served three terms as the Treasurer of the ISD. In the event of the resignation of the President, he would fill the term. Fortunately, he also brings years of experience to the position and imparts his wisdom to the committee.

We are honored that Evangeline Handog, MD (Philippines) accepted to serve as Secretary-General. As Secretary-General, she is responsible for the routine business of the ISD and the Membership, Communications and Regional Meetings Committees report directly to her. She also oversees the business of the International Journal of Dermatology. She does her job with enthusiasm and dedication.

Due to the large amount of responsibilities of the Secretary-General, the position of Associate Secretary-General was established in 2009. Luna Azulay-Abulafia, MD (Brazil) will serve in this new position. Previously, Dr. Azulay-Abulafia served as Executive Vice President of the ISD and a longtime volunteer.

The Treasurer-General is George Reizner, MD (US), who many of you remember as the Editor of the IJD Society News Section. That position familiarized him with most of the activities of the Society and that knowledge is critical for the Treasurer-General. As Treasurer-General, he is responsible for the society's finances.

Another new position on the EC is the Chair of the Membership Committee. The ISD is fortunate that Jean Bologna, MD (US) accepted this position after serving as

Scientific Program Chair for the 10th International Congress of Dermatology in Prague. Dr. Bologna and her committee spearhead the Society's efforts to recruit, maintain and serve the membership.

The final position is Chair of the Communications Committee held by Jana Hercogova, MD (Czech Republic), who you know as the president of the 10th International Congress of Dermatology. Yet another new position created to help the ISD better position itself with new technology and to expand educational exchange. The Chair of Communications is responsible for the ISD Connection newsletter, the ISD web site and the new Continental Congresses of the ISD.

I am also pleased to announce that the newsletter has a new editor-in-chief – Aisha Sethi, MD, (US) of the University of Chicago. Dr. Sethi is excited to join the editorial staff, and her keen attention to detail and creativity will serve us well in this position.

Finally, our immediate Past President is Sigfrid Muller, MD (US), who not only offers sage advice based on his long-term involvement in ISD but who is intrepidly leading ISD to open a dialogue on Climate Change and Dermatology.

What is most exciting about this Executive Committee is that while each member brings their own experiences, they also prove the old adage that the sum is greater than its parts. It is both an honor and pleasure to serve with them.

I hope you have the opportunity to meet them, and I encourage those of you attending the upcoming American Academy of Dermatology meeting in Miami Beach to come to the ISD Reception on March 8. You can RSVP online at www.intsocderm.org. And bring a colleague to join our great Society!

Enjoy this first newsletter of 2010 and look for our new regular feature page "Global Dermatology: Think Global, Act Local." In every issue, we will feature an ISD member who is making a difference in his or her community through innovative programs that we can all learn from.

Sincerely,

Torello Lotti, MD (Italy)
President, International Society of Dermatology



ISD Connection

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FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

A good year cometh!

It has been a swift 222 days since I was elected as the ISD Secretary-General in Prague. In the beginning, I had uncertainties...so many ifs and buts ...

My hesitation to join veterans in an international organization slowly turned into meaningful reassurance from supportive colleagues and friends. The encouragement was inspiring.

Now, allow me to share a sampling of this good year.

In May, during the Presidential dinner in Prague, an oath was taken by each of the incoming Executive Committee (EC). This was a first. The EC immediately met and then had three international tele-conferences during the following months. With so many noble goals, planning and organization became our first task. Here is an overview of our activities and direction:

1. The Fellowship Program has been renamed the Mentorship Program. Ten scholars already benefited in 2009.
2. The Maria Duran Medal was awarded to Prof. Inderjeet Kaur during the DERMACON meeting in Lucknow, India, on January 7, 2010. Congratulations! She is most deserving!
3. The Climate Change Conference and the Meeting on Community Dermatology at the EADV in Berlin were eye openers (see related story).
4. The First Continental Congress in Colombia under Prof. Rafael Falabella is going to be held in Cali, Colombia, June 11-13, 2010, at the Hotel Dann Carltohn.



5. Regional meetings planned:
 - a. Mumbai, India, September 17-19, 2010, at the Renaissance Hotel
 - b. Bangkok, Thailand, October 16-18, 2010, at the Radisson Hotel
6. Sister society meetings :
 - a. October 2010 at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) in Guttenberg, Sweden
 - b. November 9, 2010, in Cancun, Mexico, under the direction of Prof. Jorge Ocampo-Candiani
7. The website is undergoing an exciting and attractive reconstruction.
8. A successful membership campaign is ongoing.
9. The site inspections for the two bidding countries vying for the next International Congress of Dermatology planned for 2013 have been scheduled in India and Buenos Aires, Argentina.
10. Five scholars for the World Congress of Dermatology in Korea (2011) will be sponsored by the International Society of Dermatology. Details of the scholarship will be available soon.

Mabuhay ISD!

Evangeline B. Handog, MD
Secretary-General, International Society of Dermatology



ISD members gather at the ISD booth at the EADV meeting in Berlin. From left to right: Evangeline Handog, MD (Philippines), Cindy Froehlich, Executive Director (US), Torello Lotti, MD (Italy), Keyvan Nouri, MD (US/Iran), Alberto Giannetti, MD (Italy), Anna Belloni-Fortina, MD (Italy), Prof. Andrea Peserico (Italy), and Jana Hercogova, MD (Czech Republic).

Attention members attending the upcoming AAD Annual Meeting in Miami Beach

ISD history books will be available, while supplies last, at the ISD Booth #2559 during the meeting (March 6-8, 2010) in the Exhibit Hall of the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Kassahun Desalegn Bilcha discusses his new Dermatology Clinic in Gondar, Ethiopia

Can you describe the need for a dermatology department in Gondar and why you decided to start this new clinic?

Dermatological care is generally scarce in Africa. It is usually done by traditional healers or frontline health workers without appropriate training. Gondar, a very old town in the northern part of Ethiopia, has a 400-bed hospital serving nearly 4 million people. This large population never had a dermatologist for decades nor was appropriate training given for health professionals working in the area. Imagine, annually, more than half of the population is believed to manifest with certain skin diseases that need a dermatologist. Since most of the people are too poor to afford travel to Addis Ababa, where shall they go?

Being a dermatologist from the community, it will be unmerited to leave it without proper skin care. Even if I believe that I cannot solve the long term basic health care problem of the population, with proper knowledge transfer and gradual extension of health services, I sturdily deem that Ethiopia, particularly Gondar area, will have healthy skin for healthy development in the near future.

When did your clinic open and roughly how many patients have you treated thus far?

My clinic opened in April 2009, and it operates with a team of four. I am the lead; there are two GPs and one nurse. We practice in two rooms. The rooms have basic examination equipment and side laboratory. In 2009 alone, we have treated 4,800 cases – seeing an average of 30 patients a day.

Apart from treating patients, I also teach medical and paramedical students on common skin diseases. For one week and two weeks, training was given for nearly 600 paramedics and 180 medical students, respectively, on common skin conditions and STDs. This will help the expansion of the service to the community.

What has your experience been like so far working in Gondar after finishing your training?

I was trained in Addis Ababa and took a two-month ISD fellowship in Tehran. It is different being in Gondar. I am solely responsible for these patients – I have to decide by myself, and learn by myself. Every day I encounter lots of funny and sad experiences, every day I learn hard, every day I progress. It is great to be in Gondar.

Can you name three factors that would help your department function better to serve the community in Gondar?

1. The international community and individuals should be able to see the world as one, skin diseases as important problems of the world, and then involve the poor people to solve the problem. Gondar will be an important site to involve the poor and community, as it is found in the remote part of a country having a devastating health care system. Volunteer dermatologists, public health specialists and organizations should budget time each year to come and work in Gondar.
2. The international community and individuals should be able to help with infrastructure development for the skin clinic in Gondar. This may include, but not limited to, basic examination equipment, books to train lower-level health workers, skin care drugs, and surgical equipment. Basic drugs for common skin diseases are usually lacking or unaffordable.
3. The Ethiopian government and stakeholders should understand that skin diseases are among the big economic burdens of the country. Expansion of skin care should be considered. The dermatology department of Gondar could serve as a center of excellence to train lower-level health workers for skin care expansion if budgeted with appropriate economy.



From left to right: Nurse Sr. Nura, Dr. Kassahun and GP Dr. Annisa at the new clinic.



Dr. Kassahun examines a patient at the clinic with leprosy foot ulcer.

Committee Updates

Dear Members of the ISD,

The Membership Committee, whose members include Luna Azulay, MD (Brazil), Mark Davis, MD (USA), Andrey Lvov, MD (Russia), Jorge Ocampo, MD (Mexico), Rekha Sheth, MD (India), Vangee Handog, MD, (Philippines, *ex-officio*), and Daniel Su, MD (USA, *ex-officio*), has been brainstorming as to methods for increasing membership. We sent personal emails to individuals who had yet renewed in 2009 and have identified potential members from lists of past members. ISD Executive Director Cindy Froehlich was pleased to announce to the committee that the membership renewal procedure has been revamped. Now, if an individual joins in September of a particular year, his or her dues will be pro-rated (i.e., reduced to cover only four months) the next calendar year.

As part of the "green" movement, the number of dues renewal notices mailed to members will be reduced – but the number of reminders sent via email will be increased so that the total number remains the same. In addition, the website has been redesigned. Membership renewal should now be "as easy as 1-2-3."

Lastly, we are challenging the leadership of the ISD to join in 2010 as Individual Sponsoring Members. A special benefit of the increased amount paid for dues is the ability to sponsor a one-year membership for two residents or fellows from any country or two dermatologists from developing countries. Please note, however, that everyone who is a member of the ISD who can afford to pay \$250.00US is encouraged to become an Individual Sponsoring Member.

The Membership Committee welcomes ideas and suggestions, as the key to our success as a Society is our members.

Best wishes for a healthy 2010,

Jean Bolognia, MD
Chair, ISD Membership Committee



Dr. Shyam Verma (India) displays a unique New Year's greeting to his ISD friends.

Meetings Calendar

March 8, 2010, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**ISD Reception at the AAD
Loews Miami Beach Hotel
Growing and Glowing with ISD...**

Each year, ISD hosts a reception at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Annual Meeting. It is an excellent opportunity to see old colleagues and meet new ones.

It is also a chance to catch up on ISD news and activities. We've been growing over the past year and we have a lot to glow about!

Come hear the news and bring a non-member to introduce them to ISD.

Contact: Cindy Froehlich at info@intsocderm.org
386-437-4405

June 11-13, 2010

**1st Continental Congress of Dermatology
and 5th Maria Duran Regional Meeting of the
International Society of Dermatology
Hotel Dann Carlton
Cali, Colombia**

Beginning in 2010, the International Society of Dermatology will organize one Continental Congress of Dermatology in each of the years between the International Congresses of Dermatology (held every four years).

The purpose of the Continental Congresses is to provide a regional educational forum for ISD members and introduce ISD to the local dermatological community.

The ISD is pleased to announce that its 1st Continental Congress of Dermatology will be in conjunction with the 5th Maria Duran Regional Meeting in Cali, Colombia. It is organized by the Colombian Association of Dermatology under the leadership of Dr. Rafael Falabella.

Contact: Rafael Falabella at
isdcongress2010@cdcderma.com.co
57 (2) 558 3565

June 25, 2010

**Climate Change Conference at the Sociedad
Argentina de Dermatologia
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

www.sad.org.ar

September 17-19, 2010

**Dealing with Dark Skin
Mumbai, India**

www.cosdermindia.in

October 16-18, 2010

**1st Asian-Pacific Congress in Aesthetic Medicine
ISD Regional Meeting: Thai Society of Cosmetic
Dermatology & Surgery
Radisson Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand**

For more information go to: www.thaicosderm.org
Contact: Thada Piamphongsant, MD at
thaicosderm007@yahoo.com
6681 857 6689

November 9, 2010

**Sister Society Meeting of the ISD at CILAD
Cancun, Mexico**

www.cilad.org

ISD Awardee Commends Mentor for Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience

During his dermatologic surgery training at the McGill Surgery Center in the Philippines, ISD International Fellow Dr. Ivan Antonio Singzon (Philippines) appreciated the formal training, educational opportunities, and real-world experiences offered by his mentor, Dr. Joel G. Nicdao.

Throughout his fellowship, Dr. Singzon learned the fundamentals and proper techniques of numerous surgical procedures – from excision biopsies and scar revision to autologous fat transplantation for defects and resection. He enjoyed the opportunity to accompany Dr. Nicdao to his speaking engagements at various workshops and lectures where he shared his innovative surgical techniques. In addition, he credits Dr. Nicdao with advising him on things to keep in mind when setting up a practice, including working with patients from all walks of life and tips on clinical photography to document his cases.

All in all, Dr. Singzon considers himself blessed to have been offered this opportunity to learn from Dr. Nicdao and now feels he has the confidence and knowledge to start a successful clinical practice.

He is grateful to Dr. Nicdao's staff for their hospitality during his stay and to the ISD for this incredible experience, especially the Mentorship Committee.



Fellow Dr. Ivan Antonio Singzon (left) with his mentor, Dr. Joel G. Nicdao (right).

ISD Kicks Off Climate Change Initiative with Special Meeting at EADV

In an effort to increase understanding and address the growing impact that global warming and climate change have on dermatological health, the ISD held a special sister society meeting October 7, 2009, at the 18th EADV Congress in Berlin. Chaired by Prof. Uwe Wollina (Germany), the meeting featured notable lecturers and guests from around the world.

Presentations included:

- Prof. Matthias Augustin (Germany) – “Climaderm: The German Research Program on Climate Change”
- Dr. Michael Buslau (Switzerland) – “Global Warming and Pollen”
- Dr. Evangeline Handog (Philippines) – “Pigmentary Disorders and Climate Change”
- Dr. Jana Hercogova (Czech Republic) – “Pollution, Warming and Skin Disease”
- Dr. Samara Memish and Prof. Ziad Memish (Saudi Arabia) – “Living in Extremes”
- Dr. Aldo Morrone (Italy) – “Global Warming and Poverty-Related Diseases”

In his closing remarks, ISD President Prof. Torello Lotti (Italy) stressed the ISD's continued commitment to cope with the global challenges of climate change and global warming. He added that further activities and meetings will be organized to develop an international network and database for decision making in skin-related health care.



Prof. Matthias Augustin



Dr. Samara Memish

Proceedings of XICD Available Now

The Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Dermatology – ICD (Prague, Czech Republic, May 20-24, 2009) – have been published and are now available for purchase. Included in the Proceedings of ICD 2009 are articles of the invited lecturers and oral communications and posters submitted to the publisher within the deadline. The Proceedings are available in electronic format on CD-Rom and in the printed volume version with coloured iconography. To purchase the Proceedings or to consult the table of contents, please visit www.medimond.com/proceedings/moreinfo/20090521.htm



International Society of Dermatology

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Join online at www.intsocderm.org

(Please print or type clearly)

Name _____
(Last/Family) (First/Given) (Middle)

Institution _____

Address _____
(Street) (Apt. or Suite No.)

(City) (State/Region) (Postal Code) (Country)

Telephone _____ Fax _____
(Country/City Code) (Area Code) (Number) (Country/City Code) (Area Code) (Number)

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

1. I wish to join the ISD membership in the following category (please check only one):

Membership Categories:

____ **Regular Member**US \$100.00
This is the regular and usual membership of the Society. Annual dues of US \$100.00 include a subscription to the *International Journal of Dermatology*. May hold elective office and vote.

____ **Associate Member**US \$65.00
This category is suggested for residents/medical students of any country, or dermatologists currently staying in developing countries (designated by OECD). Annual dues of US \$65.00 include a subscription to the *International Journal of Dermatology*. Associates cannot hold elected office or vote on Society matters.

____ **Individual Sponsoring Member**US \$250.00
This category is for individuals who want to sponsor members from developing countries or trainees (residents) from any country. In addition to the privileges and benefit of the Regular Membership, the sponsor will receive an Individual Sponsoring Member certificate. The annual dues of US \$250.00 sponsor up to 2 Associate Members in addition to the sponsor's membership.

Sponsoring Members may select 1 or 2 eligible members to support or allow ISD to select from a list of eligible candidates.

___ Let ISD select the sponsored members

___ I would like to sponsor the following dermatologists and/or dermatologists in training. The names are listed below.

Sponsored Member Name: _____ Email: _____

Sponsored Member Name: _____ Email: _____

2. Payment is to be made in U.S. Dollars.

Indicate method of payment:

___ **Check** payable in US \$ to:
International Society of Dermatology

___ **Credit Card** (preferable for applications made outside the U.S.; please complete the adjacent box)

3. Send completed application with payment by fax or mail to:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF DERMATOLOGY
8074 EAGLE WAY
CHICAGO, IL 60678-1080 USA

Phone: +1 386-437-4405

Fax: +1 386-437-4427

E-mail: info@intsocderm.org

Web site: www.IntSocDerm.org

<p>Print clearly. Please check card type:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> American Express</p> <hr/> <p>Card Number</p> <hr/> <p>Expiration Date</p> <hr/> <p>Cardholder's Name</p> <hr/> <p>Signature</p> <hr/>

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