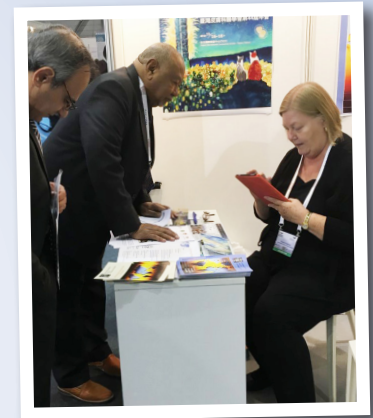




ISD *Connection*

The Official Newsletter of the International Society of Dermatology Vol. 15, No. 1 • Spring 2021

ISD Mourns Passing of Beloved Executive Director Cindy Froehlich



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Written prior to the passing of Cindy Froehlich)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's been a President's unprecedented year. We have endured health uncertainty, separation, and lifestyle changes. It was just last spring we learned the American Academy of Dermatology's (AAD) Denver annual meeting was canceled. This seemed inconceivable and yet the 2021 AAD was canceled as well. We responded by adopting Zoom meetings. All nine committees, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors (BOD) gathered virtually. Although our regional meetings and mentorship program were paused, other activities increased their pace.

Since we didn't meet at the AAD 2021 San Francisco, **Dr. Vangee Handog**, Immediate Past President, envisioned and produced a virtual ISD reunion held Saturday, March 13, 2021. It was a brilliant parade of national costumes and a chance to meet with 110+ members. Especially enjoyable was the first "ISD's Got Talent" competition with awards in both national attire and talent. Importantly, **Dr. Ncoza Dlova** received her belated 2020 Maria Duran award and gave her acceptance speech from Durban, South Africa.

On December 12, 2020, your Board of Directors held a special meeting to discuss the International Congress of Dermatology (ICD) Melbourne scheduled for this coming November. Australia is expected to remain closed to international travelers until 2022. Given these restrictions, **Dr. Dedee Murrell**, Congress President, and **Dr. Rod Sinclair**, Congress Secretary, led the discussion to go virtual. The dates -- November 10-13, 2021 -- will remain the same. This new format allows for innovation, inclusion of more members and unique programming only possible through a digital platform. Stay tuned for more information.



A significant development is the Bylaws Committee, led by **Dr. Lawrence Gibson**. The ISD, incorporated in 1959, has evolved and the strategy is to prepare our Society's documents for future generations. These proposed changes fall into two broad categories. The first is to keep us in compliance with New York state law where we are incorporated. I am pleased to report these were approved during a special BOD meeting held on February 20, 2021. The second includes various options to modernize and increase transparency. A lively discussion resulted in various scenarios drafted by the Bylaws Committee and presented to the BOD during their annual meeting on April 3, 2021. Both required and proposed optional changes will be published in the *International Journal of Dermatology* for membership comment. The final step is to adopt these during the ICD's membership meeting in November. The input of many Society voices makes me confident these reflect a shared vision.

Your Society is also preparing for the next leaders. The call for nominations is closed and the candidates' applications are being vetted by the ISD office. The next step is for the Nominating Committee, chaired by **Dr. Percy Naidu**, to create the slate of offices and board members.

The best news is the Continental Congress planned for April 2022 in Mexico City. It may be our first significant face-to-face ISD meeting in over two years. We all deserve this light at the end of the tunnel. So don't miss this heartfelt reunion.

This year we've learned how to remain connected during this challenging time as your Society continued to move forward. A testament to each of us and our collective commitment. I couldn't be prouder.

George Reizner, MD
President, International Society of Dermatology



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FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

(Written prior to the passing of Cindy Froehlich)

My Dear Friends,

While many of us have returned to some type of in-person practice, COVID-related restrictions still appear in our personal and professional lives and now for more than a year. The worldwide viral pandemic exposed how vulnerable we can become if we are not prepared to quickly adapt to this “new normal” in our lives.

Looking back, I can assure you that ISD leadership and administrative staff worked hard to ensure that our Society prepared to move forward in the new reality. Our annual Board of Directors meeting took place virtually on April 3rd and was attended by 35 members via Zoom. Looking through ISD committees’ reports, one can note uninterrupted work -- especially our Education Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Szepietowski, which selected 2020 and 2021 Global Education Awardees and organized the 2020 EADV Subspecialty Society session which was part of the virtual EADV meeting.

The most innovative and successful initiative was championed by members of the Mentorship Committee under the leadership of Dr. Rashmi Sarkar. They took the bold step of creating a Virtual Mentorship Program. To date, 21 mentees have agreed to participate in this program. Following the committee’s evaluation, ISD may opt to include the virtual model in the future.



This is only a glimpse into last year’s activities that were possible, thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of our membership to the core values of our society.

As our President, Dr. George Reizner, mentioned in his greeting, our virtual ISD annual reunion was a smashing success culminating with the first “ISD’s Got Talent” competition that demonstrated how diverse and multitalented our members are. Dr. Vangee Handog deserves accolades for her meticulous planning and execution of the entire program.

In conclusion, one might focus on the fact that it has been well over a year since the pandemic became an unwelcome intruder into our lives. My hope comes with the realization that I need to complete my own “Pandemic Recovery.” I need human contact to feel engaged with others, confident, and comfortable. So, being empowered by my vaccination passport with a scheduled COVID PCR testing 24 hours before departure, I am planning to attend “in person” the ISD regional meeting in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, this May. While this is a first step in my personal ISD Pandemic Recovery journey, it is truly a significant one that I’m very much looking forward to.

Wherever you are, my friends and colleagues, let’s now focus on getting better.

Sincerely yours,

Nellie Konnikov, M.D.

Nellie Konnikov, MD
Your Secretary-General

ISD’s Dr. Kenneth Tomecki Reluctantly Resigns from ISD Board of Directors, Begins Term as AAD President

While the ISD extends its congratulations to member Dr. Kenneth Tomecki as he recently began his one-year term as President of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), it is with regret that the ISD accepted his resignation from the ISD Board of Directors.

As a member of the ISD Board, Dr. Tomecki served as both a Director and Vice-President. He also served on the ISD Education Committee (2014-2021), lectured at ISD Sister Society meetings at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), ISD Continental Congresses, and the ISD International Congress of Dermatology. He is an editorial board member of the *International Journal of Dermatology*.

As AAD President, Dr. Tomecki will lead the world’s largest dermatologic society, representing more than 20,000 physicians specializing in skin, hair and nail conditions. He is currently a staff physician in the Department of Dermatology at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio.



**Dr. Kenneth
Tomecki**

Cynthia H. Froehlich

Executive Director, ISD

May 16, 1957 – May 5, 2021



It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Cynthia H. Froehlich, BA, MA, on May 5th in a tragic car accident. Cindy, as we fondly called her, was more than the Executive Director of the International Society of Dermatology – she was the heart and soul of our society. We will all miss her, from her sitting in the hallway outside the Monday evening ISD receptions at the AAD meeting to sitting next to the ISD President at Board meetings. Cindy connected on a personal level to so many of our members.

Cindy began her career with the ISD when she was employed by Dermatology Services, Inc. (DSI), an arm of the American Academy of Dermatology that managed subspecialty dermatology organizations. When DSI dissolved in 2002, Cindy became the Executive Director of the ISD, as well as Executive Director of the American Contact Dermatitis Society and the Council for Nail Disorders. Cindy loved to travel so the ISD was a “match made in heaven.”

At the ISD, Cindy had a wide range of responsibilities including negotiating contracts with Wiley, the publisher of the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)*, as well as with the organizers of the International Congresses of Dermatology. She was a real champion of the *IJD* and was so proud of its growing importance and impact on our specialty. Cindy also enjoyed networking and organizing ISD social gatherings where she would meet and greet new and old friends, as she viewed members as friends and not individuals who paid dues.

Cindy embraced change and was a supporter of more recently founded initiatives such as the Mentorship program, Sister Society educational programs at the AAD and EADV annual meetings, and addressing climate change. Given her penchant for travel, Cindy “manned” the ISD membership booth on six continents, from Manila to Paris to Buenos Aires. Hearing Cindy’s laugh meant you had finally found the ISD booth in the exhibit hall.

Cindy’s love of travel started at a young age and is what eventually led her to find her true love. In 1986, she travelled to Guinea, West Africa, on a Fulbright scholarship for her graduate research. Cindy was the first American Fulbright scholar to conduct research in that country for decades. It was then that she met Mohamed Saliou Camara (Saliou to his family and friends), who was coming to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship to pursue his graduate education. Cindy and Saliou married in 1989.

Cindy is survived by her husband of 32 years, Saliou, her brothers David and Chris Froehlich, her nieces Lisa and Katherine, her nephew Jack, and her sisters-in-law Susan and Yvonne.

Rest in peace Cindy.

Your ISD friends:

Jean Bolognia, MD

Hassan Galadari, MD

Vangee Handog, MD

Nellie Konnikov, MD

Jorge Ocampo-Candiani, MD

Marcia Ramos-e-Silva, MD, PhD

George Reizner, MD

Vinod Sharma, MD



ISD Member Tributes

“Cindy was such a bright light and vivacious spirit - I still remember her at the table for the ISD reception in 2007 and how she convinced me with her smile and charm to get more involved! She will be terribly missed.”

- **Aisha Sethi, MD**

“Cindy has been the “Face” of the ISD for so many years - always cheerful, jolly and positive. At church this morning we were reminded about producing “fruit that will last” - Cindy has certainly done that.”

- **Claire Fuller, MD**

“During one of our long meetings discussing the budget, I remember telling you that during these current times, I miss seeing and hugging my friends the most. I remember telling you that for all your efforts, you’ll be getting an extra big hug from me when I see you manning the ISD booth in one of our sure to come face-to-face meetings. You will be sorely missed.”

- **Hassan Galadari, MD**



“The ISD was the child that Cindy nurtured over the last 30 years. We were tutors for that child and she could tell which of us were helpful and cared about that child - her child - as much as she did. I am very sad that Cindy’s life was brutally cut short. We should name something perpetual in ISD in honour of Cindy.”

- **Dedee Murrell, MD**

“I worked with Cindy Froehlich for several years as Secretary General and as President and Interim President. She worked long and hard for us. Always pleasant, even jovial. And she got the job done. I considered her a friend. After my work for the ISD was over, I would call her once or twice a year to chat and exchange pleasantries for several years. I always felt better after speaking with her. She was a positive force in the growth of the ISD and in all the good stuff of the ISD. Que en Dios descanse.” - **Sigfrid A. Muller, MD**

“I believe that continuing to work in our Society is the best tribute that we can give Cindy. She was someone very important to the Society.” - **Margarita Larralde, MD**



“Dear Cindy, you were the “Pumping Heart” of the ISD. We will greatly miss you!” - **Esperanza Welsh, MD**

“Cindy was a pillar of strength for the ISD for decades. She knew the history of the ISD in and out and was able to work harmoniously with members of different cultures with ease. Rest in peace dear Cindy!”

- **Prasad Kumarasinghe, MD**

“Cindy was the DYNAMO of the Board and our society. Her untimely and unfortunate demise was a shock to all those who knew her personally and professionally. Ever since I knew Cindy, I envisioned loyalty, compassion, and love of her job. But above all, her modesty, assertiveness and friendliness are merits that no one missed in CINDY.” - **Abdul-Ghani Kibbi, MD**

“I want to express my condolences to Cindy’s family and to all ISD colleagues. She united everyone with her enthusiasm and friendliness. It is difficult for me to imagine our organization without her.”

- **Lally Mekokishvili, MD**

“It is with a heavy heart that I learned of the untimely passing on of our dearest Cindy. She was a wonderful person to all of us in the ISD, and we are certainly poorer without her.”

- **Hendrick Motswaledi, MD**

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The ISD invites members to submit their own memories of Cindy to the ISD website at www.intsocderm.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3560

ISD Member Tributes

continued from previous page

"Cindy will always be remembered by her big smiles and laughs. She loved to travel and that is how I got to know her more. I frequently had wonderful occasions with her as a tourist when we were getting to know the city we were visiting for a congress or other event. Cindy will always be loved and missed!"

- **Marcia Ramos-e-Silva, MD**

"The best part of Cindy was that she was wise and comforting -- she could gauge how you felt as a junior colleague and try to be inclusive to younger colleagues who often feel shy. She has been an integral part of my journey in ISD. We will miss a person who spread joy and congeniality, a major reason for ISD's success."

- **Rashmi Sarkar, MD**

"I just can't imagine an ISD booth without Cindy. She was ISD personified. I am fortunate to have known her for the last 19 years." - **Dr. Koushik Lahiri**



"Cindy started with the ISD while still with the AAD and did such a tremendous job to bring us into the new millennium with all the professional ability that she brought to us, but much more than that with her wonderful personality and diplomacy which helped so much to bind us together. I know that I had a VERY special friendship with Cindy because this was so easy to have with her. She made us all look good and knew how to heal the inevitable wounds which sometimes opened. Thank you, Cindy."

- **Your friend Vincent Cipolloro, MD ("Dr. Cip")**

"I really cannot remember exactly at which of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) meetings I met Cindy in person, but what stood out was her warmth, kindness, smile and how she had an answer to the challenges you had during the meetings. She attempted to pronounce your name (African) correctly from the beginning and was interested in knowing a bit about your country. She understood the African culture fairly well and was aware of the challenges. She was passionate about the opportunity offered to dermatology trainees from the developing world through the mentorship program of the ISD. I will surely miss her."

- **Adebola Ogunbiyi, MD**



"Cindy, if I try to decipher Cindy, I will say:

C - Cheerful, and we all know how kind she was with all of us.

I - Icon, and she was an icon of all our meetings and of the ISD booth in the different scientific events.

N - Near, she will stay near to all of us as long as we are alive.

D - Dermatology, she dedicated her life to build bridges between dermatologists coming from all parts of the world. What she did was just fantastic.

Y - Youthful, who among us has never been impressed by her legendary smile, a smile coming from the bottom of her heart...an organic smile.

And finally, as a tribute to Our Cindy, let's continue moving on the way she loved a lot, the way of fraternity, cooperation and dialogue between different generations." - **Nejib Doss, MD**

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, and I quote, **"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints on your heart."**

"Accepting the reality that Cindy is gone hurt so deeply and it seemed quite hard finding the right words to say about Cindy.

Two decades ago, she and I practically started together with the ISD. She organized countless programs, conceptualized big board announcements and brochures, brought suitcases of materials to the ISD booth, prepared the executive board meetings and social events, coordinated with everything and everyone. Being involved in small and big ways, she was a source of energy, for she was always patient, kind and tireless. I shall always remember her as a woman with a big heart, nice smile and gentle manners.

Cindy's thoughtfulness will always be her trademark. Why? Because in spite of the loads of materials she had to carry every time there was an AAD convention, she never forgot her tokens for me, the Girl Scout cookies and the chocolates. I will truly miss you and those acts of kindness." - **Evangeline Handog, MD**



ICD 2021 Goes Virtual: Organizers Announce Updates, Keynote Speakers for Virtual Congress

While ISD members will have to wait a bit longer to gather together again in person, the organizers of the ICD 2021 are hard at work switching gears to prepare a standout virtual meeting instead of the highly anticipated in-person meeting in Melbourne, Australia.

An engaging online program incorporating oral presentations, posters and discussions will take place virtually from November 10 - 13, 2021. The [Congress website](#) will provide regular updates for attendees, including key dates for registration. Promotional videos on the exciting program and meeting highlights are being produced and will be available soon with more details.

Keynote Speakers

All 15 keynote speakers have been re-invited to participate in the virtual ICD 2021, and the following speakers have accepted invitations to date:

- Dr. Eli Sprecher (Israel) - From genes to patient care
- Dr. Aldo Morrone (Italy) - Refugee dermatoses
- Prof. Olivier Chosidow (France) - Dermatological emergencies

Registration

Rates to attend the Congress are listed here:

<https://icd2021.com.au/registration/>.

The registration portal is currently being reviewed by the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) and will be included in the above website link as the "Online registration form" box. A super early bird registration rate is available for ISD members and ACD Fellows only at AUD \$390 (savings of AUD \$100 off Early Bird registration).

Melbourne Content

Delegates are encouraged to download a Melbourne avatar here: <https://www.melbournecb.com.au/welcome-to-melbourne/avatars/>

This provides an overview of Melbourne, and the meeting organizers promise there will be a lot more to see and experience during the Virtual event to introduce Melbourne to ICD 2021 delegates. Although delegates will not be able to meet in Melbourne, organizers look forward to welcoming them on their next holiday! The following [YouTube video](#) presents Three Days in Melbourne.

**REMEMBER TO REGISTER EARLY
FOR THE SUPER EARLY BIRD
REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE
THE CODE IS ISDSUPER**

GOING VIRTUAL: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW



CONNECT GLOBALLY

Tap into an international audience to hear from world leading speakers and increase your network.

ICD YOUR WAY

You will have unlimited access to all presentations up to 1 year after the event, which means you can curate your own program and get the most out of it from the comfort of your own desk.



AMAZING VALUE

Registration fees have been reduced and you don't have to worry about flights and accommodation!

CONNECT WITH THE INDUSTRY

ICD 2021 will be hosted on a platform that will allow real-time interaction with other attendees and exhibitors.



SUPER EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

The [International Society of Dermatology](#) and The [Australasian College of Dermatologists](#) are proud to announce an exclusive super early bird registration rate for ISD and ACD members only.

Use the below promo code to save up to **\$100** off the Early Bird rate!

ISD members: ISDSUPER
ACD members: ACDSUPER

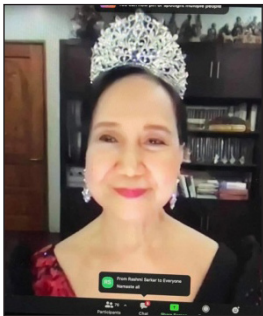
**The Super Early Bird Rate is only available to the first 300 people,
so be quick to register!**

REGISTER NOW

ISD Hosts National Costume Contest at ISD 2021 Virtual Reunion

One of the highlights each year for the ISD is our reception at the American Academy of Dermatology's (AAD) Annual Meeting. It is an opportunity for members to greet new and old friends and to share the events of the past and upcoming year. Meeting face-to-face was missed in 2020 and 2021 with cancellations of both AAD meetings, so Dr. Evangeline Handog volunteered to make a virtual 2021 meeting fun and social. She rose to the challenge with a program that included two contests: the National Costume Contest and the Talent Showdown.

To start, members were urged to send photos of themselves to be entered in the National Costume contest and also to wear these outfits during the virtual meeting that took place on March 13, 2021. Nearly 20 members submitted photos and many others attended the meeting in their national dress.



Emcee Dr. Evangeline Handog (Philippines) dons an elegant Filipina costume popularized by former First Lady Imelda Marcos, complete with a crown representing "Miss Philippines".



2021 Costume Contest Winners

FIRST PLACE FEMALE

Dr. Maka Sirbiladze
and son, Nikoloz Gogoladze
(Georgia)



Dr. Maka Sirbiladze is wearing a traditional long dress called a Kartuli dress, which is tightly belted with an ornate bodice, and a headdress. Her son, Nikoloz Gogoladze, is wearing a modernized version of the chokha - a coat made of wool with a high neck that is traditionally worn by the boys and men of the Caucasus.

FIRST PLACE MALE

Dr. M. Turhan Sahin
(Turkey)



Dr. Sahin appears as a Sultan in an Ottoman empire costume. The traditional dress consists of salvar (trousers), inner robes, and kaftan (outer gown or robe). The tradition heralds from Central Asia and was brought to Anatolia (modern Turkey) with the Seljuks (1037-1157) and continued to be worn by the Ottomans.

SECOND PLACE FEMALE

Dr. Shakirat Gold-Olufadi
Dr. Nafisatu Abdullahi
Dr. Ayobami Olokode
Dr. Aderonke Edun
(Nigeria – Yoruba and Hausa ethnic groups)



From left to right: Dr. Shakirat Gold-Olufadi wearing an Ankara outfit with headgear and dress of the Yoruba, Dr. Nafisatu Abdullahi representing the Hausa of Northern Nigeria, and Drs. Ayobami Olokode and Aderonke Edun wearing Yoruba garb.

SECOND PLACE MALE (TIE)

Dr. Hao Guo
and daughter, Yue-Tang Guo
(China)



Dr. Hao Guo (China) with his daughter, Yue-Tang Guo, demonstrating their calligraphy and wishing us a Happy New Year!

Dr. Cayadi Antonius
(Indonesia)



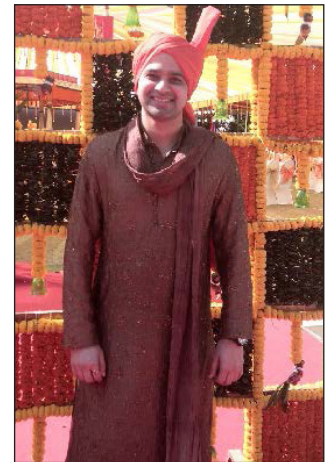
Dr. Cayadi Sitarta Antonius From Indonesia with East Nusa Tenggara National Costume

Dr. Cayadi Antonius (Indonesia) wearing an East Nusa Tenggara National costume.

A few other members' costumes...



Dr. Nellie Konnikov (US/Russia) wears Ukrainian vyshyvanka (embroidery), an important craft within Ukraine.



Dr. Shashank Bhargava (India)



Dr. Yuli Kurniawati (Indonesia)



Dr. Nishi Yadav (India)

Additional Costume Contest Participants

Dr. Shashank Bhargava (India)

Dr. Gillian Britto (India)

Dr. Nejib Doss (Tunisia)

Drs. Julius and Adelene Gatmaitan (Philippines)

Dr. Yuli Kurniawati (Indonesia)

Dr. Sarah Nain (Philippines)

Dr. Ken Pipo (Philippines)

Dr. Rashmi Sarkar (India)

Dr. Nishi Yadav (India)



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

ISD member **Dr. Rashmi Sarkar (India)** recently was elected to the position of President-Elect of the Indian Association of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology (IADVL). Dr. Sarkar is only the second woman to become President of the IADVL.

ISD member **Dr. Nejib Doss (Tunisia)** was awarded the ILDS Certificate of Appreciation in 2020.



Dr. Rashmi Sarkar



Dr. Nejib Doss

ISD's Got Talent!

The first ISD Talent Showdown -- held virtually as part of the ISD's Virtual Reunion on March 13 -- showcased the depth and breadth of the ISD membership. The contestants included dancers, singers and instrumentalists. The program proved beyond a doubt that ISD has got talent!

FIRST PLACE

Dr. Jerlyn Servas (Philippines)



Dr. Jerlyn Servas performed "Rise Up" which was particularly uplifting after a year of the coronavirus pandemic. During high school, she worked on her vocal expertise and has competed in numerous competitions. You may view the video by clicking here: <https://vimeo.com/543338868>

SECOND PLACE

Dr. Meriem Jones (Tunisia)



Dr. Meriem Jones performed a mellow rendition of the 1945 jazz standard, Autumn Leaves. She is an attending in the Department of Dermatology at the Charles Nicolle Hospital in Tunis.

THIRD PLACE (TIE)

Dr. Brunilda Bardhi (Albania)

Dr. Julia Lehman (USA)



Dr. Brunilda Bardhi practices dermatology in Tirana and performed a traditional Albanian dance.



Dr. Julia Lehman from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, (USA) and her daughter, Elise, played the violin and piano.

2021 Talent Showdown Participants

Dr. Brunilda Bardhi (Albania)

Dr. Meriem Jones (Tunisia)

Dr. Julie Lehman (USA)

Dr. Rashmi Sarkar (India)

Dr. Jerlyn Servas (Philippines)

Dr. Jaishree Sharad (India)

Group Dance Participants (India)

Dr. Ishad Aggarwal

Dr. Rohit Batra

Dr. Vinay Keshavamurthy

Dr. Rashmi Sarkar

Dr. Nishi Yadav

Group Dance Participants (Philippines)

Dr. Joland San Juan

Dr. Katrina Baluyot

Dr. Sarah Nain-Bayot

Dr. Irene Zuniga

Dr. Danica Grace Tungol

Dr. Francis Villanueva

Dr. Nel Muriel Lee

An Interview with First Place Winner Dr. Jerlyn Servas

Could you describe in a few words why the song "Rise Up" was important for you to sing?

I chose the song "Rise Up" because I wanted to inspire, through my interpretation, SOLIDARITY, HOPE, LOVE, KINDNESS, RESILIENCE and most of all COMPASSION to one another as we face adversities during this trying time.

Did anyone from the Philippine Dermatological Society help you with the video?

I would like to thank Drs. Patricia Anne Nicole Ramirez-Ecarma, Kirsten Dy-Rabo and Karen Mabilin-Prieto for helping me to narrow down my song selection and for lending their discerning ears. A very special thank you to Drs. Ma. Angela Lavadia, Elizabeth Prieto, Noemie Ramos, and especially Evangeline Handog for their trust that I would submit a video worthy of representing PDS as well as their moral support and encouragement.

Tell us about your singing. Do you perform in public?

I started singing at the age of 7 and was classically voice-trained under the auspices of the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music Extension Program for nine years. My repertoire ranges from classical and Broadway to light opera and pop songs. Because of this, I was given a chance to compete and perform in different venues such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and Museong Pambata.

ISD Honors Dr. Ncoza Dlova Virtually with 2020 Maria Duran Medal

To honor the memory of Maria M. Duran, MD, former Secretary-General and Executive Vice-President of the International Society of Dermatology, the ISD's Maria Duran Committee awards the Maria M. Duran Medals to women leaders in dermatology, particularly to dermatologists who have made significant contributions to dermatologic conditions affecting women and children.

This year's recipient of the Maria Duran Medal is Dr. Ncoza Dlova (South Africa), who won the award in 2020 but was not presented with it last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ISD Immediate Past President, and a Maria Duran medalist herself, Dr. Evangeline Handog presented Dr. Dlova with the medal at the 2021 ISD Virtual Reunion in March.

Dr. Dlova currently serves as the dean and is the first African woman to head the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Clinical Medicine in South Africa. Her research primarily focuses on ethnic skin and hair and pigmentation disorders, as well as cutaneous manifestations of HIV infection.

Dr. Dlova has conducted and collaborated on research projects which have received international acclaim. For instance, she collaborated with scientists in the U.S. to discover a genetic cause for central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia (CCCA), one of the more common causes of scarring alopecia amongst African women. She also has collaborated with chemists to research the analysis of skin lighteners.

Known for running workshops in partnership with the KZN Albinism Society of South Africa to increase awareness and understanding about this genetic skin and eye condition, Dr. Dlova strives to fight discrimination and stigmatization of people with albinism.

As Dr. Handog eloquently stated, "Ncoza is a distinguished figure in dermatology, a true leader and a dear friend. She is a most deserving recipient of the Maria Duran Medal."



Dr. Ncoza Dlova (South Africa) accepts the 2020 Maria Duran Medal virtually in 2021.

The *International Journal of Dermatology* is a Hybrid Journal

One of the major benefits of ISD membership is a subscription to the *International Journal of Dermatology* (*IJD*). The journal is owned by the society and appoints its own editorial staff. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., serves as the publisher. This relationship provides the *IJD* with valuable infrastructure for international publishing.

The *IJD* is a hybrid journal, which means the *IJD* publishes articles that are submitted via the traditional pathway as well as those that are open access (OA). In the former, accepted articles are published with no fees paid by the author. If readers (or their institutions) do not have a journal subscription, they must purchase individual articles from the publisher. In the case of OA articles, authors can retain the copyright and post their article on a website or institutional repository, but they pay a fee to publish the article. As the name implies, anyone can read an OA article. Currently, only a handful of *IJD* articles are OA.

Some authors are required by their research funding source or institution to publish OA articles. Of note, some countries, primarily in the European Union, have OA arrangements with Wiley <https://secure.wiley.com/openaccess>.

You may have also noticed articles labelled "free access" on the *IJD* online library at <https://www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/13654632>. The free access articles are either permanently or temporarily open to everyone. As a public health service, articles that address COVID-19 published in the *IJD* are free access. The articles are catalogued by publication date (most recent to oldest) for convenience. To access these articles, go to [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-4632.COVID-19](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-4632.COVID-19).



Annual Publisher's Report Shows *IJD* Articles Downloaded Increased by 50 Percent in 2020

Wiley, the publisher of the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)*, released its 2020 Publisher's Report recently, and it highlighted the importance and relevance of the articles presented to the greater medical community. Articles related to COVID-19 were extremely popular, with the article "Chilblain-like lesions on feet and hands during the COVID-19 Pandemic" being the top article downloaded in 2020 with a total of 78,129 downloads.

Congratulations to Dr. Rokea el-Azhary, *IJD* editor-in-chief, and the entire editorial board for continuing to raise the profile of *IJD*!

2020 Top 10 Articles Downloaded

Article Title	Volume	Issue	2020 Downloads
Chilblain-like lesions on feet and hands during the COVID-19 Pandemic	59	6	78,129
Herpes zoster in COVID-19-positive patients	59	8	11,816
Skin disease in the Medici family and the illness of Contessina de' Bardi de' Medici: a dermatological puzzle	53	6	11,394
Skin-lightening creams used in Durban, South Africa	51	S1	8,667
Review: Ultraviolet radiation and skin cancer	49	9	8,480
The effect of topical virgin coconut oil on SCORAD index, transepidermal water loss, and skin capacitance in mild to moderate pediatric atopic dermatitis: a randomized, double-blind, clinical trial	53	1	7,957
Effect of dutasteride 0.5 mg/d in men with androgenetic alopecia recalcitrant to finasteride	53	11	7,714
Diet and acne: a review of the evidence	48	4	7,233
A clinical approach to diagnose patients with localized telangiectasia	54	8	6,118
Language barriers: challenge to quality healthcare	54	2	6,115

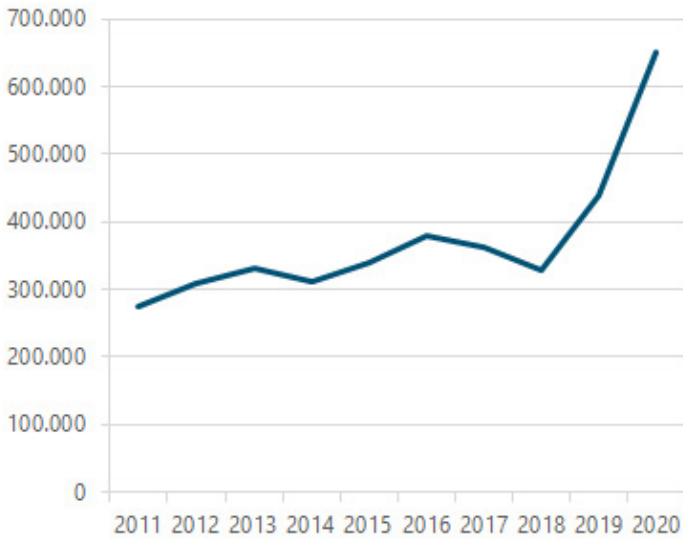
2020 Top 10 Cited Articles

Article Title	Pub Year	Article Category	Total Cites in 2020
Chilblain-like lesions on feet and hands during the COVID-19 Pandemic	2020	Commentary	75
A review of bullous pemphigoid associated with PD-1 and PD-L1 inhibitors	2018	Report	22
Malassezia species in healthy skin and in dermatological conditions	2016	Review	22
Imiquimod in dermatology: an overview	2016	Review	22
Review of safety and efficacy of approved systemic psoriasis therapies	2019	Review	18
Female pattern hair loss: a pilot study investigating combination therapy with low-dose oral minoxidil and spironolactone	2018	P&T	17
Global perspectives for the management of onychomycosis	2019	Review	14
Toxicity and growth inhibition potential of vetiver, cinnamon, and lavender essential oils and their blends against larvae of the sheep blowfly, <i>Lucilia sericata</i>	2018	Trop Med	13
Intralesional immunotherapy compared to cryotherapy in the treatment of warts	2017	P&T	12
Autoinflammatory syndromes associated with hidradenitis suppurativa and/or acne	2017	Review	12

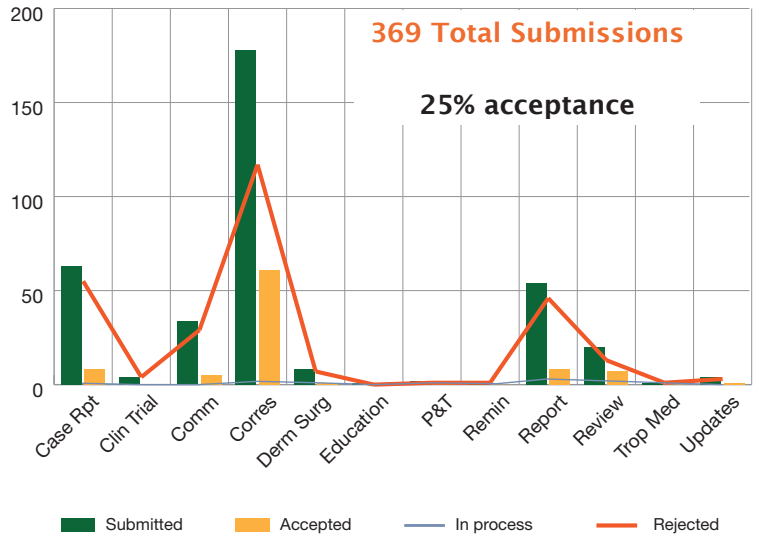
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IJD Articles Downloaded At-A-Glance

Download Trends 2011-2020

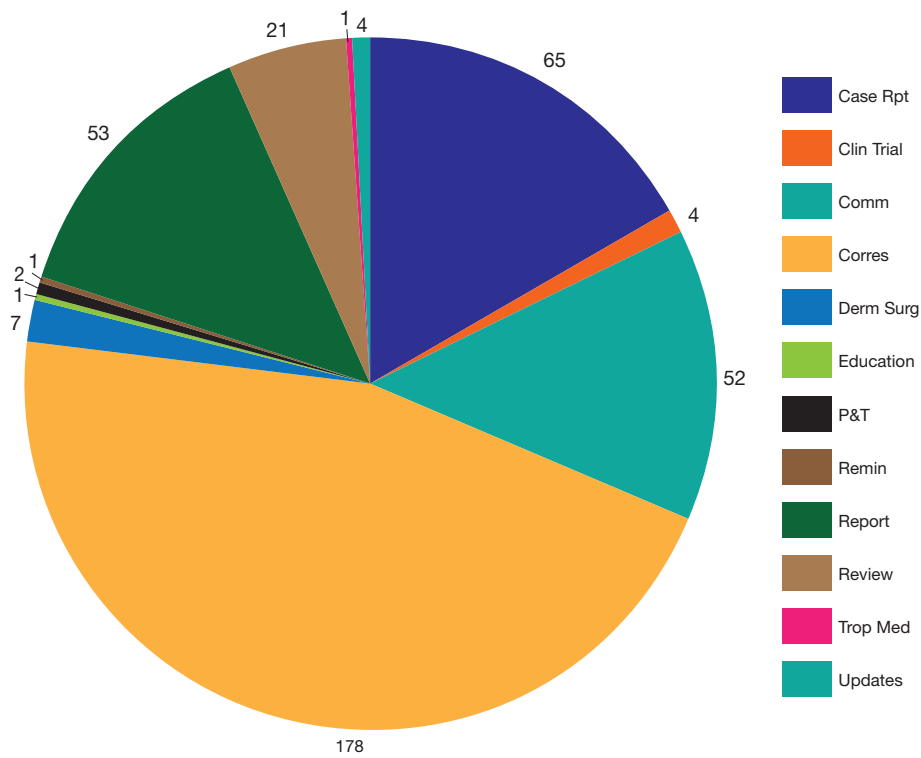


COVID-19 Article Status for 2020



COVID-19 Article Submissions in 2020

Number of COVID-19 Submissions by Article Type





ISD Mentorship Committee Keeps Mentees Engaged During Pandemic with Virtual Mentorship Program 2021

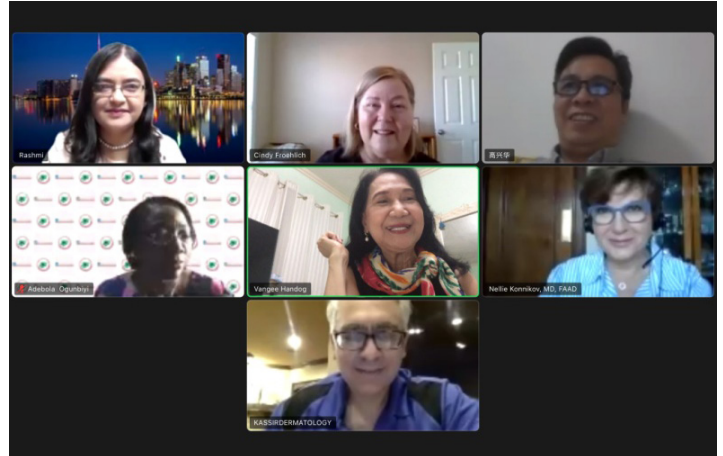
Report by Dr. Rashmi Sarkar
Chair, ISD International Mentorship Committee

In the year 2020, because of COVID-19, the ISD travel mentorships were put on hold due to concerns regarding safety and health issues. Rather than waiting for the situation to improve, the ISD Mentorship Committee, chaired by Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, proposed an interim Virtual Mentorship Program to meet this challenge.

For three to four months, the committee brainstormed in order to design this program. The proposal was for each mentor to conduct six weekly teaching sessions with his or her mentees. There would be case discussions as well as reading assignments, and the sessions were to be interactive.

A letter of invitation was sent to the already-matched remaining 12 mentees from 2019 and 17 mentees from 2020, inquiring as to whether they were interested in participating in this revamped virtual program. Of the 29 eligible mentees, 21 said “yes”. The five volunteer ISD Mentors were Drs. Rashmi Sarkar (pigmentary disorders), Martin Kassir (aesthetic dermatology), Leopoldo Santos (trichology and trichoscopy), Evangeline Handog (tropical dermatology), and Luiz Castro (dermatosurgery). Three to five mentees were matched with each mentor, according to their preferences.

During February 2021, the initial mentoring sessions were held, with Drs. Sarkar, Handog and Santos successfully completing their programs by early April. To date, an additional three mentors have volunteered for ISD Virtual Mentorships – Drs. Justin Endo, Anuj Pall, and Prasad Kumarasinghe. If an ISD member wishes to be a mentor, please submit your application via the ISD website [www.intsocderm.org] and it will be reviewed by the ISD Mentorship Committee. We look forward to a post-COVID era when normalcy returns!



ISD Mentorship Committee members meet virtually to discuss plans for the Virtual Mentorship Program. Top (left to right): Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, Cindy Froehlich and Dr. Hao Guo (China). Middle (from left to right): Drs. Adebola Ogunbiyi, Evangeline Handog and Nellie Konnikov. Bottom: Dr. Martin Kassir.

ISD Mentors Key to Program's Continued Success

ISD mentors provide invaluable learning opportunities for young dermatologists around the world. Here, ISD mentors **Drs. Rashmi Sarkar** (India), **Evangeline Handog** (Philippines), and **Leopoldo Santos** (Brazil) share their insights regarding the ISD Mentorship Program and how they give and receive by participating.

Dr. Sarkar, how many years have you served as a mentor and how do you prepare to host a young dermatologist in your place of work?

RS: I have served as an ISD Mentor for nearly seven years. I first reach out to the mentee and exchange a few introductory e-mails. I suggest a few options for accommodations and ask the mentee to choose. I also enumerate important items including the required book (e-copy), the weather and the clothing they will require. I also determine food preferences and connect the mentee with a younger colleague from my hospital so they can ask additional questions. The curriculum and lectures are decided in advance, and I usually take the mentee on two outings such as visits to historical sites and monuments or cultural festivals. His or her trip should be fun as well as educational. I also give safety tips and on the day of arrival, one

of us (me or a junior colleague) will meet with them and provide phone numbers and other practical information.

With so many volunteer opportunities to choose from, what would you say to a colleague who is considering becoming a mentor?

RS: I would tell my colleagues that mentorship is the best way to give back to our profession. Nothing can be as satisfying as nurturing a young mind and watching the growth of a colleague. You also learn from your mentee in addition to experiencing cultural diversity. To become a leader, it is important to also be a good mentor. Do try this most satisfying and delightful task. I stay in touch with mentees and love to see them blossom. I will cherish my years as Co-Chair and then Chair of the ISD Mentorship Committee and especially spearheading the team that started the ISD Virtual Mentorship Program during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be a part of our history.

Dr. Handog, what makes the ISD Mentorship Program so valuable for mentors and mentees?

EH: The ISD provides opportunities for young ISD members to enhance their dermatologic knowledge and skills through our mentorship program.



Dr. Rashmi Sarkar and her virtual mentees. Top: Drs. Rashmi Sarkar (India) and Grace Ibaviosa (Philippines); Middle: Drs. Erere Otofrowel (Nigeria) and Ken Pipo (Philippines); Bottom: Drs. Ma. Corazon Iniego-Rodas (Philippines) and Ritjana Mala (Albania)

EH: A mentor inculcates and passes on wisdom unselfishly with the goal of positively influencing the mentee in areas that needed to be strengthened. A mentee is expected to put into practice what was learned and experienced. The coveted prize of this interaction is when a mentee excels and succeeds in imparting the acquired knowledge/skills in his or her home country.

This program is very close to my heart. Nearly 13 years ago, I founded and was the inaugural chair of the committee, with Drs. Yahya Dowlati (Iran) and Luitgard Weist (Germany) as members. Except during the years that I was ISD President, I have always been on this committee, helping in whatever way I can to further improve the program.

I was once a mentee myself and the tremendous benefit I gained still remains vividly ingrained in my mind. And now, being a mentor, I have bigger shoes to fill. I want to pay it forward and help my mentee achieve his or her projected goals.

Currently, due to the worldwide pandemic, a virtual mentorship platform was created to sustain the program. Because of technology, mentee and mentor can study together and acquire knowledge particularly relevant to their countries. Currently, I am happy to say that I am a mentor to a Russian, a Georgian, and a Mexican – all enthusiastic to learn and share.

Can you share a mentorship experience that was particularly gratifying for you?

EH: I find so much joy and pride in being a mentor. Prior to the pandemic (difficult times), two Nigerian mentees and an Indian mentee flew to the Philippines. I am so gratified that they are all excelling in their chosen paths and making names for themselves.

My first mentee – Dr. Emeka Okoro – was from Ibadan, Nigeria, and he spent three months in my department. He was not interested in “tourism” as he spent all his time studying and learning with my residents. He was always prepared to answer questions that I would throw at him randomly. He is now a junior consultant and I have seen him participating in international meetings. Oh, I am so proud of him. I guess the first is always



Dr. Evangeline Handog from the Philippines (top right) with her 2021 virtual mentees: Drs. Anastasiia Kolerova from Russia (top left), Jesus Alberto Cardenas de la Garza from Mexico (bottom left) and Tamar Khossid from Georgia (bottom right).

avored – and memorable!

Dr. Santos, why did you decide to become a mentor through the ISD Mentorship Program?

LS: The mentorship program is a great way to connect with people seeking to expand their knowledge in a specific area. It is an incredible opportunity to learn from an expert living anywhere around the globe.

Being able to host a foreign student in my home country and to teach him or her about hair disorders made me decide to be a mentor. I really enjoy being surrounded by young doctors eager to learn about hair disorders.

Is there anything unexpected that you’ve gained from being a mentor?

LS: Since the pandemic started, the mentorship program had to shift to virtual. This was a solution that allowed us to avoid shutting down the program. Online courses have increased exponentially as well. Therefore, we believed it was the right moment to try it.

As a virtual mentor, we have to be more focused while giving lectures. On the other hand, the time spent with mentees seems more productive.

The main disadvantage of being virtual is connecting with mentees from multiple different time zones. When one is almost falling asleep, another just woke up.



Dr. Leopoldo Santos with his virtual mentees. Top: Drs. Meryam Chaabani (Tunisia) and Leopold Santos (Brazil); Middle: Drs. Cocoli Mella (Philippines) and Pauline Velasco (Philippines); Bottom: Drs. Ayesha Akinkugbe (Nigeria) and Leopold Santos (Brazil).



ISD Hosts First Virtual Mentorships Amid Pandemic

The ISD Mentorship Program provides an unmatched learning opportunity for young dermatologists around the world. The interviews included here are among the first mentorships completed virtually over the course of six weeks with ISD mentor **Dr. Rashmi Sarkar** at Lady Hardinge Medical College in India before the pandemic temporarily halted the program. Complete interviews of this, and other, mentorships can be found on the [ISD website](#).

Dr. Ritjana Mala, Department of Dermatology, Mother Teresa Hospital Center, in Tirana, Albania

Major goals for your mentorship experience: My primary goal was to expand my knowledge and skills in the field of pigmentary skin disorders. Application of this knowledge will lead to improved care for my patients. Additional goals included sharing experiences with other clinicians from different countries and making new friends.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?: I enjoyed the lectures of Prof. Rashmi Sarkar. I learned a lot about management of pigmentary skin disorders. It was an interactive program, where I enjoyed sharing our cases and experiences. I met new people and also learned from their experiences.



Dr. Rashmi Sarkar and her virtual mentees. Top: Drs. Rashmi Sarkar (India) and Grace Ibaviosa (Philippines); **Middle:** Drs. Ken Pipo (Philippines) and Ma. Corazon Iniegorodas (Philippines); **Bottom:** Ritjana Mala (Albania) and Erere Otrofanowei (Nigeria).

Describe any special experiences with your mentor: I was blessed to have a mentor who possessed both professionalism and kindness in mentoring that I would like to emulate. Prof. Sarkar actively involved us in solving different clinical cases. We discussed how to properly diagnose and manage each one. I was also very fortunate to attend webinars that she presented at several conferences.

Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home: I learned how to use oral therapy for melasma, something that we don't use yet in my country. In addition, I learned how to properly use chemical peels and the importance of priming.

How will your mentorship experience impact your patient care and professional goals over the next year?: After this mentorship, I feel more competent in diagnosing and correctly treating pigmentary skin disorders.

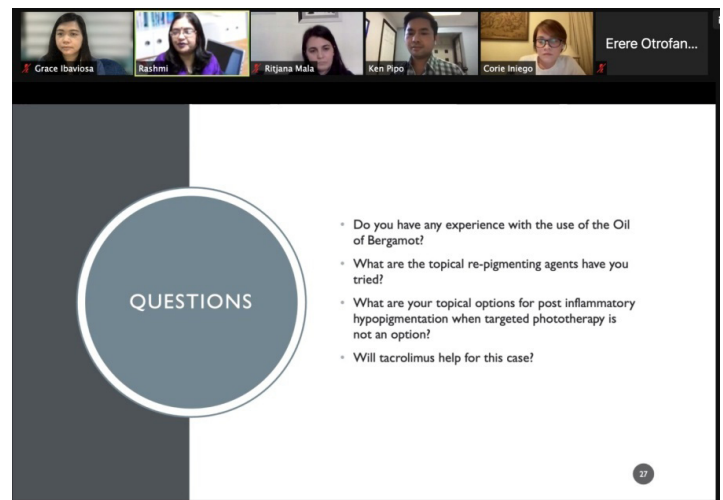
How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?: My mentorship will hopefully lead to inspiring colleagues in my country to be part of these kinds of mentorships and I think over time this will increase networking connections amongst dermatologists all over the world.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience: I learned the importance of individualizing treatment programs for pigmentary disorders based on skin Fitzpatrick phototype.

Dr. Erere Otrofanowei, College of Medicine of the University of Lagos, Nigeria

Major goals for your mentorship experience: My original plan was to acquire hands-on skills in dermatologic surgery via the ISD Mentorship program. Of course this would be impossible to accomplish virtually. Being assigned to an expert in pigmentary disorders was an interesting twist of fate.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?: Without a doubt, I would say the diversity of the group mentees. The shared experiences made for a rich discussion, especially because Dr. Sarkar was keen on engaging everyone and drawing



Dr. Sarkar poses questions to mentees during a virtual discussion.

out even the most reticent of us. I also liked that I could see the way others practiced dermatology and compare that with what I do. This served to identify areas for future improvement.

Describe any special experiences with your mentor: I will say Dr. Rashmi is clearly in her comfort zone as a teacher. From the first meeting where she demonstrated a willingness to share reading materials and give us a more in-depth view of her life, she encouraged a sharing culture so that each of us was very happy to share some personal information to foster better group dynamics.

Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home: The art of making everyone feel they are important and the work they did is great, yet artfully nudging and steering them towards improving the work that has been done. Personally, her skill in writing journal articles in peer-reviewed journals is to be harnessed and possibly bottled (I am only half-joking).

How will your mentorship experience impact your patient care and professional goals over the next year?: I'm in a country full of people with pigmentary disorders and some of them have a significant impairment in their quality of life. The tips shared with regard to chemical peels and vitiligo are already being put into use in my daily practice. Dr. Sarkar has also left me with huge regard for her research and the importance of publishing in peer-reviewed journals. With regard to the latter, I hope to demonstrate her impact with a few articles this year.

How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?: In the course of this program, both mentor and mentees learned something from one another. I hope that I will be able to initiate a pigmentary disorder society in my country and provide a more realistic opinion of healthy skin in a predominantly dark-skinned population. I also hope to mentor others even though I have Dr. Sarkar as a lifelong mentor.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience: Be versatile with all the tools in your clinical arsenal, and glycolic acid 10% cream is a good priming agent pre-chemical peel.

Dr. Grace Monica Ibviosa, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in the Philippines

Major goals for your mentorship experience: My main goal was to improve my knowledge and skills in evaluating and treating various pigmentary diseases. I wanted to learn different diagnostic and treatment methods, especially in patients with skin of color.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?: Even if our meetings were conducted online, I learned a lot and even made new friends from Nigeria and Albania during the six-week program. I especially liked our case-sharing activities as our group of mentees came from different countries. We exchanged ideas as to how we would manage each patient as well as treatment methods based upon where we were practicing dermatology.

Describe any special experiences with your mentor: I'm truly blessed to be mentored by Dr. Sarkar, a celebrated dermatologist and specialist in the field of pigmentary diseases in skin of color. She was the epitome of a mentor. She taught us that teaching is a two-way street -- we learned from each other. I really enjoyed her lectures and she made time for her mentees despite her busy schedule. Dr. Sarkar was very generous, sharing different webinars to add to our learning, giving both professional and personal advice, and teaching leadership skills.

How will your mentorship experience impact your patient care and professional goals over the next year?: The knowledge I gained will improve my ability to diagnose and treat pigmentary disorders. I can now offer additional treatment options with confidence.

How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?: Since pigmentary disorders are common in my country, I hope to impart what I learned during this mentorship program with others and to inspire them to provide quality care to their patients.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience: Nothing can stop oneself from learning. Despite being unable to travel and meet face-to-face due to the pandemic, we're still able to learn via different means such as this online mentorship program. I have learned from Dr. Sarkar that a teacher can't truly teach unless she is still learning herself. We must always be hungry for knowledge as it is a lifelong process that will benefit our patients as well as ourselves.

Dr. Eugenio Pipo III, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in the Philippines

Major goals for your mentorship experience: I believed that an enriching mentorship program with Dr. Rashmi Sarkar would accord me the necessary knowledge and skills for diagnosing and treating cutaneous pigmentary disorders. Considering her level of expertise with dermatology as a whole, I am certain that anyone can benefit immensely from her mentorship.

DERMOSCOPIC GRADING OF ADMH DISEASE SEVERITY

Disease severity can be graded depending on the density and arrangement of dots, globules, and blotches and the resultant patterns formed.

GRADE	CHARACTERISTICS
Grade 1	Mild disease - Predominantly consist of sparsely distributed dots with no specific pattern of arrangement
Grade 2	Predominantly consist of dots with occasional globules arranged as broken lines and semi-arcuate structures appearing as Chinese letters
Grade 3	Predominantly consist of dots and globules with occasional blotches arranged in a reticulate pattern. Areas of normal looking skin were present.

• Grade 1 patches are characterised by light brown coloured macules & small dots

• Grade 2 severe disease is predominantly consist of

Dr. Sarkar and her mentees discuss grading of ADMH disease severity.

continued on next page

Virtual Mentorship Reports

continued from previous page

I was fortunate to receive this mentorship, as I plan to use the newfound knowledge and skills to further develop myself, both as a doctor and as a person.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?:

Dr. Sarkar gave profound lectures on pigmentary disorders and encouraged us to present interesting cases for discussion. During her lectures, I began to think of the people with pigmentary disorders that I could help firsthand because of what I had just learned. During our presentations, my co-mentees and I had the opportunity to better understand each other as well as ourselves.

Describe any special experiences with your mentor: Dr. Sarkar exuded the true meaning of a mentor as she provided guidance and motivation and served as a role model. She brought out the best in me -- she didn't just want us to learn new information, she also wanted us to apply this knowledge by voicing our opinions and treatment recommendations.

Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home: In a very fundamental way, she helped me acquire the proper approach to examining, diagnosing and treating patients with pigmentary disorders.

How will your mentorship experience impact your patient care and professional goals over the next year?: It allowed me to develop both as a clinician and as a person. I believe that I will be more dedicated to ensuring the care and well-being of the people I treat are being met, which in turn will aid me professionally as I try to become a better partner to my patients.

How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?: It has broadened my horizon, especially when it comes to my knowledge in pigmentary disorders. I wish to apply this knowledge and raise awareness in both my community and my country as a whole.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience: Common cutaneous pigmentary disorders such as melasma and vitiligo pose a significant impact on a person's quality-of-life. I am forever grateful to Dr. Sarkar for imparting her knowledge and wisdom during this mentorship experience.

Ma. Corazon Iniego-Rodas, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in the Philippines

Major goals for your mentorship experience: My primary goal was to gain confidence not only in diagnosing but also in providing different treatment options for my patients presenting with pigmentary disorders. These conditions including melasma are quite common in my country. I also wanted to meet like-minded and driven individuals to inspire me to become a better dermatologist.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?: Our mentor, Dr. Sarkar, was able to teach five mentees all at the same time. Although we were from four different time zones, we were able to meet online and learn something new during each session from the comfort of our homes. Dr. Sarkar encouraged us to discuss patients with interesting pigmentary disorders who represented diagnostic or treatment dilemmas.

Describe any special experiences with your mentor: When God closes a door, He opens a window. The pandemic has closed a lot of doors, but this virtual mentorship with Dr. Sarkar opened a huge window of opportunity. We were able to keep abreast of the current management of different pigmentary conditions. Dr. Sarkar was very supportive and made sure we always shared our thoughts in every virtual session. She served as an inspiration given all that she has accomplished, both as a leader and a teacher.

How will your mentorship experience impact your patient care and professional goals over the next year?: I gained confidence, not only in establishing professional relationships with my mentor and co-mentees, but more importantly in diagnosing and managing different pigmentary disorders. I am now more comfortable prescribing various therapies, especially in those with skin of color. This program inspired me to gain more knowledge so I can teach aspiring dermatologists.

How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?: I want to share the knowledge I acquired through this mentorship program so more patients with pigmentary disorders and skin of color will benefit. I hope that my experience will encourage other young dermatologists in my country to pursue additional learning opportunities after residency training.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience: This mentorship gave me the confidence to use medications such as hydroquinone and TCA in patients with darker skin tones. Dr. Sarkar emphasized that as a doctor, we have different opportunities to learn from our experiences, patients, colleagues and even mentees and for that I would like to express my gratitude.

World Skin Health Day in Guinea Offers Hundreds of Locals Free Consultations, Medications

By Dr. Ibrahima Traoré

More than 500 patients benefitted from free skin consultations during World Skin Health Day activities in Guinea, held December 2 - 4, 2020.

An interactive conference took place December 2nd at the Gamal Abdel Nasser University hotel in Conakry with the theme “Psychosocial impact and psychodermatological aspect of acne”. During this conference, Dr. Christophe Hsu, a practicing dermatologist based in Geneva, Switzerland, participated via Skype video call as part of the PASSION project which he coordinates. The PASSION project aims to recognize skin diseases such as eczema, impetigo, ringworm, scabies and insect bites on phototype III to VI using digital technologies to compensate for the lack of dermatologists. Countries participating in the project include Madagascar and Guinea, and the project aims to expand into Africa and other continents.

Skin consultations took place December 3rd to 4th in the Kassa subprefecture on the Loos Islands in Guinea. This island was chosen for these free skin consultations because the Kassa subprefecture is characterized by difficult or even non-existent access to quality health care. In addition, the island’s seawater and disadvantaged social conditions predispose its inhabitants

to skin disorders, including cutaneous infections. The main activity of the indigenous population of Kassa is fishing, hence the link to exposure to water.

During these consultations, more than 500 patients received drugs free-of-charge to manage their diagnosed skin conditions. At least 1 in 2 patients who underwent a consultation was a child aged 0 to 15 years and more than half of the patients seen were female.

Among the patients who were examined, at least 1 in 3 presented with anemia and associated skin disorders such as pruritus. This itching was directly linked to iron deficiency, and iron supplementation was recommended in these patients along with confirmatory tests for iron deficiency.

In addition, more than half of the patients suffered from *Paederus* dermatitis, which is currently rife in Guinea. Adequate measures were undertaken for the management of these cases of dermatitis, including antibiotics, antihistamines, and topical corticosteroids. However, applying honey and shea butter to lesions also relieves symptoms and is thought to lead to better results by those in the community.

Skin disorders linked to the practice of “artificial depigmentation”, e.g., exogenous ochronosis, dermatophytosis, were reported in nearly 60% of patients. Cases of scabies as well as acne were also observed. Both the dermatologists and the patients were glad they participated in the World Skin Health Day activities.



The team in their shirts with the World Skin Health Day logo celebrating camaraderie and a job well done.



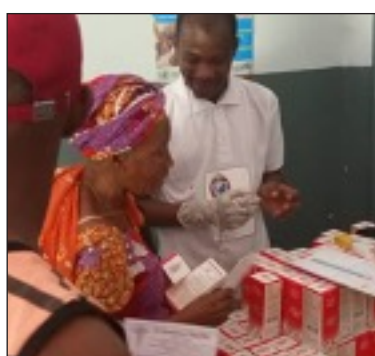
Dr. Ibrahima Traoré examines a patient with acne with a banner announcing the screening in the background.



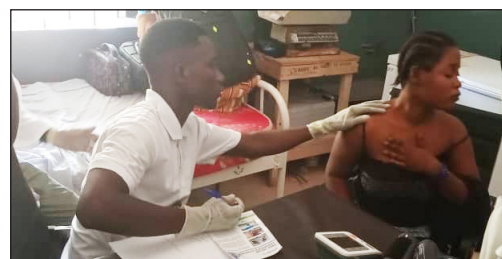
Dr. Ibrahima Traoré explains the World Skin Health Day activities to the press.



Dr. Jérôme Lamah holds a discussion with a mother and her child.



Dr. Thierno Pathe Barry and Dr. Fode Lancéi Traore reviewing the topical treatments being supplied gratis by the team.



Dr. David Zay Zay examining the neck of a patient in the clinic.

Migrant Health Project Reaches People in Need with Dermatologic Care

An interview with Dr. Valeska Padovese (Malta), External advisor of the Migrant Health Dermatology Working Group (MHDWG) for the International Foundation of Dermatology (IFD)

Describe the migrant health project and how it got started?

The International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) - Migrant Health Dermatology Working Group (MHDWG) was formed in 2018 to bring together dermatologists with specific expertise and understanding of the skin health needs of migrant populations. The aim was to develop dermatological guidelines and teaching materials for primary healthcare workers and dermatologists working with migrants and displaced persons around the world.

What are the main goals of the program?

In 2020, the group hosted an online scientific meeting to assemble relevant stakeholders from the world of dermatology, migrant health NGOs, the WHO and UN, and refugee organizations for collaborative learning and relationship building. The main goal of MHDWG, in line with the IFD, is to advocate for skin health for all, including international migrants. We are specifically working on several projects including: developing a dermatology curriculum for teaching health care workers in refugee camps; partnering with NGOs working in refugee camps; developing teledermatology services in displaced persons camps; improving access to HIV and sexual health care; and developing an essential drugs formulary for displaced persons camps.

How many people has the program helped so far? What are the main skin conditions addressed?

The MHDWG members are involved in field work, teaching visits, and research projects; examples are “Teledermatology project in support of Rohingya refugees in Cox Bazaar” and “Skin and Sexual Health App (SKAPP) development and Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey in Malta and Lebanon”. We took part in humanitarian missions in Jordan and Lebanon in support of the Syrian refugees. In Cox Bazaar in Bangladesh, we worked closely with colleagues of the Dermatology and Venereology Department of Chittagong in support of Rohingya displaced persons. We contributed to scientific publications describing the epidemiology of skin diseases in migrant populations, mainly poverty-related dermatoses and skin infections.

Are there any plans to expand this program into other underserved areas of the world?



During the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) mission in 2018, Dr. Valeska Padovese from Malta (center) and volunteer Dr. Farashin Silevany from the US (left) participate in a dermatologic consultation with a patient in Al Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.

We aim to consolidate collaborations with governments, NGOs, UN agencies and the WHO as we plan to expand our work to assist in other humanitarian crises in the world. We have recently offered support through teledermatology to an NGO working in Yemen, and we are strengthening our collaboration with local NGOs and dermatologists in Bangladesh, despite the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Who provides the dermatologic care for the local population through this program?

We support local healthcare providers and dermatologists in terms of education and training on the diagnosis and care of skin conditions. We also offer teledermatology consultations when we are not onsite. The NGOs working locally as well as governments provide treatment for skin conditions.

What advice would you give other volunteers looking to start a similar program in their communities?

To work with local healthcare providers and build up capacity, taking care of the most vulnerable without leaving the local population behind. As we often work in underserved areas of the world, taking care of the local people is also important to avoid conflicts. The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us the real meaning of globalization. Improving access to care for migrant populations, including diagnosis and treatment of skin conditions and sexually transmitted infections, helps to reduce health disparities worldwide and to protect our own health.

What hurdles have you faced while setting up the project?

Engaging the local community is the hardest part. Obtaining funds for projects that address neglected people is also challenging since there is little interest and no return.

What funding is needed to help at this point?

The MHDWG calls for funds in support of education, research and teledermatology services that address underserved populations worldwide.



A diffuse cutaneous fungal infection in a Rohingya girl living in Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh (2019).



World Skin Health Day 2019 and scientific meeting at Chittagong Medical College, Bangladesh. Prof. Christopher Griffiths (right), member of MHDWG, took part in the mission.

A Story of ISD Connections

The following is a heartwarming story of the power of camaraderie in our organization.

In December 2018, I was introduced to Dr. Tizita Yosef, a young, enthusiastic dermatosurgery fellow from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in Dr. Jacek Szepletowski's department in Wroclaw, Poland. It quickly became a joke that she was Tizita and my wife who was accompanying me is Ishita! We were there for an ISD regional meeting, as were other guest speakers Drs. George Reizner and Marcia Ramos-e-Silva (Figs. 1 & 2). The meeting as usual was full of bonhomie and we spent three wonderful days in Wroclaw and the beautiful mountain town of Zakopane.

Two years later I was surprised to receive a call from Tizita informing me that her father was advised to undergo a complicated spinal surgery, but to do so outside Ethiopia. After she rattled off the names of big hospitals in India, I told her about a well-known Institute of Neurological Sciences in my city of Vadodara, India, run by close friends. The very next week she and her father were in our home discussing the surgery over a cup of Indian tea and Ethiopian snacks! The neurosurgeon, a friend from our college days, performed the surgery and her father declared - "I went into the hospital in a wheelchair and came out walking confidently!" Ishita and Tizita cemented their relationship as we talked about our cultures, cooked together, and shopped for Indian kitchenware and spices for her to take back home (Fig. 3). On the night before they left for Addis Ababa, we had a small party with the surgeons, and Tizita cooked a full-fledged Ethiopian meal with two kinds of meat, injera and other delicacies.

When I shared this story with Dr. Dedee Murrell she said that she knew her well, too! Dedee had first met Tizita at an

EADV/WDS session in Denmark and then sponsored her ISD membership for three years (2016-2018). She also reminded me that she had actually introduced the two of us at the annual meeting of the Polish Dermatological Society back in 2016 (Fig. 4).

At the cost of using a cliché, it is indeed a small world! The ISD makes it even smaller and cozier. We meet so many nice people, we enjoy their company, forget them temporarily in the hustle bustle of life only to reconnect in a different situation and context. Tizita is now the first woman derm surgeon in Ethiopia, is Secretary of the Ethiopian Dermatology and Venereology Society, and is flourishing. Last night my mother-in-law asked if she could have something to drink that she has not tasted before, and I offered her the legendary homemade Ethiopian honey wine gifted by Tizita a few months ago! Of note, Tizita was the key liaison for the ISD Regional Meeting held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Ethiopian Dermatology and Venereology Society and we look forward to her continued work on behalf of the ISD.

Viva ISD!

Shyam Verma, MD



Fig. 1. From left to right, Drs. Shyam Verma, Tizita Yosef, George Reizner, and Jacek Szepletowski at the ISD regional meeting in Wroclaw, Poland.



Fig. 2. From left to right (front row): Shyam Verma, Ishita Verma, Marcia Ramos-e-Silva, Mulugeta Berhanu (Ethiopian trainee), and Tizita Yosef Kidane; (back row): George Reizner, Rafal Bialynicki-Birula, and Salomon Worku.



Fig. 3. From left to right: Dr. Tizita Yosef Kidane, Ishita Verma, Mr. Yosef, Dr. Shyam Verma and Udit Verma in the Verma home in Vadodara, India.



Fig. 4. From left to right: Drs. Shyam Verma, Dedee Murrell, Diamant Thaci and Tizita Yosef first meet at the Polish Dermatological Society meeting in 2016.

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 clearly play a vital role. Here, meet five ISD Board Members – **Drs. Luiz GM Castro (Brazil), Hong-Duo Chen (China), Robert A. Schwartz (US), Shyam Verma (India) and Xinghua Gao (China).**

Dr. Luiz GM Castro, Brazil

Dr. Castro, where did you train in dermatology?

LC: I completed my training at the University of São Paulo in Brazil and spent a few months in Germany as an invited student (Gast student) at the Universitäts Klinik Charlottenburg and Steglitz in Berlin and Tropeninstitut in Hamburg before graduating.

Where do you practice dermatology?

LC: My private office is in São Paulo, Brazil, and I also serve as the Chair of the Cutaneous Oncology Unit at the German Hospital in São Paulo.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

LC: I am most interested in cutaneous oncology and dermatologic surgery.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

LC: ISD provides opportunities for contact with international fellows, friendship and up-to-date science, as well as the chance to teach.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

LC: Tennis and wine. Not at the same time though...

What 3 words best describe you?

LC: Cosmopolitan. Workaholic. Practical.

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

LC: I love my job. Working is mostly a pleasure. Having worked and studied hard for many years, I am presently able to enjoy life.

How has ISD impacted your career?

LC: Being a member of ISD has improved contact with colleagues abroad.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

LC: Being able to help young dermatologists through the Mentorship Committee.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

LC: ISD gives young dermatologists a valuable opportunity to get to know dermatology and dermatologists worldwide.



Dr. Luiz GM Castro, Brazil

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

LC: Dedication and hard work are essential for success.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

LC: I can speak five languages fluently (Portuguese, English, French, Spanish and German). Both my father and grandfather were dermatologists. I'm known to many by my nickname: Giga.

Dr. Hong-Duo Chen, China

Dr. Chen, where did you train in dermatology?

HDC: The First Hospital of China Medical University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Where do you practice dermatology?

HDC: The First Hospital of China Medical University.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

HDC: Immunodermatology, especially the function of Langerhans cells.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

HDC: ISD promotes academic exchanges, cooperation and friendship among dermatologists on an international level.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

HDC: Reading new textbooks related to multiple medical subjects.

What 3 words best describe you?

HDC: Professional. Dedicated. Humorous.

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

HDC: I spend most of my energy on professional life.

How has ISD impacted your career?

HDC: It provides me a lot of opportunities to learn from professional friends all over the world.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

HDC: Introducing the ISD to Chinese dermatologists and helping ISD members from other countries learn about dermatology in China, including by visiting our dermatology department.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

HDC: The International Congress of Dermatology is a great venue for learning and networking.

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

HDC: Practice makes perfect. Enjoy your patients and be inventive in your academic pursuits.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

HDC: An old man who is a Chinese dermatologist and has dedicated his life to dermatology.



Dr. Hong-Duo Chen, China

Dr. Robert A. Schwartz, US

Dr. Schwartz, where did you train in dermatology?

RS: I trained in dermatology at the University of Cincinnati and at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Where do you practice dermatology?

RS: I practice at the Rutgers University New Jersey Medical School, where I have been the Professor and Head of Dermatology for the past three decades. I hold honorary professorships in India and China, where I periodically visit.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

RS: I focus my interests in dermatologic oncology and the history of the specialty, as well as public policy as it impacts our field. I find satisfaction in spreading knowledge about the ISD to enhance society membership and participation in our activities. I am fortunate to be an Honorary Fellow of the Asian Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, and pleased to serve on editorial boards in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

RS: From my childhood days in San Francisco listening on my shortwave radio, to my ham radio operator experiences, and later my student years at the University of California, Berkeley, and my M.P.H. there, I have cultivated my interest in international matters. During my specialty training, I commenced my international engagement via a 3-month tropical dermatology fellowship in Mexico, Brazil and Peru. I have since lectured in over 50 countries.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

RS: I love to travel internationally, take long walks with my Cane Corso dog, and enjoy nature on the cliffs of the Hudson River together with my wonderful wife of 35 years, a fellow dermatologist born on the Baltic seaside. I also enjoy discussing current events with our son, especially when he visits us.

What 3 words best describe you?

RS: Compassionate. Committed. Mentor.

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

RS: Spending time with my wife and caring for my mastiff ensures that I balance my personal life with my professional activities. They fill me with contentment, giving me energy for my various undertakings.

How has ISD impacted your career?

RS: The ISD has enabled me to collaborate with many superb colleagues around the world as well as mentor those interested in or just entering our specialty. I will always remember my recent visit to Addis Ababa in which Prof. Jacek Szepietowski and I proudly introduced Ethiopian dermatologists to the ISD.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

RS: I value the many friendships I have made worldwide through the ISD that have enabled sustained collaboration and academic partnerships.



Dr. Robert A. Schwartz, US

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

RS: The ISD offers young dermatologists opportunities to collaborate across continents, enhance understanding of different cultures, and the joy that comes with involvement in the society.

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

RS: I recommend experiencing the field of dermatology through the ISD, with its camaraderie and numerous opportunities. I encourage young dermatologists to be diligent in pursuing their goals and effectuate humanism in their practice of our specialty.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

RS: I spent four years in political science at the University of California, Berkeley. As a student, I helped lead the Gamma Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, an international service fraternity. I also gained a greater appreciation for the Middle East from one of the first major scholars of the region's modern history, Prof. George Lenczowski. I studied Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian.

Dr. Shyam Verma, India

Dr. Verma, where did you train in dermatology?

SV: I trained at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune, India.

Where do you practice dermatology?

SV: In Vadodara, Gujarat, India.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

SV: Superficial mycoses, diagnosing and publishing clinical rarities in dermatology.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

SV: Because I have a very international approach to learning, teaching and interacting.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

SV: I would like to think that I have the makings of a gourmet! I enjoy swimming, photography and reading.

What 3 words best describe you?

SV: Friendly, always willing to learn, but unfortunately a plain speaker!

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

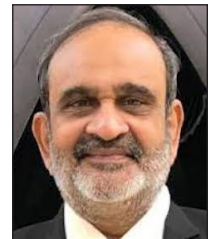
SV: Ask my wife and son! I believe I never did!

How has ISD impacted your career?

SV: It has helped me make friends from around the world and travel far and wide. The ISD has given me a very wide exposure.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

SV: ISD offers a truly international reach for those who are truly interested.



Dr. Shyam Verma, India

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

SV: It can be an effective launching pad and it offers networking opportunities, travel, involvement in the society and more.

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

SV: Join ISD! If you are keen and able, you will certainly get a chance to get involved in its mission. Shed inhibitions. Develop skills and interests that prompt others to seek you out. And persevere!

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

SV: The number of people from around the world who have touched my life professionally and vice versa.

Dr. Xinghua Gao, China

Dr. Gao, where did you train in dermatology?

XG: I completed my dermatology training at The First Hospital of China Medical University, Shenyang, China; Osaka University School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan; and Oxford Churchill Hospital, Oxford, UK.



Dr. Xinghua Gao,
China

Where do you practice dermatology?

XG: Currently, I practice at The First Hospital of China Medical University and also teach both undergraduates and postgraduates at China Medical University. I also serve as a mentor of a master degree student at Guglielmo Marconi University in Rome and am an international member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

XG: My main area of interest is immunodermatology, with special interest in HPV-related dermatoses, vitiligo and atopic dermatitis.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

XG: To join the international community for academic promotion, friendship and collaboration.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

XG: I enjoy reading novels and jogging.

What 3 words best describe you?

XG: Thoughtful. Peaceful. Devoted.

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

XG: Professional life takes most of my time and energy.

How has ISD impacted your career?

XG: ISD provides a platform to work with and learn from others in the same profession.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

XG: Promoting membership, especially from China, and introducing ISD to Chinese dermatologists.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

XG: The official journal, *IJD*, is very beneficial to young dermatologists.

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

XG: Be kind to your patients, be adroit in clinical practice, and be innovative in academic pursuits.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

XG: I invented and introduce dexogeneous mild local hyperthermia for the treatment of HPV infections.

2021-2022 ISD Meetings Calendar

2021 Meetings

September 23 - 24, 2021

VIII Congress of Dermatovenereologists of Belarus

Minsk, Belarus

Web Site: www.bsdc.by/

November 10 - 13, 2021

XIII International Virtual Congress of Dermatology

Melbourne, Australia

Web Site: <https://icd2021.com.au/>

2022 Meetings

April 21 - 24, 2022

7th Continental Congress of the ISD

Mexico City, Mexico

Web Site: www.amd.org.mx/

May 11 - 14, 2022

Congres Association Dermatologistes Francophones

Tunisian Society of Dermatology & Venerology

Hammamet, Tunisia

For more information: Moez Ben Salem: mdbstn@yahoo.fr

Web Site: <https://adf2020.com/>



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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)
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