



# ISD *Connection*

The Official Newsletter of the International Society of Dermatology

Vol. 11, No. 3 • Fall 2017

## ISD Mentorship Program Offers Hands-On Training for Young Dermatologists



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

There is much on our horizon. The ISD recently concluded its sister society meeting at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) conference in Geneva. It was a pleasure to see so many attending and thanks to Drs. Lawrence Gibson and Ken Tomecki for planning and coordinating the program. You'll read more about the speakers and topics within this newsletter.



During my address I spoke about several new initiatives. These include task forces on young dermatologists and a second on the financial health and future of our Society. A third task force will be started in 1-2 years as a "think tank" to recommend how to position our Society, its missions and goals for the next 5-10+ years. All three of these are designed to enhance what we do and provide a framework for the future. In addition, I will be naming members to the Advisory Council. This group will include many of our most seasoned members as valuable resources to help guide our Society.

A point of special pride is World Skin Health Day (WSHD). These events are co-branded with the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and highlight the cooperation between our two groups, giving the ISD greater global visibility through this partnership. This idea was launched at the AAD meeting in Miami and is now getting traction with 10 societies having participated. Drs. Harvey Lui, Jean Bolognia and

Brigitte Dréno, president, secretary and treasurer of the ILDS, respectively, met with Dr. Evangeline "Vangee" Handog, immediate past president of the ISD, and myself along with support staff to review the current status and plans for WSHD. One outcome is to encourage holding WSHD events in conjunction with ISD meetings and to plan a larger event during the World Congress of Dermatology in Milan 2019. A special thank you to Vangee for championing WSHD both conceptually and for being the energy behind the most sponsored events to date.

I encourage all members to approach their national or local societies and add WSHD to any pre-existing skin health event for the public. It can also be attached to annual and regional meetings. Although the name implies there is one global "day", in reality, it can be any "day" you or your society selects. Information is available on the ISD website at: [www.intsocderm.org](http://www.intsocderm.org). It requires very little effort and allows you and the ISD to be international leaders in promoting skin health.

Sincerely,



George Reizner, MD  
ISD President

## Save the Date

ISD Reception  
at the 2018 AAD Annual Meeting  
in San Diego, California

*Monday, February 19, 2018*  
*5:30 PM - 7:30 PM*



Location to be Announced  
Check the ISD Website for Details Coming Soon!



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## FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Friends,

Previously, I shared with you the central vision and many objectives of our Society. One of the many ISD goals is to bring together dermatologists from around the globe for the advancement of dermatology and improving the care of our patients. The current issue of the newsletter is the best overview on how ISD members and our leadership bring experience and expertise to many local societies to nurture professional development and to encourage understanding and friendship -- not to mention to promote the ISD as a primary dermatological society for the international community.

Looking ahead, I can assure you that the program we are working on for the coming year is full of exciting professional meetings, including five Regional meetings and two Continental Congresses. Local societies together with the ISD Educational Committee are meticulously planning to combine state-of-the-art formal dermatological sessions with rich local cultural events, sightseeing tours and time to socialize.

We start 2018 with the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology in San Diego, California, from February 16th to 20th. San Diego has been called "the birthplace of California" with its rich history, numerous museums, art galleries,



artist studios, beautiful beaches, gardens and culinary surprises from around the world. The ISD will host its always exciting annual reception on Monday, February 19, 2018. We invite members and their guests from around the world to come and enjoy an evening of fine food and camaraderie. There is always great anticipation in the air for details on upcoming Congresses and Regional meetings. The reception will serve as a good opportunity for members to reunite and celebrate the accomplishments of notable dermatologists who are members of our Society from all corners of the world.

In addition, as you begin planning your trip to the AAD in San Diego, I would like to encourage you to attend Global Education Day on Thursday, February 15, 2018. Independent sessions will be held by a number of international societies including those from Spain, Poland, Egypt and Mexico. They will highlight their members' work and offer networking with fellow dermatologists, providing an opportunity to meet your old friends and make new ones.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in San Diego and at our future meetings!

Yours truly,

*Nellie Konnikov, M.D.*

Nellie Konnikov, MD  
ISD Secretary-General



The poster features a vibrant, painterly background with a night sky, a cityscape, and a field of flowers. The Taipei 101 tower is illuminated with fireworks. Logos for the International Society of Dermatology and the Taiwanese Dermatological Association are at the top. The text is in both English and Chinese.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY of DERMATOLOGY

THE TAIWANESE DERMATOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION 1975

**The 6th Continental Congress of Dermatology**

**44th Taiwanese Dermatological Association Annual Meeting**

**臺灣皮膚科醫學會第44屆年會**

2018 11 / 16-18 ▶ 台北國際會議中心(TICC)  
Taipei International Convention Center / Taipei, Taiwan



## ISD Mentorship Awardee from Mexico Brings Home Enhanced Skills in Dermatologic Surgery

For ISD mentorship awardee Dr. Jorge Ocampo-Garza of Monterrey, Mexico, spending two months in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with mentor Prof. Luiz Guilherme Martins Castro was a life-changing experience.

From April - May 2017, Dr. Ocampo-Garza performed multiple surgeries under the guidance of Prof. Castro at the Hospital Alemão Oswaldo Cruz, Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, and Prof. Castro's private practice in Brazil.

Dr. Ocampo-Garza mainly performed basic to advanced surgical procedures to treat skin cancer, from basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas to dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans and melanoma, including removal of sentinel lymph nodes. He appreciated all the tips and insights Prof. Castro provided for both conventional and Mohs surgery, which Dr. Ocampo-Garza feels will make him a better surgeon. He noted that he will take all the knowledge learned in this mentorship with him to Mexico to teach dermatology residents and for the benefit of his patients.

In addition to his hands-on training, Dr. Ocampo-Garza had the opportunity to be a speaker in clinical sessions of the Oncology/Dermatology group at one of the most important hospitals in Sao Paulo. Thanks to Prof. Castro's invitation, Dr. Ocampo-Garza also participated as a speaker at the recently concluded ISD XII International Congress of Dermatology (ICD) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Ocampo-Garza is grateful to the ISD and Prof. Castro for this incredible opportunity. He appreciated the chance to be in one of the best dermatological surgery services in Brazil and even the world. He was also able to work with other outstanding dermatological surgeons led by Prof. Carlos D Aparecida Santos Machado Filho at the Faculdade de Medicina do ABC, and to whom he will always be thankful.

*"Prof. Castro was a great teacher, a great mentor, and now a great friend, and to whom I am deeply grateful. I recommend that all young dermatologists join the ISD and apply to the Mentorship Program."*

-- Dr. Jorge Ocampo-Garza



Prof. Castro (left) oversees Dr. Ocampo-Garza (right) performing a surgical technique.

## Skin Cancer Training Provides Invaluable Skills for ISD Mentorship Awardee from Ukraine

While non-melanoma skin cancer is the most common malignancy in Caucasians, cutaneous oncology is not included in the curriculum of dermatology residency programs in ISD mentorship awardee Dr. Liudmyla Naumova's country, Ukraine. That's why Dr. Naumova was thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in the ISD's Mentorship Program, as her goal was to acquire knowledge and skills in the field of cutaneous oncology in order to improve her practice of dermatology and to teach her students.

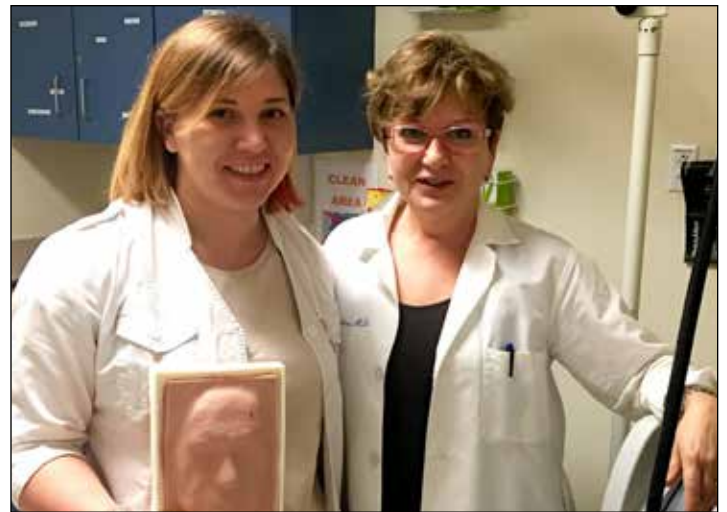
Dr. Naumova spent six weeks in Boston learning from experts in the field, including her primary supervisor Dr. Nellie Konnikov, Chief of Dermatology at the Boston VA Medical Center. Dr. Konnikov developed a special curriculum for her in which she was fully integrated into the dermatology service.

Not only did Dr. Naumova participate in the daily clinical activities, Grand Rounds, and didactic sessions, but she was exposed to different types of biopsy techniques and procedures such as Mohs surgery, cryotherapy, photodynamic therapy, and laser therapy. In addition, she learned the latest advances in the management of common and unique skin problems, and her weekly interaction with the dermatopathology service allowed her to fully appreciate the significance of clinicopathologic correlations.

Dr. Naumova is also grateful to the dermatology residents who helped her to navigate her new environment throughout this mentorship. She is inspired and optimistic that she can implement the advanced knowledge and acquired skills in her country.

*"Thanks to the ISD and most especially to Dr. Konnikov, I am going back to my country and my department with newly acquired knowledge and skills, invaluable personal experiences, and a progressive view on the future of dermatology."*

-- Dr. Liudmyla Naumova



Dr. Liudmyla Naumova (left) with mentor Dr. Nellie Konnikov (right).

## Mentorship in Germany Fosters New Clinical Experiences and Friendships for ISD Mentorship Awardee from Indonesia

Calling her three-month mentorship with Prof. Thomas Ruzicka at the Dermatology and Allergy Clinic of Ludwig-Maximilian University Hospital in Munich, Germany, one of the most wonderful periods in her life, ISD mentorship awardee Dr. Nani Kumala Dewi Tasmin of Indonesia embraced the opportunity to learn new skills that she could bring back to her country.

During the first two weeks of her rotation, Dr. Tasmin was able to participate in clinical sections within the clinic -- including an emergency unit, operating room and immunology laboratory, as well as allergology, phlebology, sexually transmitted infections, pediatrics, psoriasis and phototherapy, and laser and aesthetic departments. In addition to a hair clinic, they also offer photodynamic therapy and extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP). Their department is equipped with the latest diagnostic methods and treatment options and serves as one of the best training institutions for dermatology in Europe.

Typically, Dr. Tasmin started her day with morning rounds with Prof. Ruzicka, spending most of her time in the allergology department. It is not only the largest department in the hospital, but is also a center of excellence and referral center for the entire Bavarian state. As a result, she was able to learn how to handle a wide range of patients with allergies -- not just a step-by-step approach to diagnose and determination of etiology, but also how to deliver the best treatment.

In the surgery department, Dr. Tasmin learned how to do micrographically controlled surgery with advanced reconstruction for cutaneous malignancies. In the oncology department, she learned how to do complete and comprehensive screenings. The latter included dermoscopy, optical coherence tomography, ultrasonography, and the use of radioactive Tc 99m tracer for sentinel lymph node biopsy, which she didn't have the privilege to learn during her residency training.

Dr. Tasmin also enjoyed her rotation in the phototherapy department where she was able to learn photodynamic therapy for actinic keratoses and other disorders. She appreciated the opportunity to observe how they use ECP to treat patients with chronic graft versus host disease, cutaneous lymphomas and severe autoimmune diseases. In the immunology department, Dr. Tasmin learned a lot from their well-established protocols on how to diagnose and treat patients with several autoimmune diseases.

Another highlight of Dr. Tasmin's mentorship experience was being able to participate in the 5th International Summer Academy of Practical Dermatology, which allowed her to meet and learn from experts around the world and to build strong friendships with young

dermatologists from more than 15 countries. Despite differences in cultures and languages, they were able to share their experiences in dermatology, make great memories and establish strong bonds.

In return, Dr. Tasmin was given the opportunity to share some of her country's experiences in cutaneous tuberculosis with the department. Although these diseases are rarely seen in Germany today, she had a very interactive session with all the professors, consultants, residents and medical students and was happy to be able to exchange some knowledge on tropical diseases.

Dr. Tasmin is grateful to the ISD Mentorship Committee for allowing her to participate in this amazing program, as well as Prof. Ruzicka and all the staff of the Dermatology and Allergy Department at Ludwig-Maximilian University who welcomed her into their department and allowed her to learn from them.

*"Hopefully, I will be able to share my experiences and the knowledge I gained during this great program with my colleagues in Indonesia and apply this to the care of patients in the future."*

-- Dr. Nani Kumala Dewi Tasmin



Dr. Nani Kumala Dewi Tasmin (center, kneeling) with mentor Prof. Thomas Ruzicka (far left) and dermatologists and medical students from Brazil, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, and Thailand during morning rounds.



Dr. Tasmin (bottom right) with the entire staff of the Dermatology-Allergy Department of Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich.



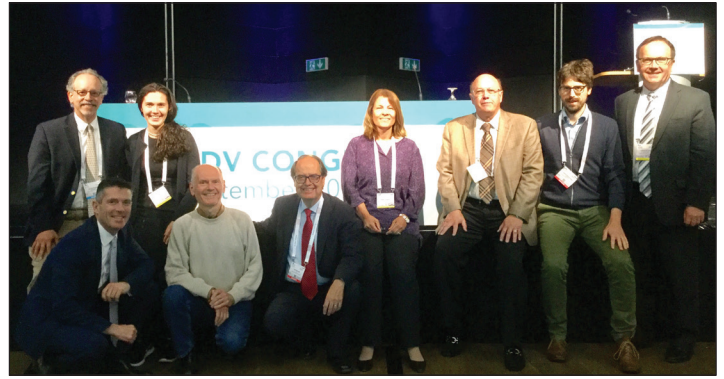
Dr. Tasmin's presentation on cutaneous tuberculosis in the department.

# ISD Hosts Subspecialty Meeting at EADV 26th Annual Congress in Switzerland

ISD members from around the globe gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, for the ISD's subspecialty meeting held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at the EADV 26th Annual Congress.

The session, moderated by Drs. Ken Tomecki and Larry Gibson, began with introductory remarks by the ISD President, Dr. George Reizner. A highlight was the presentation of the best of the Case Reports, Clinical and Pathologic Challenges, Reviews, and Reports from the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)*. These were presented by Drs. David Mehregan, Mark Cappel, Larry Gibson, and Ken Tomecki, respectively. *IJD* Editor Dr. Rokea El-Azhary reported on the success of the journal in achieving its missions, including the increasing number of countries submitting articles to the journal (see Figure) and the increase in its impact factor.

Dr. Mark Davis reviewed the many connections between the Mayo Clinic and the ISD, beginning with the contributions of Drs. Sig Mueller and Daniel Su. Drs. Louise Kronborg-Andersen and Aldo Morrone provided timely updates on the impact of climate change on the skin and displaced populations, respectively. The impressive organization of dermatopathology within the African continent was outlined by Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli.

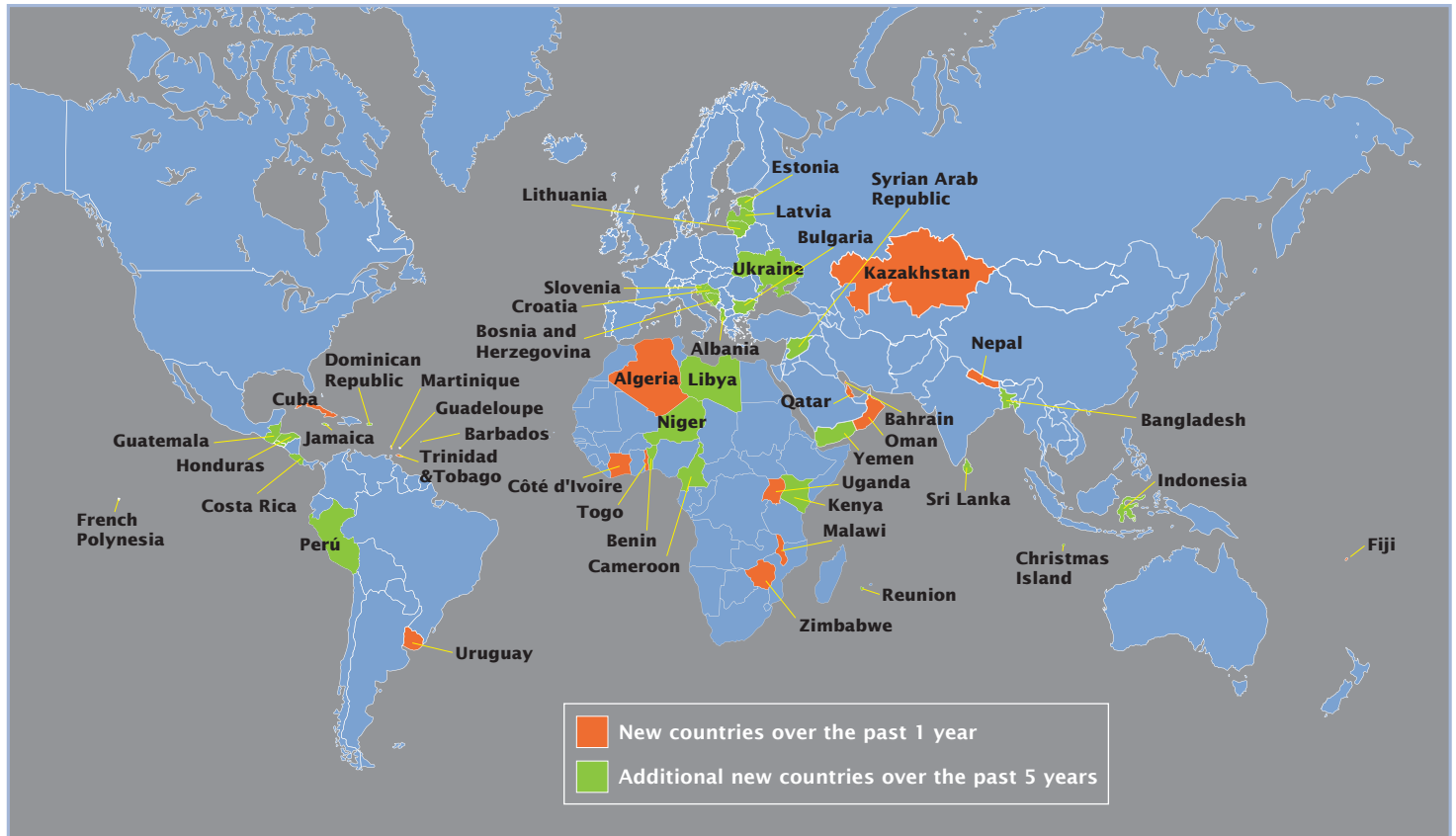


Kneeling, from left to right: Drs. Mark Davis, Ken Tomecki, and Aldo Morrone. Second row, from left to right: Drs. George Reizner, Louise Kronborg-Andersen, Rokea El-Azhary, David Mehregan, Helmut Beltraminelli, and Larry Gibson.



ISD Executive Director Cindy Froehlich shares the latest Society news on the exhibit floor, including the upcoming 6th Continental Congress of Dermatology in Taipei, Taiwan.

## New countries submitting articles to *IJD* over the past 5 years



## ISD Board Member Crusades for the Development of Dermatopathological Expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa

An interview with ISD Board Member Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli (Switzerland), Dermatology Department, Inselspital Bern University Hospital, Bern, Switzerland, who initiated a dermatopathology training program in Africa that can be replicated in other areas with this need.

### When did you begin your dermatopathology training program in Africa? Where is it based?

In 2009, during a six-month voluntary work assignment at the Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshi, Tanzania, I immediately realized the absolute need for dermatopathology services in sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, since 2009, a group of motivated experts with limited funding have been running a project to develop dermatopathology in this region, emanating from this prominent reference and training center. I had the great fortune that my chief Prof. Luca Borradori -- and some giants in the field of African dermatology such as Prof. Terence Ryan, Prof. Rod Hay, and Dr. Claire Fuller -- enthusiastically supported the project from the very beginning.

### Background information

**Importance of Dermatopathology:** Light microscopy studies of skin biopsies, together with clinical evaluation, are the most important steps in dermatological diagnosis. The availability of dermatopathology services varies significantly around the world. In several resource-poor countries, there is limited or no access at all to specialists such as dermatologists and dermatopathologists or to laboratory services. In 2010 in sub-Saharan Africa, trained and/or board certified dermatopathologists were extremely rare, with less than 14% of countries having such specialists. Unfortunately, for the entire continent, a precise dermatological diagnosis supported by a skin biopsy is still rare, affecting the health of several thousands of patients.

**Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC), Moshi, Tanzania:** In 1992, an international taskforce decided to build the RDTC, supported by multiple organizations including the WHO, the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), the International Society of Dermatology (ISD), and the government of Tanzania. Under the guidance of Prof. Henning Grossmann and Prof. John Masenga (both previous directors), the RDTC has rapidly become an academic pan-African reference center for the management of skin diseases and dermatological training. The RDTC, currently under the direction of Dr. Daudi Mavura, cares for more than 13,000 patients annually and more than 500 skin biopsies are performed yearly. Other important duties of the RDTC include

education of dermatology clinical officers, education of dermatology residents, education of medical students from the local university, and organization of a yearly dermatological CME conference with substantial international resonance.

### How does it work?

The strategy is to invest in **sustainable education**. The main goal is for motivated and talented African specialists (dermatologists or pathologists) to acquire expertise in dermatopathology in Europe/Western countries over at least one year (divided into three-month rotations). An additional goal is to prepare these individuals for the International Board Examination in Dermatopathology (IBED) administered in Frankfurt, Germany. These experts will then pass on their knowledge to other African colleagues, which ensures the sustainability of the project.

### How is it managed?

The two major elements of such a project are partnerships and funding. Since 2011, we have had a collaboration between hard-working experts (about 15 people) in Africa and Europe and highly motivated African trainees (10 specialists), in addition to the involvement of a few professional societies. We have received financial support from the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), the ISD, the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD), the International Society of Dermatopathology (ISDP), the University of Basel (Switzerland), and some private sources.

### What have been your greatest achievements since you started this program?

- The **dermatopathology activities at the RDTC** are ongoing at a consistently high level.
- Dermatopathology services are now available in **several additional African countries**, where they were lacking until a few years ago.
- Four African fellows** have already successfully passed the **IBED Examination** and are now working and teaching in their respective countries in Africa.
- Since 2015, the yearly organization of an "**African Dermatopathology Conference**" (**ADPC**) at the RDTC has been the focal point for ongoing support of the new experts and a forum to recruit new interest. The 4<sup>th</sup> ADPC is scheduled for January 8-9, 2018.
- In 2016, the "**African Dermatopathology Society**" (**ADPS**) was founded. All committee members are African specialists.
- Scientific activity** includes five posters, three publications and several lectures.

### Do you use all volunteers?

Yes, everybody working on this project does so on a voluntary basis.

### **How have you helped raise awareness of skin cancer with the local community?**

The primary elements of the battle against skin cancer are education, prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment. A simple and small skin biopsy enables the achievement of most of these elements. Therefore, one easily realizes the significant impact of trained dermatopathologists establishing the diagnosis of skin cancer, or other skin diseases, in a setting such as sub-Saharan Africa. The benefit for the patients and the community is easily and quickly understood. As we published in 2014 in a study analyzing the results of all skin biopsies done at the RDTC over five years, skin tumors represented 30% of the diagnoses. Moreover, from 2006 to 2010, the number of skin tumors increased by 150%. Most of these tumors are non-melanoma skin cancers in persons-with-albinism, which is particularly common in the region. We also studied this particular population (and published the results) in which we examined all of their tumors histologically over a period of 10 years.

### **Are there any plans to expand the program into other parts of Africa?**

This has already been done. The RDTC in Moshi is a pan-African reference center, a kind of epicenter of African and tropical dermatology. Most of the specialists trained there are from different African countries. Starting the project at the RDTC gave it, from the very beginning, an African-international character. The fellows we trained in Europe since 2011 are from Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The participants in the most recent African Dermatopathology Conference (ADPC) included more than 40 specialists from 16 countries, among them 10 African countries.



**Dermatopathology unit at the RDTC in 2015, featuring Dr. Kiprono (seated front), Dr. Mbwilo (seated center) and Dr. Amani (seated back). Laboratory and telepathology services are offered by the staff of Dr. Cuevas in Spain.**



**Dr. Daudi Mavura, Director of the RDTC, at the CME conference held annually in January at the RDTC in Moshi, Tanzania.**

### **How can ISD members help you further your work?**

There are several different possibilities. An enthusiastic dermatopathologist with training skills could host and train an African fellow in his or her laboratory. In our hospital, we provided this type of training 14 times since 2011. However, collaborators in other hospitals -- who are willing to join the project and host trainees in their own laboratory -- are very difficult to find. This can be part of the ISD mentorship program (<https://www.intsocderm.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3289>). We are happy and grateful to have a collaboration with Prof. Lorenzo Cerroni in Austria, Dr. Gisela Metzler in Germany, and Dr. Nicolas Ortonne in France.

A motivated dermatopathologist could go to an African Dermatology Clinic and provide training in dermatopathology. Dr. Jesus Cuevas from Spain established part of the dermatopathology laboratory in Moshi, and other dermatologists could do the same in other sites. Of course, help in raising funds is always welcomed.

### **What advice would you offer your ISD colleagues who may be considering starting a similar project to bring dermpathology training to other communities in need?**

Come to Moshi in January 2018 for the 4<sup>th</sup> ADPC (January 8-9, 2018) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> CME (January 10-12, 2018), where they will meet several other experts involved in similar projects and learn from them. They can also find partnership opportunities. It is really enriching to work with young, motivated and talented African colleagues and to share work and life experiences with them. All fellows are very grateful to obtain this exceptional training in such an important subspecialty.



**African fellows at the ISDP Summer Academy in Graz in 2015. From left to right, Dr. Mzumara, Dr. Zuriel, Prof. Requena, Dr. Beltraminelli, Prof. Cerroni, Dr. Kiprono and Dr. Amani.**



**Dr. Mremi studying cases at the microscope in Bern (2016).**





## ISD Board Member Writes and Works to Raise Awareness of “Tinea” Epidemic in India

To all our ISD colleagues,

An epidemic of steroid-modified dermatophytosis, predominantly tinea corporis, tinea cruris and tinea faciei, has taken India and to a lesser extent the Indian subcontinent by storm over the past three to four years. Many private practitioners and academic departments are now reporting that individuals with dermatophytosis comprise 20% to 30% of their daily outpatient visits. Widespread abuse of fixed drug combination creams containing multiple antifungal agents, ultrapotent corticosteroids (e.g. clobetasol propionate) and antibacterial agents (cocktail creams) has been identified as one of the most important factors underlying this unfortunate and preventable epidemic.

India has emerged as the largest manufacturer and seller of such combination creams, which are both cheap and readily accessible. Due to laxity and misinterpretation of Indian drug laws, they have become over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Patients suffering from cutaneous fungal infections apply these creams upon the advice



Dr. Shyam Verma

of general practitioners, other non-dermatology specialists, and quacks, as well as friends and pharmacists. This has resulted in a disease entity aptly termed “steroid-modified tinea”, manifesting as tinea in the usual locations but with bizarre morphological patterns including a lack of central clearing and an eczematous appearance, pustular borders, and often a failure to respond to conventional treatment. The problem is so grave that two task forces have been formed by the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) in order to increase awareness, educate the public and medical professionals from various fields, and meet health officials and policy makers at the highest level.

Colleagues from Africa have reported a similar phenomenon posing a significant problem in many parts of that continent – unfortunately, many of these creams are imported from India. In addition to corticosteroid-related adverse cutaneous side effects such as atrophy, hypopigmentation and striae, this practice sets the stage for resistance to antifungal agents due to the erratic use of these combination creams, with exposure to antifungal agents in a suboptimal dose.

In this light, we would like to know how prevalent this condition is in other parts of the world and would be happy to correspond with interested members.

*Dr. Shyam Verma, Consultant Dermatologist, Vadodara, India  
skindiaverma@gmail.com*

Further reading (free full text available on [www.e-ijd.org](http://www.e-ijd.org)):

Verma S, Madhu R. The great Indian epidemic of superficial dermatophytosis: An appraisal. *Indian J Dermatol* 2017;62:227-36.

Verma SB. Topical steroid misuse in India is harmful and out of control. *BMJ* 2015;351:h6079



Steroid-modified dermatophytosis -- unusual morphology with multiple concentric rings and arcs as well as eczematous plaques, atrophy, and striae.

## 5th International Summer Academy in Munich Combined Unique Mix of Educational and Cultural Offerings

Once again, nearly 900 dermatologists from 80 countries gathered for the 5th International Summer Academy (ISA) of Practical Dermatology meeting in Munich, Germany, from July 25-29, 2017.

Together with the administrative team, Prof. Thomas Ruzicka and Dr. Gerd Gauglitz organized an exceptional meeting, where experts from around the world and different cultures met to share their knowledge, experience and expertise. Thanks to Prof. Ruzicka's outstanding networking abilities, young dermatologists from around the world had the opportunity to learn from distinguished experts of practical dermatology. These experts represented several specialty areas, including pediatric dermatology, infectious diseases, dermatologic surgery, geriatric dermatology, aesthetic dermatology, laser therapy, leg ulcers and wound healing, dermatopathology, eczema, psoriasis, rosacea, photodynamic therapy, and trichology. Emphasis was placed on standards of care and treatment protocols for skin diseases as well as the most recent techniques in procedural dermatology. The plenary sessions were so popular they were standing-room-only.

In addition, there were master classes, practical courses, hands-on classes and meet-the-expert sessions for those dermatologists wanting to advance their practical skills. The meeting provided a unique platform and plenty of time for young dermatologists to learn and to socialize with experts.

The ISA served as a great example of intercultural exchange of knowledge and experience. There was also an exceptional spirit throughout the conference, with several gatherings for networking opportunities, sightseeing tours, and a German-style Gala dinner.



**Drs. Nellie Konnikov and Jerry Shapiro at the Bavarian Gala Dinner.**



**Seated from left to right: Drs. Lali Mekokishvili, Thomas Ruzicka and SV Koshkin; Standing from left to right: Drs. Alireza Firooz, Shyam Verma, and Nellie Konnikov.**



**Left to right: Drs. Rashmi Sarkar, Nellie Konnikov and ISD Mentorship awardee Nani Kumala Dewi.**

## Behind the Scenes: Getting to Know the New 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 it's 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.

At the recent XII International Congress of Dermatology in Buenos Aires, 11 new members were appointed to the ISD Board of Directors. In upcoming newsletters, we will profile these new board members to introduce them to the membership.

Here, meet four ISD Board Members who have been heavily involved in ISD committees and programs over the years -- Drs. Esperanza Welsh (Mexico), Hassan Galadari (UAE), Lali Mekokishvili (Georgia), and Helmut Beltraminelli (Switzerland).

### **Dr. Welsh, where did you train in dermatology?**

**EW:** I finished my residency in Dermatology in 2003 at the Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Then I did a Dermatopathology fellowship and a Cosmetic Dermatology fellowship at this same institution.



**Dr. Esperanza Welsh (Mexico)**  
*ISD Connection  
Editor-in-Chief,  
New Board Member*

### **Where do you practice dermatology?**

**EW:** I came back to Monterrey, Mexico, to practice. I do both private practice and also give dermatopathology lectures and participate in the outpatient dermatology clinic at the Department of Dermatology at the University Hospital of the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon.

### **What are your areas of interest within dermatology?**

**EW:** Treatment of scars, cosmetic dermatology, contact dermatitis, use of isotretinoin for acne, dermatopathology, wound healing and ichthyosis.

### **Why are you a member of the ISD?**

**EW:** Because I love the camaraderie that the ISD and their members offer. I enjoy learning and exchanging relevant dermatology information at the ISD meetings and traveling around the world.

### **What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?**

**EW:** I enjoy trail walking in the mountains at Chipinque Park. I love spending time with my family. I like reading and art, and love to travel to learn about different cultures and places.

### **What 3 words best describe you?**

**EW:** Happy. Grateful. Hardworking.

### **You're a busy working mom of twins...how do you juggle your personal and professional life?**

**EW:** I have good help at home, and I don't work a full day. I am home when the kids come back from after-school sports, so that way

we can do homework together and talk about how their day went at school. It's always a work in progress but I somehow manage.

### **Serving the ISD runs in the family for you, as your father, Dr. Oliverio Welsh, served on the ISD Board of Directors for many years. How did he inspire you to want to serve the ISD in a leadership role?**

**EW:** Well, I think he has inspired me always. First, wanting to become a doctor, then a dermatologist. I remember that during my residency I would join him at the ISD meetings and have been involved ever since. We both share a love for dermatology, traveling, and learning, and the ISD is an excellent platform. I enjoy it very much and it's an honor to serve the ISD.



**Dr. Hassan Galadari (UAE)**  
*ISD Treasurer,  
New Board Member*

### **Dr. Galadari, what would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?**

**HG:** I presented at meetings in six continents within 10 years of completing my dermatology training. I've also written a book on soft tissue augmentation as the sole author and hosted two medical TV shows that aired across the Middle East.

### **Why are you a member of ISD and how has this membership impacted your career?**

**HG:** The ISD has always had that family feeling to it, which I have enjoyed compared to other organizations. We are also very transparent with our members. The best thing about the ISD is the important networking it provides. The atmosphere is very collegial during the meetings and most members know each other by name. The Society has offered me the opportunity to become friends with a great number of luminaries in the field, which has exponentially boosted my career and international outreach.

### **What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?**

**HG:** The ability to give back to the dermatology community, both locally and internationally.

### **What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?**

**HG:** I was young once (I'm 39 now). The ISD allows young dermatologists to interact with mentors and even idols readily. Imagine taking photos with the person who has written the definitive dermatology textbook that those young dermatologists have studied. That alone, at times, boosts these dermatologists' morale and expectations.

The ISD also provides a special session during their meetings to allow those young individuals to present and shine. That push may change their lives and encourage them to be more proactive in their careers and gain ownership of their specialty. In addition, there are scholarships and volunteer work that the ISD has in place.

### **What advice would you give to young dermatologists who may be just starting out in their careers?**

**HG:** Just be yourself. Be humble. I've always said, take each day as it comes, don't carry your success today to tomorrow because it may make you arrogant. Don't carry your failures, too. Have those times fuel your ambition to be better the next day. And, also, be genuine. People can tell when a person is real -- and even when they're not -- and that can open many doors for you in the future.

**Where did you train in dermatology and where do you practice at present?**

**HG:** I did my residency in Boston at the Boston University/Tufts program. I then did a fellowship in procedural dermatology at University of California San Francisco (UCSF). At present, I practice in Dubai (private) and Al Ain (academic).

**What are your areas of interest within dermatology?**

**HG:** Cosmetic Dermatology, mainly in the area of soft tissue augmentation and injectables.

**How do you balance your personal life with your busy professional life?**

**HG:** I have a great and wonderful wife. She's a child psychiatrist and has been the most supportive individual of my career. She brings that balance to my life, making sure that I do not stray too much into my profession and keeping me grounded. She makes this experience real.

I also enjoy family life and time spent with them, and that's why time management is key. Though I am very much connected, I do keep protected time for them and enjoy family vacations and outings. If you take those beautiful moments and have them fuel your professional life, it starts making more sense. One of my goals is to keep a legacy for my family that they would be proud of. Then your personal and professional lives become a circle that feeds off the other.

**What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine? Any fun facts?**

**HG:** I love to read. An insatiable need to do so and as crazy as it may seem, I read different books at the same time. I also love to watch movies, and I am a big comic book collector with over 100k issues. If you don't believe me, ask my wife who is threatening to kick me out of the house if I get more, since we are running out of space at home.

**What 3 words best describe you?**

**HG:** Loyal. Ambitious. Dynamic.

**Dr. Mekokishvili, why are you a member of the ISD?**

**LM:** ISD is an internationally recognized prestigious organization and it is a great honor for me to be a part of this society. Significant point: I met good friends and I feel like a family member here. ISD also enables me to realize interesting international projects. For example, I had the opportunity to organize two international congresses under ISD support in my country involving international experts, which is a great opportunity to improve knowledge and dermatological services in our region.



**Dr. Lali Mekokishvili (Georgia)**  
*New Board Member*

**How has ISD impacted your career?**

**LM:** My professional network has always been good enough, though by becoming an ISD member my connections have increased significantly. I have been introduced to the international experts and made new friends from all over the world. Also, I am invited more often as a speaker to prestigious congresses. It's worth mentioning that I have been assigned as a member of the editorial board of various scientific journals. All the things mentioned have grown my recognition in our field.

**What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?**

**LM:** The opportunity to share knowledge and experiences, meeting new people, and the possibility to organize educational events under the ISD umbrella.

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

**LM:** I am from Georgia, in the former Soviet Republic, which is located in the South Caucasus and is famous for its ancient culture and hospitality. I'm the first Georgian on the ISD Board. I started my medical education at the age of 17, got married at 22, received a scientific degree at 30, and became a grandmother at 50. I'm able to sing, dance and cook several dishes simultaneously!

**What 3 words best describe you?**

**LM:** Honest. Hard worker. Leader.

**What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?**

**LM:** There are a number of possibilities available – educational opportunities, travel grants, mentorship awards. Since 2014, several young Georgian ISD member dermatologists have received the chance to participate in the international congresses, even as speakers.

**What advice would you give to young dermatologists who may be just starting out in their careers?**

**LM:** Never lose the time. Learn from case to case, do research and acquire skills in our broad field -- from surgery to aesthetics. Be active, take part in international projects and establish a good professional network. And the most important point -- do nothing without pleasure and love!

**Where did you train in dermatology and where do you practice?**

**LM:** I trained in Georgia and Germany and presently practice in the capital city of Georgia – Tbilisi.

**What are your areas of interest within dermatology?**

**LM:** General dermatology, photodermatology, and skin cancer.

**How do you balance your personal life with your busy professional life?**

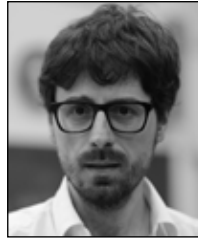
**LM:** My work takes a lot of time and energy, but it's my passion! My profession comprises two aspects: healing and teaching -- both are absolutely amazing and provide me with so much pleasure! I am filled with energy in the company of my family and friends, especially when I communicate with my 4-year-old grandson. All of these contribute to balancing my life. However, I do feel the need for finding more free time.

**What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine? Any fun facts?**

**LM:** I am really into theater, travel, and nature. I love the sea and the sun! Although as a national representative of the Euro Melanoma campaign, I lead skin cancer screening and campaigns against sunbeds every year. One day I was invited to a telecast to speak about skin cancer risks. Our flight from Santorini was delayed for a week, so I was tanned more than enough. It was really funny when I zealously talked about the growing risk of skin cancer from sunlight, and the young TV presenter looked doubtfully at my sunburned legs.

**Dr. Beltraminelli, how has ISD impacted your career?**

**HB:** ISD is a very important platform for specialists interested in other people. This is reflected in my personal and professional African experience in which I have worked in partnership with several ISD members for 10 years.



**Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli**  
*New Board Member*

**What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?**

**HB:** The contact with other people with very different backgrounds and similar interests.

**How do you balance your personal life with your busy professional life?**

**HB:** I am working every day on that balance.

**What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?**

**HB:** An international network with experts, each one a window on a particular back courtyard, as well as inspiration and some support.

**What advice would you give to young dermatologists who may be just starting out in their careers?**

**HB:** Be curious, train your skills like a sport champion. Do what you like with respect to others and yourself.

**Where did you train in dermatology?**

**HB:** Basel, Graz, Friedrichshafen, Moshi, and Bern, but also Bellinzona, Strasbourg, Paris and everywhere I am. Training never stops.

**Where do you practice dermatology?**

**HB:** Inselspital Bern University Hospital, Switzerland.

**What are your areas of interest within dermatology?**

**HB:** Humans, the whole of dermatopathology, skin lymphomas, and teaching.

**Why are you a member of the ISD?**

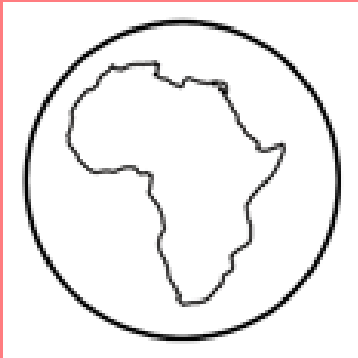
**HB:** Because I like to look out of the window.

**What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine? Any fun facts?**

**HB:** To try to understand several important queries better. Walking, cooking, reading, and photography.

**4<sup>th</sup>**

**AFRICAN DERMATOPATHOLOGY CONFERENCE**



**Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC)  
Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC)  
Moshi, Tanzania**

**January 8-9, 2018**



## MEETINGS TO NOTE ■■■

### Third Combined Congress of Dermatology, Dermatological Surgery, and Vitiligo Societies of South Africa and African Women's Dermatologic Society Held in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, August 24-27, 2017

Dermatologists from around the world gathered in Pretoria, South Africa, August 24-27, 2017, for this major international event, "Together for Dermatology" Congress 2017, chaired by Drs. Mahlatse Kgokolo, Izolda Heydenrych, Noufal Raboobee and Dagmar Whitaker.

International dignitaries in attendance included Drs. Lakhdar Belhaouari (France), Koen de Boulle (Belgium), Christopher EM Griffiths (UK), Imran Majid (Kashmir), Alan Menter (USA), Patricia Ogilvie (Germany), Robert A. Schwartz (USA), Hema Sundaram (USA), and Andrea Willey (USA). Drs. Mahlatse Kgokolo and Izolda Heydenrych opened the conference, after which Dr. Alan Menter

presented the George Findlay Lecture summarizing advances in psoriasis.

Guests and members alike proclaimed the success of this event and enjoyed the beauty of southern Africa, including Cape Town and Victoria Falls.



Conference Committee Chairs Drs. Mahlatse Kgokolo (second from right) and Noufal Raboobee (far right), who is also President of the Vitiligo Society of South Africa, are honored by ISD Board member Dr. Robert A. Schwartz (second from left) with Dr. Christopher EM Griffiths (far left).

*Inclusion of meetings that are not sponsored by ISD are at the discretion of the newsletter editorial board.*



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS ■■■

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



**Branka Marinovic**

**Dr. Branka Marinovic** (Croatia) was elected Secretary-General of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) during the EADV's 26th Annual Congress in Switzerland. Dr. Marinovic will serve as Secretary-General for four years beginning this September.



**Suzanne Olbricht**

**Dr. Suzanne Olbricht** (USA), the current President-Elect of the American Academy of Dermatology, has joined Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston as Chief of Dermatology.

## 2018 ISD Meetings Calendar

**January 8 – 9, 2018**  
**African Dermatopathology Conference**  
 Moshi, Tanzania  
 Email: [helmut.beltraminelli@insel.ch](mailto:helmut.beltraminelli@insel.ch)

**February 19, 2018**  
**ISD Reunion at the AAD**  
 San Diego, CA

**June 29 – July 1, 2018**  
**5th DAAS Summit**  
 New Delhi, India  
 Web Site: [www.daassummit.com](http://www.daassummit.com)

**August 17 – 19, 2018**  
**31st Hot Spots in Dermatology**  
 Kahuku, Hawaii  
 Email: [djelpern@gmail.com](mailto:djelpern@gmail.com)

**August 30 – September 2, 2018**  
**2nd African Society of Dermatology & Venereology Meeting**  
 Durban, South Africa  
 Web Site: [www.derma.co.za](http://www.derma.co.za)

**September 12, 2018**  
**ISD Session at the EADV**  
 Paris, France  
 Time and location TBD

**November 7 – 9, 2018**  
**Conquering Diversity: Joining Forces in the Advancement of Dermatology 41st Annual Convention of the Philippine Dermatological Society**  
 Metro Manila, Philippines  
 Web Site: [www.pds.org.ph](http://www.pds.org.ph)

**November 16 – 18, 2018**  
**6th Continental Congress of the ISD 44th Taiwanese Dermatological Association**  
 Taipei, Taiwan  
<https://www.tdmt.org/>

**December 6 – 8, 2018**  
**"Controversies in Dermatology" 6th Edition**  
 Zakopane, Poland  
 Web Site: [www.termidia.pl](http://www.termidia.pl)

### Save the Date!

**November 10-13, 2021**  
**XIII International Congress of Dermatology**  
 Melbourne, Australia  
 Web Site: <https://www.dermcoll.edu.au/events/2021-international-congress-of-dermatology/>



# International Society of Dermatology

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Join online at [www.intsocderm.org](http://www.intsocderm.org)

(Please print or type clearly)

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(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):

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

**Regular Member** ..... US \$125.00  
This is the regular and usual membership of the Society. Annual dues of US \$125.00 include a subscription to the *International Journal of Dermatology*. May hold elective office and vote.

**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/>.

**Associate Member** ..... US \$75.00  
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 \$75.00 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](mailto:info@intsocderm.org)

Web site: [www.intsocderm.org](http://www.intsocderm.org)

Print clearly. Please check card type:

MasterCard  Visa  American Express

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