

## ISD Celebrates In-Person Gatherings at AAD 2022 Annual Meeting and 7<sup>th</sup> CCD Mexico



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

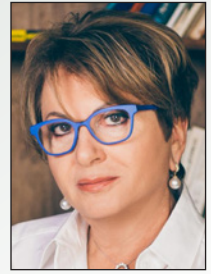
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

My heart is filled with thanks to all who put your trust not only in me, as your President, but also in a remarkable international team comprising an ISD Executive Committee.

We all took a pledge to work hard for the next four years in order to invigorate ISD mission, vision, and goals to improve patient care through sharing knowledge and bridging together the diverse global dermatology community.

In order to achieve these ambitious plans, we have concentrated on a number of key services including membership support through award-winning educational and mentorship activities. The number of ISD renowned international mentors is growing, and the chairwoman, Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, is putting together programs for virtual and face-to-face sessions available to young members of the society. Another initiative underway is to implement co-branding ISD not only as a primary society for the individual dermatologists, but also as co-partner with many foundations and societies in strengthening our presence at national and regional meetings. The relevance of international health care in general, and dermatological care in particular, is growing with the relevance of diversity and inclusion. That's why education and mentorship are at the core of ISD's strength. In addition to that, it underscores the importance for the society to encourage our members to participate in sister society sessions to serve a broader audience worldwide and to provide an opportunity to our young members to advance their career.

I would like to draw your attention to the full report from the Continental Congress of Dermatology – the first in-person Congress since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic more than two years ago – that took place “in-person” in Mexico City. Special kudos go to the President and the Secretary-General of the Mexican Academy of Dermatology, Drs. Abraham Alfaro and Esperanza Welsh, for superbly organized scientific and social programs that brought together more than 900 dermatologists.



At the International Society of Dermatology, we strive to be a member-centric organization. We would like to hear your thoughts and encourage you to contact us with your initiatives, ambitions, and challenges. ISD has a 35-member-strong Board of Directors and VPs who are ready to counsel, help, or put you in touch with the right person.

Meanwhile, stay healthy and tuned in to many more programs and meetings taking place in 2022, including Regional meetings in Georgia, Uzbekistan, and EADV in Milan, Italy.

With all my heart,

*Nellie Konnikov, M.D.*

Nellie Konnikov, MD  
President, International Society of Dermatology

## 2022 – 2023 ISD Meetings Calendar

### 2022 Meetings

**June 16 – 18, 2022**

**3rd International Transcaucasus Congress of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine**

Tbilisi, Georgia

[www.itc2022.photoderm.org](http://www.itc2022.photoderm.org)

**June 30 – July 3, 2022**

**CILAD**

Madrid, Spain

[www.cilad2022.com](http://www.cilad2022.com)

**September 7 – 10, 2022**

**EADV**

Milan, Italy

[www.eadvcongress2022.org](http://www.eadvcongress2022.org)

**October 13 – 15, 2022**

**ILDS World Skin Summit**

Lima, Peru

[www.worldskinsummit.com](http://www.worldskinsummit.com)

### 2023 Meetings

**July 3 – 8, 2023**

**World Congress of Dermatology**

Singapore

[www.wcd2023singapore.org](http://www.wcd2023singapore.org)



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## FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

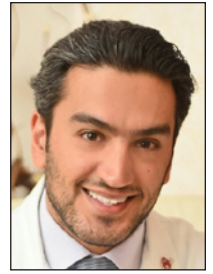
Dear Colleagues,

There are a few lessons we have learned over the past challenging two years. The first was humans are resilient creatures with a passion and a need to learn. During the height of the pandemic when people were in isolation, learning never stopped. People found new ways to connect with one another through information by organizing webinars and continuing to be mentors to the next generation. That need to pass on information simply could not be contained between four walls.

The second thing that we learned is that humans are social creatures. With the matters easing and restrictions becoming less, the need to connect with their fellow man became something that everyone needed to do. We could feel this with the high optimism of face-to-face meetings, such as the American Academy of Dermatology meeting in Boston. Individuals wanted not just the information, but they wanted to see and interact with the individual passing on that information.

So how are things going to change as we move forward? I believe we have learned that both methods can work. While meeting face to face will be the best and most ideal approach for a number of us, the element of learning while we are in the comfort of our homes or office can also be utilized. The success

of virtual meetings such as the 2021 International Congress of Dermatology and the legacy it helped create bolstered the hybrid format of the Continental Congress of Dermatology in Mexico. The ability for speakers and attendants to be both there and everywhere at the same time is something that could not have been thought of as an option three years ago.



We are going to be seeing more meetings returning to being face to face. We can also expect to see more meetings conducted in a virtual or hybrid format. No matter what, the outcome is the same. Humans shall remain resilient and crave social interaction and the passing on of information. More so, we are using a technology that we created that was driven by the opportunity to make the best out of the circumstances. The International Society of Dermatology will remain at the forefront of both. This is a goal we have undertaken and a promise we aim to keep.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hassan Galadari'.

Hassan Galadari, MD  
Your Secretary-General

A promotional banner for the XIV International Congress of Dermatology 2025. The background features a large image of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, under a blue sky with clouds. A red diagonal band runs across the image. On the left side, there is a logo for the congress, which includes a stylized building and the text 'XIV International Congress of Dermatology 2025'. Below the logo, the text reads 'The roads of Dermatology' in red, followed by '18-21 June 2025', 'Rome, Italy', and 'Rome Convention Center "La Nuvola"'. At the bottom left, there is a small circular logo for the International Society of Dermatology. At the bottom center, the website 'www.icd2025rome.org' is displayed. On the right side, there is a white outline of a classical building facade on a red background.

## AAD 2022 Annual Meeting Brings Together ISD for Work, Fun

by Dr. Mary Thomas

It has been two years since we have been able to meet our friends and colleagues face to face. The annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology, which was held in Boston from March 25-29, 2022, was a long-awaited opportunity for reunions. We kickstarted the meeting with the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) Sister Society meeting held on March 24th. In the true spirit of the society, the meeting focused on global dermatological concerns. Dermatology experts from across the globe gave talks on a range of topics including recent advances in the management of vitiligo and melasma, diversity in dermatology education, and mentees on making a difference in their local communities with the training they received from the ISD mentorship program.

During the meeting, various committee members met in person for the first time since the pandemic to brainstorm new projects and ideas to bring our activities up to speed with the online virtual environment which is likely here to stay. Our board meeting was conducted in a hybrid format to enable members who couldn't attend to join in the discussions. We also welcomed the new board members: Drs. Johannes Dayrit (Philippines), Seemal Desai (USA), Marius Anton Ionescu (France), Oleksandr Litus (Ukraine), Paula Luna (Argentina), Mohammad Rafiqul Mowla (Bangladesh), Ulegbek Sabirov (Uzbekistan), Mustafa Sahin (Turkey), Leopoldo Santos (Brazil), Mary Thomas (Canada), and Jose Martinez Villarreal (Mexico), as well as our new executive committee: Dr. Nellie

Konnikov, President; Dr. Jorge Ocampo-Candiani, Executive Vice President; Dr. Hassan Galadari, Secretary-General; Dr. Martin Kassir, Treasurer-General; Dr. Jean Bologna, Assistant Secretary-General; and Dr. George Reizner, Immediate Past President. As part of our dedication towards global health, ISD board members have made a commitment to create educational material for dermatologists and residents in war-torn Ukraine.

The ILDS *World Congress of Dermatology 2023* meet-and-greet event was an opportunity to gather with our colleagues from the ILDS, an organization we work very closely with to organize "World Skin Health Day" activities. Slideshows depicting the venue, cultural beauty, advanced technologies, and amazing cuisine of Singapore – in addition to the cutting-edge scientific program – were presented during the event. Time to save the date and register for the meeting!

As always, ISD is never all work and no play! One of the highlights of the AAD meeting was, of course, the ISD reception held on the last evening of the meeting. The event included a short ceremony honoring our past president Dr. George Reizner and a tribute to members who are no longer with us since the pandemic. Following this, members and friends joined together to celebrate with a delicious spread of treats and danced the night away to great live music. What a truly spectacular way to conclude our trip to Boston!



From left to right: Drs. Mustafa Sahin, Nellie Konnikov, Marius-Anton Ionescu, Kenneth Tomecki, and Robert Schwartz



From left to right: Drs. Anne Enechukwu and Mary Thomas



From left to right: Drs. Keshavamurthy Vinay, Mary Thomas, Rashmi Sarkar, and Trilokraj Tejasvi



Members of the ISD Board of Directors, front row, from left to right: Drs. George Reizner, Adebola Ogunbiyi, Esperanza Welsh, Hassan Galadari, Nellie Konnikov, Jorge Ocampo-Candiani, Martin Kassir, Rokea el-Azhary, and Dedee Murrell. Back row, left to right: Larry Gibson, Jose Dario Martinez Villarreal, Daniel Siegel, Mary Thomas, Luca Borradori, Rashmi Sarkar, Keyvan Nouri, Evangeline Handog, Paula Luna, Jacek Szepletowski, Mustafa Sahin, and Marius-Anton Ionescu.



From left to right: Drs. Rahina Galvez, Evangeline Handog, Adebola Ogunbiyi and Anne Enechukwu



From left to right: Drs. Mary Thomas, Erika Gayle C. Ty, Rahina Galvez, Evangeline Handog, and Grace Chua-Ty



From left to right: Drs. Razzaque Ahmed and Nellie Konnikov



From left to right: Drs. Estefania Boland, Cesar Villarreal, Jose Dario Martinez Villarreal and Alberto Cardenas



From left to right: Drs. Evangeline Handog, George Reizner and Margarita Larralde



From left to right: Drs. Rokea el-Azhary and Esperanza Welsh



From left to right: ISD Executive Director Tara Winton, Dr. Anne Enechukwu and Dr. Nellie Konnikov



From left to right: Drs. Hassan Galadari, Marcia Ramos-e-Silva, and Martin Kassir



Dr. Dedee Murrell (right), President of the International Congress of Dermatology 2021, was recognized for her key contributions to the success of the first virtual Dermathon by ISD President Dr. Nellie Konnikov (left).



From left to right: Drs. Claire Fuller and Jean Bologna



From left to right: Drs. Hassan Galadari and George Reizner



Drs. Trilokraj Tejasvi and Jacqueline Junkins-Hopkins enjoy dancing with their colleagues.



Attendees dancing the night away



From left to right: Drs. Brunilda Bardhi, George Reizner and Rahina Galvez



Drs. Jacek Szepietowski and Dedee Murrell



From left to right: Drs. Jacqueline Junkins-Hopkins, Larry Gibson and Rokea el-Azhary



Front row, from left to right: Drs. Rashmi Sarkar, Emna Bahloul, Mary Thomas, Rahina Galvez, Evangeline Handog, Nellie Konnikov, Aleksandra Stefaniak, Brunilda Bardhi, Jean McGee, and Trilokraj Tejasvi. Back row, from left to right: Drs. Adebola Ogunbiyi, Hassan Galadari, Anne Enechukwu, Mustafa Sahin, Jacek Szepletowski, Robert Schwartz, Mohammad Jafferany, Marius-Anton Ionescu and George Reizner



From left to right: Dr. Brunilda Bardhi, ISD Executive Director Tara Winton, Dr. Mustafa Sahin, Dr. Evangeline Handog, Dr. Robert Schwartz, Dr. Nellie Konnikov, Dr. Martin Kassir, Edmund Janniger, Dr. Marcia Ramos-e-Silva, Dr. Marius-Anton Ionescu, Mr. Konnikov, and Dr. Mary Thomas



Dr. George Reizner (left) is presented with the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) 2021 Certificate of Appreciation for International Leadership by ILDS Secretary-General Dr. Hassan Galadari (right).



Members of the *IJD* editorial board and editorial staff with *IJD* Editor-in-Chief Dr. Rokea el-Azhary



Attendees listen to a presentation on new ISD programs.



From left to right: Dr. Jacek Szepletowski, Dr. Ewa Wesolowska-Szepletowska, Marta Szepletowska, Dr. Piotr Krajewski, and Dr. Aleksandra Stefaniak



From left to right: Drs. Dede Murrell, Marius-Anton Ionescu, Nellie Konnikov and Jose Dario Martinez Villarreal

# Hundreds Attend 7th Continental Congress of Dermatology In-Person April 21-24, 2022, in Mexico City

by Dr. Esperanza Welsh

The 7th Continental Congress of Dermatology held in Mexico City became the perfect place to reconnect after such a long time apart. Initially planned for April 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was finally held April 21-24, 2022, after two years of making adjustments to ensure a safe meeting.

Attendees from all over Mexico and around the world gathered at the beautiful Camino Real Hotel in Polanco, Mexico. More than 100 professors from six continents gathered both physically and virtually in a fully hybrid meeting, where more than 500 attendees enjoyed seeing each other in-person and another 400 attendees connected virtually at the same time.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with an opening speech by Dr. Abraham Alfaro, President of the Mexican Academy of Dermatology. This was followed by a spectacular musical gala: a concert by the Mexican Symphonic Orchestra. The scientific program included more than 150 lectures on the latest topics in medical, surgical, and cosmetic dermatology, as well as hair and nail disorders. The talks were given live and virtual

simultaneously and will be on demand for two months after the meeting.

We have lost many of our friends and colleagues in dermatology over the last three years. A special remembrance event was held for those dermatologists who passed away during the pandemic. During this event, Dr. Roberto Arenas paid a heartwarming tribute to Dr. Oliverio Welsh's Dermatology legacy. To honor this commemoration, Dr. Nellie Konnikov, President of the International Society of Dermatology, awarded Dr. Arenas with a full-year membership of the ISD. The Maria Duran Award was presented by Dr. Marcia Ramos-e-Silva to Dr. Esperanza Welsh for her contributions to dermatology and the ISD.

The social events included a beautiful gala dinner hosted by Eucerin, where more than 400 people enjoyed delicious Mexican cuisine and beautiful jazz music. Professors and attendees enjoyed visiting the pyramids, anthropology museum and the historic center in Mexico City. The conference culminated with the closing ceremony perfectly summing up this adventure with the Mexican Mariachi.



From left to right: Drs. Lucia Achell (at podium), Gabriela Ortega, Monica Ramos, Esperanza Welsh, and Luis Sanchez



Dr. Paola Pasquali (left) and Congress attendees enjoy an outdoor reception.



Dra. Olga Labastida



An orchestra performs lovely arrangements for attendees.



From left to right: Dr. Esperanza Welsh, Dr. Marcia Ramos-e-Silva, Dr. Robert Kirsner, Dr. Cathy Kirsner, Dr. Shasha Hu, Dr. Dee Anna Glaser, Alex Peters and Dr. David Glaser



**Dr. Dee Anna Glaser**



**From left to right: Drs. Esperanza Welsh, Martin Kassir and Mustafa Turhan Sahin**



**From left to right: Drs. Guadalupe Chavez, Roberto Estrada, Carmen Padilla, Esperanza Welsh, and Guadalupe Estrada**



**From left to right: Dr. Luis Enrique Sanchez, Horacio Rosas Chimal, Dra. Lucia Achell Nava, Dra. Gabriela Ortega, Dra. Esperanza Welsh, Dra. Mónica Ramos Alvarez, Nancy Gómez and Ludovic Leo**



**Attendees participate in one of the many interesting lectures.**



**Dr. Robert Kirsner**



**From left to right: Drs. Abraham Alfaro, Roberto Arenas and Nellie Konnikov at the In Memoriam**



**Dr. Marcia Ramos-e-Silva**



**Dr. Nellie Konnikov addresses attendees during the Congress closing ceremony.**



## ISD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

**Dr. Jesus Alberto Cardenas-de la Garza** of the University Hospital “Dr. José E. González”, UANL,” in Mexico, participated in the ISD Mentorship Program virtually from February to April 2021. Dr. Evangeline Handog of the Asian Hospital & Medical Center in the Philippines served as his mentor.

### *Major goals for your mentorship experience:*

The main goals of my mentorship were to improve my knowledge of medical and cosmetic dermatology. Despite the change of format to a virtual one, I had a great experience in the ISD mentorship program with Dr. Evangeline “Vangee” Handog, together with two excellent colleagues (one from Russia and one from Georgia).

### *What did you like best about your mentorship experience?*

I really enjoyed the excellent lectures that Dr. Handog gave, particularly regarding common dermatological problems like melasma, acne, and post-inflammatory pigmentation. Dr. Handog shared very practical pearls and tips regarding diagnosis and management of these conditions.

### *Describe any special experiences with your mentor:*

Dr. Handog encouraged active participation from the mentees during the virtual sessions. We had the opportunity to share interesting clinical cases and learn the treatment strategies available in our respective countries and clinical practices.

### *Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home:*

Being that it was a virtual experience, I never left home. Nonetheless, there are a lot of practical treatment tips that



Dr. Jesus Alberto Cardenas-de la Garza (Mexico) participated in a virtual session with mentor Dr. Evangeline Handog (Philippines) and fellow mentorship awardees who participated in this mentorship program. From the top, left to right: Drs. Evangeline Handog, Irene Zuñiga (Philippines), Anastasiia Kolerova (Russian Federation), Jesus Alberto Cardenas-de la Garza, and Tamar Khossid (Georgia).

I will use in my daily practice, particularly in melasma and other pigmentary disorders.

### *How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?*

I will try to share the knowledge I learned from Dr. Handog and the other mentees with my students and colleagues in Mexico. I believe the experience from the ISD Mentorship will have an impact on my practice and academic career for a very long time.

### *Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience:*

Post-inflammatory pigmentation is sometimes the main concern in many acne patients. Individualization of the treatment taking into account the type of acne, scarring, hyperpigmentation, and erythema leads to better outcomes.

*“My therapeutic armamentarium has definitely increased thanks to the advice and teaching of Dr. Handog. They are already impacting my private practice and my patients.”*

– Dr. Jesus Alberto Cardenas-de la Garza

**Dr. Ayesha Akinkugbe** of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, in Nigeria participated in the ISD Mentorship Program virtually from February to April 2021. Dr. Leopoldo Santos of the Santa Casa School of Medicine in Brazil served as her mentor.

### *Major goals for your mentorship experience:*

To gain experience using trichoscopy in the management of scalp and hair disorders. Sadly, this practical aspect of the Mentorship program was not possible. The virtual program allowed us to have personal lectures (small group teaching) with our Mentor, who did his best to make the lectures as meaningful as possible. I still believe other goals can be achieved – management of hair and scalp disorders among Nigerians, building data, training residents, and research collaboration opportunities.

### *What did you like best about your mentorship experience?*

Learning with my fellow mentees from four different regions of the world, all with a common interest – trichoscopy and hair and scalp disorders. Dr. Santos loves what he does and was eager to impart as much knowledge as possible. He was very helpful and encouraging.

### *Describe any special experiences with your mentor:*

Lectures were delivered with a personalized approach. There was no rush, with practical tips as we went along.

### *Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home:*

It was difficult to assess the skills required for trichoscopy, as there were no practical sessions. However, there were lots of practical tips and specific trichoscopy features were discussed.

*continued on page 10*

## Mentorship Reports (continued from page 9)

### *How will your mentorship experience impact your patient care and professional goals over the next year?*

Making trichoscopy part of our routine clinical practice and performing trichoscopy in all patients with hair and scalp disorders. I plan to build an African database for research, contribute to training residents on this topic, and ultimately contribute to capacity building which will cascade into widespread use of trichoscopy and ultimately earlier diagnosis and management of hair and scalp disorders.

### *How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?*

I hope that with the consistent use of trichoscopy, I will be able to publish articles describing features amongst Africans with scalp and hair disorders. I also want to get involved in trichoscopy training sessions during meetings of my local dermatologic association.

### *Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience:*

Describing perifollicular scaling as “holding/hugging” the hair.

*“The virtual program allowed our group to share experiences and patient challenges. This is the unforeseen advantage of the virtual program and one that may not have occurred had we all done our mentorships physically at different times.”*

– Dr. Ayesha Akinkugbe

**Dr. Asma Toumi** of Charles Nicolle Hospital of Tunis in Tunisia, participated in the ISD Mentorship Program virtually from April to June 2021. Dr. Luiz Castro of the Hospital Alemão Oswaldo Cruz in Sao Paulo, Brazil, served as her mentor.



Dr. Ayesha Akinkugbe (Nigeria) participated in a virtual session with mentor Dr. Leopold Santos (Brazil) and fellow mentorship awardees who participated in this mentorship program. From the top, left to right: Drs. Meryam Chaabani (Tunisia), Leopold Santos, Corazon Almira Mella (Philippines), Pauline Velasco (Philippines), Ayesha Akinkugbe (Nigeria) and Leopold Santos.

### *What did you like best about your mentorship experience?*

The virtual mentorship experience was extremely valuable through the live discussion of scientific articles, clinical cases and the demonstrative videos that Dr. Castro has previously prepared for us illustrating surgeries on real patients, animals, and a practice silicone pad for surgery training. Also, each mentee prepared an oral presentation for the group.

### *Describe any special experiences with your mentor:*

During our first virtual session, Dr. Castro invited Dr. Shakirat Gold, his past in-person mentee, to share with us her previous mentorship experience. This discussion was very enlightening. Also, there were four mentees from Tunisia, India and the Philippines, and we all got to know each other and get acquainted with the different traditions and customs of each mentee’s home country. Dr. Castro made sure that this mentorship was both a learning and a social experience.

### *Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home:*

I’ve learned two new skills: 1) Lip surgery: V-shaped excision and reconstruction of the lip 2) Ear surgery: reconstruction of the ear with a double advancement flap and double triangular cartilage excision. I wasn’t familiar with surgery on these two locations, but now I feel confident enough to perform them in my practice.

### *How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?*

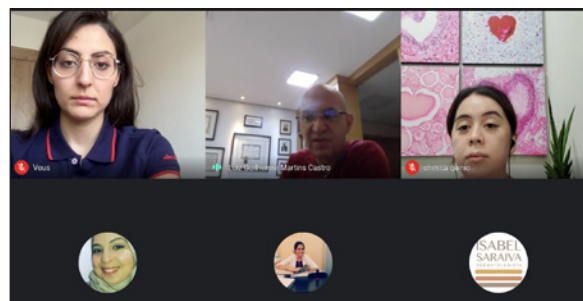
In Tunisia, dermatologic surgery is insufficiently developed. My goal is to create a unit of surgical dermatology in public hospitals where patients can receive optimal care and young residents can learn this fascinating subspecialty.

### *Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience:*

When considering the optimal reconstruction option for a skin defect, always start with the simplest to the most complex approach.

*“During my mentorship, I’ve learned the basic principles of dermatologic surgery but also advanced techniques and pertinent tips to optimize the surgical outcome. These tools will improve my daily practice and patient care.”*

– Dr. Asma Toumi



From left to right: Drs. Asma Toumi, mentor Luiz Castro and Chesca Quinio

## Catching Up with Past ISD Mentee Dr. Sherzod Khonkhodjaev

Over the years, the ISD Mentorship Program has matched dozens of young dermatologists from around the world with mentors eager to teach them new skills. Here, ISD spotlights past mentee and ISD member Dr. Sherzod Khonkhodjaev of Uzbekistan.

### *Where and when did you do your ISD mentorship? Who was your mentor?*

I completed the ISD mentorship program in 2018 at Inselspital Hospital in Bern, Switzerland. My mentor was Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli.

### *Where do you practice now?*

At this time, I work in a Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center for Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

### *How did your ISD mentorship impact your career?*

I can say that the ISD mentorship turned my life/career upside down in a good way. As part of the mentoring program, thanks to the international experience gained in the field of dermatopathology, studying the work of the dermatopathological laboratory of Inselspital Hospital and listening to the advice of my mentor Dr. Beltraminelli, we transformed our usual histological laboratory into a fully-fledged dermatopathological laboratory – the only one in Central Asia, with all the basic research such as

immunohistochemical and immunofluorescence analysis. Thanks to this, my medical career flourished. I became a fully-fledged dermatopathologist and, at the same time, the rating of our clinic increased.

### *Do you still keep in touch with your mentor?*

We periodically keep in touch online. Sometimes, in convenient cases, we meet at international conferences or congresses (e.g., WCD 2019 Milan, ICD Virtual 2021 Sydney).

### *What skill did you learn from your mentor that you use regularly in your practice today?*

I have learned a lot from Dr. Beltraminelli, both in terms of dermatopathology and life in general. In dermatopathology, when examining biopsy specimens under a microscope, always pay attention to key clues. In controversial cases, before giving a conclusion, seek advice from more experienced colleagues and/or review recent articles on this pathology from international sources. And in terms of life skills, my mentor did not waste time and always adhered to the schedule. This is a skill I try to stick to all the time.

### *Have you served as a mentor for a young dermatologist or do you have plans to do so?*

Unfortunately, not yet. But since we are the leading research and training center for dermatology in Uzbekistan and we have many dermatology residents trained, we plan to organize trainings in dermatopathology in the near future for them and for young dermatologists. Then I will be their mentor in this discipline.

### *What advice would you give to a young dermatologist considering a mentorship program?*

First, I would advise them to join the ISD. The ISD mentorship program is a special project that gives young dermatologists the opportunity to gain international experience and knowledge in the field of dermatology. I believe that in order to be worthy of participation in this program, the applicant must always strive for self-improvement in the chosen field to further assist patients, constantly work on oneself, and always be active in the activities of the ISD.



Dr. Sherzod Khonkhodjaev holds a copy of the Fall 2019 *ISD Connection* featuring him and mentor Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli.



Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli (left) with Dr. Sherzod Khonkhodjaev (right) reunited at WCD 2019 Milan, Italy.

**Interested in participating in the  
ISD Mentorship Program?**

**Mentorship application is now active  
[here](#) on the ISD website!**

## 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 three new ISD Board Members – **Drs. Marius-Anton Ionescu (France), Johannes Dayrit (Philippines) and Seemal Desai (United States).**

### *Where did you train in dermatology?*

**Dr. Ionescu:** I completed my residency in dermatology in Paris, France, University Paris 5, and my PhD in University Paris 7 (these universities are now united within “University of Paris”).

**Dr. Dayrit:** I trained in dermatology at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila. During my last year of training, I was selected as Stiefel Scholarship Grantee and spent three months of clinical rotation at the National Skin Centre in Singapore. I underwent further training in Dermatopathology at St. John’s Institute of Dermatology, St Thomas Hospital, UK, and Dermatologikum Hamburg (as a scholarship grantee) under Dr. Eduardo Calonje and Dr. Almut Boer, respectively.

**Dr. Desai:** I trained in Dermatology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Dermatology. I also served as chief resident in my final year of residency.

### *Where do you practice dermatology?*

**Dr. Ionescu:** I practice dermatology in Paris, within the Dermatology Department of University Hospital Saint Louis, in Paris, France.

**Dr. Dayrit:** I practice dermatology at the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute and work as a volunteer consultant at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. I also have a private practice in Manila and the nearby province of Cavite.

**Dr. Desai:** I am the founder and Medical Director of Innovative Dermatology, which is a state-of-the-art private dermatology practice in the Dallas, Texas, area. I’m also Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

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

**Dr. Ionescu:** In early 2000, I was involved in the research of cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (within the 3 years of my PhD work). Since 2007, I am practicing in the Outpatient Clinic dedicated to Inflammatory Diseases, in the same University Hospital “Saint Louis”, with a consultation opened for patients suffering from severe psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

**Dr. Dayrit:** Disorders of pigmentation (I am also a council member of the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research), rosacea in brown skin, dermatopathology of cutaneous infections and lasers.

**Dr. Desai:** My clinical expertise and interest is in the diagnosis and management of pigmentary disorders such as vitiligo and melasma, as well as more broadly skin diseases affecting skin color. I have a particular passion for political advocacy and medicine and healthcare and how it relates to our specialty of dermatology.



**Dr. Marius-Anton Ionescu (France)**

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

**Dr. Ionescu:** ISD has a really impressive international profile. I am French, but I also have other European roots (Romanian, Italian). And I’m married to a German-French lady!



**Dr. Johannes Dayrit (Philippines)**

**Dr. Dayrit:** I was already a member of the ISD when I was still a dermatology resident-in-training. I received two travel and scholarship grants from the ISD which enabled me to present my case reports and research in international meetings.



**Dr. Seemal Desai (United States)**

**Dr. Desai:** This organization allows us to connect with other experts and colleagues on a global level and really allows the global Dermatology community to feel more like a family.

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

**Dr. Ionescu:** Art, definitely art! Most of all paintings from the period from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>/ beginning 20<sup>th</sup> century: post-impressionism, Nabis, fauvism, and others. Everything or almost everything was “said and done” by the artists from this period – a real turning point of painting history,

**Dr. Dayrit:** Farming and photography.

**Dr. Desai:** I love to spend time with my wife, daughter and son, as well as travel and try new restaurants.

*“Listen to your patients because they are the best teachers.”*

– Dr. Johannes Dayrit

*continued on page 13*

*“Always be receptive to our very fast-moving specialty of dermatology. Have subscriptions to 2-3 important journals of dermatology, participate in main congresses of dermatology – and all this not only to cumulate CME points. Just never stop learning in order to better treat patients.”*

– Dr. Marius-Anton Ionescu

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

**Dr. Ionescu:** A medical doctor very lucky to live in the middle of a therapeutic revolution in dermatology.

**Dr. Dayrit:** Scholarly. Teacher. Charming.

**Dr. Desai:** Dedicated. Passionate. Enthusiastic.

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

**Dr. Ionescu:** Very difficult to balance both but now it is easier since our son is an adult and has his own family, daddy is missing less...

**Dr. Dayrit:** I try to live a healthy lifestyle – get enough sleep, eat fruits and vegetables, regular exercise (biking and pilates). By keeping our minds and bodies healthy, we will be able to serve our patients well and be productive in our academic endeavors (teaching, lectures, publications). Your well-being is a priority which would eventually translate into excellent patient care. Always take time to care for yourself. Follow the mantra of work hard, play hard, and spend time focusing on your hobbies. It is important to work hard, but work smart as well.

**Dr. Desai:** I try to include my family in as many aspects of my professional life as possible. For example, if I get invited to speak at an international meeting, I will do my absolute best to bring my wife and children with me so we can also explore a new place, a new culture and create our own memories. I also think it's important to use any time off you have to try to separate yourself from work activities.

### **How has ISD impacted your career?**

**Dr. Ionescu:** I have been an ISD member for only 2 years, but I appreciate the quality of ISD members, congresses and the *International Journal of Dermatology*.

**Dr. Dayrit:** The knowledge shared, the encouragement and advice from senior colleagues were all helpful.

**Dr. Desai:** This organization has allowed me to grow my leadership skills and also explore international educational opportunities that would not have been possible otherwise. The camaraderie and networking have been second to none.

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

**Dr. Dayrit:** The camaraderie and friendships with international colleagues.

**Dr. Desai:** The friendships and connections I've made with other prominent dermatologists around the world have been invaluable. I also value the mentorship opportunities that allow me to engage with younger dermatologists on the global scene.

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

**Dr. Ionescu:** A very open society of dermatology as ISD is opening many doors for dermatologists in terms of congresses, meetings, publications.

**Dr. Dayrit:** Scholarship grants and mentorship programs.

**Dr. Desai:** Networking, education, eye-opening hands-on experiences, and most importantly the opportunity to build lifelong friendships. After all, dermatology is truly a family.

*“The friendships and connections I've made here have truly made me a better dermatologist and a better global citizen.”*

– Dr. Seemal Desai

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

**Dr. Dayrit:** Each task has a corresponding lesson that we need to learn or relearn because learning dermatology is a continuous process. Always be open to new learning and invest in your continuing medical education. Approach the profession with an optimistic attitude and make it a point to uphold academic and research integrity.

**Dr. Desai:** Don't be afraid to ask questions and seek out as many educational and mentorship opportunities as you can.

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

**Dr. Ionescu:** That I'm speaking four languages fluently (and not bad for two others).

**Dr. Dayrit:** I'm addicted to plants!

**Dr. Desai:** They would be surprised to know that before I went into medicine, I had always wanted to be a pilot. At some point in my life, I'm determined to go back and get my private pilot's license so that I can at least fly an aircraft on my own!



# International Society of Dermatology

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

(Please print or type clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last/Family) (First/Given) (Middle)

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (Apt. or Suite No.)

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
(Country/City Code) (Area Code) (Number) (Country/City Code) (Area Code) (Number)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month/Day/Year)

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

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

### 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  
PO Box 79524 • Baltimore, MD 21279-0524 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

\_\_\_\_\_

Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date

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Cardholder's Name

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Signature

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF DERMATOLOGY

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\* First time serving on the Executive Committee/Board of Directors

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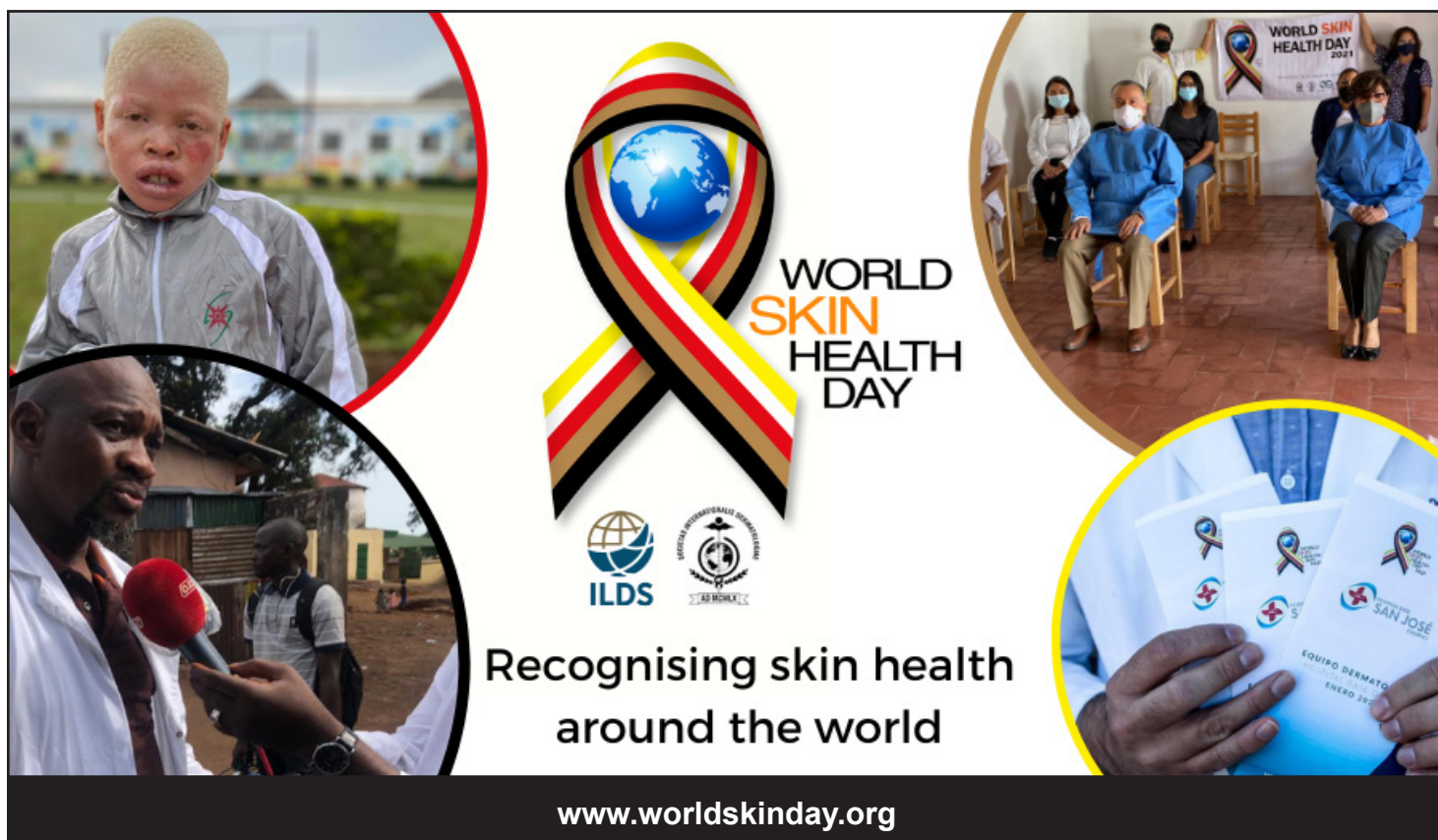
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The graphic features a central logo for World Skin Health Day 2021, which includes a globe and a ribbon with the colors of the rainbow. Below the logo are the logos for ILDS (International League of Dermatological Societies) and the International Society of Dermatology. The text "WORLD SKIN HEALTH DAY" is prominently displayed. Below the logo, the text "Recognising skin health around the world" is written. At the bottom, the website "www.worldskinday.org" is provided. The graphic is surrounded by four circular inset images: a young boy with skin conditions, a man being interviewed, a group of people in a room, and hands holding brochures.

**WORLD SKIN HEALTH DAY**

ILDS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF DERMATOLOGY

Recognising skin health around the world

[www.worldskinday.org](http://www.worldskinday.org)