



The Official Newsletter of the International Society of Dermatology Vol. 14, No. 1 • Spring 2020

World Skin Health Day Reaches Thousands Worldwide with Dermatology Initiatives



In This Issue

President's Message, ISD 2020-2021 Meetings Calendar
Secretary-General's Message, Individual Sponsoring Membership
World Skin Health Day 4-5
In Memoriam 6-7
ICD 2021 Update

Members in the News, 19th Giornate di Terapia in Dermovenereologia, Italy
Mentorship Program 10-11
IJD Submissions from Sub-Saharan Africa12
6th African Dermatopathology Conference (ADPC), Tanzania13

Meet ISD Board Members 14-15
Burma Skincare Initiative Inaugural Meeting,
Myanmar
Membership Application
ISD Board of Directors

NEW! Click on a story title to go directly to that page. Click the home icon at the bottom of each page to return to the table of contents.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to you during a global health event. Earlier this season, we were scheduled to be in Denver for the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD). Many of us would have been attending educational sessions, committee meetings and social events. Instead we are witnessing rapid changes in our world.



It is important to reassure you that the ISD remains open and active. Each of the committees, the editorial board and the executive committee are scheduling conference calls. Similar options are being considered for the Board of Directors meeting. All reports and documents will be distributed electronically so they can be reviewed in advance. Although we will miss our annual gatherings, we continue to make progress promoting the ISD.

Similarly, the financial health of the ISD is sound. We are in conservative investments shielded from most of the recent economic fallout.

A couple key developments includes the naming of the Nominating Committee, Chair Percy Naidu (South Africa), and the Bylaws and Administrative Regulations Committee, Chair, Lawrence Gibson (USA). Both are important bodies that convene every four years.

My travel is restricted, like many of you, and I am staying home for the foreseeable weeks. I view this as an opportunity to think through our priorities. An example is our recently announced Mission, Vision and Goals, the product of a yearlong effort. Prior to the AAD, I asked committee chairs to integrate and align their work with these principles and to report their plans to the Board of Directors. Similarly, the Bylaws Committee is charged with recommending revisions to our core documents with these in mind. All members are also encouraged to use the Mission, Vision and Goals to guide their various Society activities. During this global pause, we can reflect on these guiding principles together, shape our future and move forward with the same purpose.

I do have sad news to report. Many of you are already aware that we lost two pillars of our Society. Both Drs. Rekha Sheth (India) and Oliverio Welsh-Lozano (Mexico) lost their battles with their illnesses. They have left significant footprints that will be difficult to fill. Tributes to their lives are included in this *ISD Connection*.

I close here by urging each of us to be role models. We are facing a global challenge and I believe ISD members are uniquely positioned as resources in our communities. Please help promote public health while also taking care of yourselves and your family's well-being.

I look forward to the next time we meet and hope the lessons learned from the pandemic will help drive positive health policies and international cooperation.

Sincerely,

Leizper (\circ)

George Reizner, MD President, International Society of Dermatology

2020-2021 ISD Meetings Calendar

May 29 - 31, 2020

KAD/ASDV 2020 Congress Kenya Association of Dermatology and the African Society of Dermatology & Venerology Lake Naivash Resort, Kenya Status: New dates in 2021

August 13 - 15, 2020

2nd International Congress on Tropical Dermatology Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists Colombo, Sri Lanka Status: New dates in August 2021

September 25 - 27, 2020

Symposium Sarajevo Dermatology Days Psoriasis Association of Bosnia & Herzegovina Sarajevo, Bosnia For more information: www.asjaprohic.ba or email Asja Prohic: asjaprohic@hotmail.com Status: On schedule

October 14 - 17, 2020

Congres Association Dermatologistes Francophones Tunisian Society of Dermatology & Venerology Hammamet, Tunisia For more information: Moez Ben Salem: mdbstn@yahoo.fr Status: Rescheduled from April 2020

November 10 - 13, 2021 XIII International Congress of Dermatology Melbourne, Australia https://icd2021.com.au/

Check the ISD website *www.intsocderm.org* for the most up-to-date meeting information.



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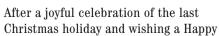
ISD Connection Spring 2020 · Vol. 14, No. 1 Copyright © 2020 ISD. All rights reserved. Jean Bolognia, MD (United States) Chair, Communications Committee George Reizner, MD (United States) Editorial Advisor Nellie Konnikov, MD (US/Russia) Editorial Advisor

Esperanza Welsh, MD (Mexico) Editor Maria Juliet Macarayo, MD (Philippines) Associate Editor Karen Sideris (United States) Managing Editor Cindy Froehlich (United States) Executive Director

FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Friends,

Who could have predicted, not to mention even imagine, that a new respiratory virus could spread through the world so fast and make us all put on hold plans, dreams and ambitions?



New Year 2020 to our members, ISD leadership was in full gear to proceed with plans for six regional meetings as well as finalizing details and looking forward to gathering at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) in March and the much-anticipated Continental Congress of Dermatology (CCD) in Mexico City in April.

Much to everyone's surprise a small local cluster of respiratory viral disease causing potentially lethal bilateral pneumonia started in one province and within two months spread to engulf many countries. It took a few weeks for the World Health Organization to declare the coronavirus SARS-CoV2 outbreak an epidemic. In March, WHO even predicted the likelihood of spread to all countries around the globe.

In early March, I traveled to Moscow representing ISD at the regional meeting in the capital of Russia. At that time, a vibrant city was full of tourists enjoying sightseeing tours, restaurants, theaters, and sporting events. Invited international guests had enjoyed the hustle and bustle of spring in Moscow. Prof. Potekaev, the president of the Congress, and Prof. Lvov, the chair of the scientific and organizing committees, put together three days of intense scientific and elaborate social programs. All invited international guests were impressed with the keen desire of young dermatologists to learn from Western colleagues and to continue having joint ISD meetings in Russia. Only a few days later the government ordered the cancellation of all scheduled events and imposed strict social distancing rules.

Now, this global pandemic has affected all aspects of our social and professional lives in countries throughout the world.

ISD Members Share the Gift of Membership

In order to achieve a global perspective that is continually refreshed each year, the ISD reaches out to members in underrepresented areas of the world and to young members. One way to ensure new, diverse points of view is through the ISD's Individual Sponsoring Membership (ISM) program.

The ISM program provides members a simple way to give back to the global dermatologic community by gifting ISD memberships. ISM members pay \$250 (US) per year to renew their own membership and to gift two Associate or e-Memberships to new members living in lower-income countries or to trainees from any country.

New members receive the *International Journal of Dermatology* (print and online for Associates; online only for e-Members from qualifying countries), reduced registration fees at ISD-sponsored meetings, access to the ISD web site and invitations to ISD events. The program provides new members an entry into the ISD community.

We dermatologists, practicing in every corner of the world, now face an unparalleled challenge of redefining our role in medicine. As doctors, we swear the Hippocratic Oath to "use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment...and abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm". In this environment, we should ask ourselves how we can contribute to help other doctors identify specific cutaneous signs of the current viral infection that might assist in early diagnosis and management.

During this current crisis, true heroes emerged around the world and they are our colleagues -- doctors from all subspecialties, epidemiologists, virologists, and nurses who are on the front lines to combat the virus. I am sure some of you know dermatologists who have volunteered to work in emergency rooms and on medical floors taking care of sick patients during this crisis. I would encourage you to send us pictures and brief reports about our colleagues who addressed the shortage of medical doctors and volunteered and worked above and beyond their call of duty. We would like to share their stories within our ISD community.

Although the coronavirus pandemic has truly put our spirit to the test, dermatologists have emerged more united and determined to continue providing urgent and necessary dermatologic care with all means available to us.

The International Society of Dermatology and its leadership remain true to its mission of bringing together dermatologists throughout the world. I rephrase a famous quote from the late President John F. Kennedy and proudly state that *ISD is a society of dermatologists by dermatologists and for dermatologists.*

Yours truly,

Nelli Koucker, M.D.

Nellie Konnikov, MD Your Secretary-General

Current ISD members may change their membership status to ISM by contacting the ISD office at *info@intsocderm.org* or by going to *www.intsocderm.org*.

2019-2020 ISD Individual Sponsoring Members

Prasad Kumarasinghe, Australia * Rohit Batra, India Dedee Murrell, Australia * Susan Boiko, USA * Jean Bolognia, USA * Pithambram Naidu, South Africa James Ertle, USA * Gunnar Nyman, Sweden * Claire Fuller. UK * George Reizner, USA * Desmond Gibson, USA * Rodney Sinclair, Australia Ian Hamann, Australia * Stanislav Tolkachjov, USA Evangeline Handog, Philippines * Colette van Hees, Netherlands * Lilv Hsiao Yu. Japan * Sridhara Vishranth, India William James, USA Scott Walsh, Canada * Martin Kassir, USA Michael White, USA * Abdul-Ghani Kibbi, Lebanon Margot Whitfeld, Australia * Sarah Wolfe, USA * Nellie Konnikov, USA * Steven Kossard, Australia *

* ISD members who have been ISM members for five years or more

World Skin Health Day Brings Dermatology to People Around the World: 2015-2019

World Skin Health Day is a joint campaign of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and the International Society of Dermatology (ISD). The goal of World Skin Health Day is to recognize and promote skin health around the world, and activities are open to all society members of the ILDS.

Originally initiated in 2013, the World Skin Health Day campaign was re-launched in 2017 to promote skin health globally. Since then, there have been 57 official World Skin Health Day activities in 26 countries, reaching more than 11 million people with a positive skin health message. In 2019 alone, there has been a significant increase in social media activity, with an impressive reach of more than 9 million people through public workshops, social media, television and radio awareness campaigns, and with more than 20,000 receiving dermatologic care.

All over the world, members of the ILDS and ISD undertake activities to recognize and promote skin health. From screening clinics and public seminars to marches and social media campaigns, World Skin Health Day has a global reach. Following are but a few notable activities by some dermatological associations around the world:

• The Association of Dermatovenereologists of Uzbekistan provided free consultations and distributed educational materials (brochures, leaflets and pamphlets) on common skin conditions in Central Asia, as well as sunscreen and moisturizing cream to over 250 people. Public workshops also were held on how to perform self-examinations, what to look for, and how to protect and care for the skin.

- **The Brazilian Society of Dermatology** undertook a TV, radio and social media campaign which reached over 2 million people. In addition, free skin cancer screening clinics were provided across Brazil, with examinations of 4,197 patients.
- The Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists completed a campaign to raise awareness about skin hygiene with a focus on leprosy and vitiligo. In total, 4 million people were reached through public seminars, press conferences and a multi-media campaign.
- **The Nigerian Association of Dermatologists** provided food, skin care products and dermatological care to 171 internally displaced people in Camp Durumi, Abuja.
- **The Philippine Dermatological Society** yearly holds more than 100 free clinics in many islands of the country with a traveling "SKIN MUSEUM" for awareness.
- The Philippine Academy of Dermatologic Surgery Foundation served 500 patients in an outreach camp covering underserved communities in Laguna, providing free consultations, medications and treatments, including surgical procedures. In addition, the first Philippine National Police "Kilatis Kutis" Skin Week benefitted more than 1,000 police and civilians via lectures and dermatologic consultations.

Together we can reach even more people to improve their skin health. Learn more about how to take part in World Skin Health Day at *www.WorldSkinDay.org*





The World Skin Health Day logo symbolizes the rainbow of skin tones of all the people in the world (*designed by Mr. Jim Yatco, Philippines*)

World Skin Health Day UZBEKISTAN



World Skin Health Day BRAZIL



World Skin Health Day PHILIPPINES



World Skin Health Day NIGERIA





Dr. med. Oliverio Welsh Lozano *Teacher, colleague and unforgettable friend*

Dr. Oliverio Welsh, the oldest of five siblings, was born in Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon, México, on December 17, 1939. His father, a pharmacist, died when he was young. His grandfather was a physician who trained in Baltimore, Maryland. Both were instrumental in the path he took, providing him with the impetus to become a physician.

He and wife Esperanza had a beautiful and close family with five children and ten grandchildren, all of whom have grown to be good people. He loved each of them and was very proud of them.

Throughout his career, Dr. Welsh excelled because of his academic performance and dedication. He contributed in many ways to the missions of our medical school, serving as Chief of the Dermatology Department. With this position, he brought the department to the forefront in teaching, research, technology and delivery of care. Dr. Welsh clearly achieved his goal of educating excellent specialists and bringing together a group of specialists with expertise in different areas of dermatology. When he served as the Postgraduate Chairman for the medical school and Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL) Hospital, he implemented a series of organizational changes that to this day serve as a foundation for doctoral degrees, postgraduate training, and the numerous national research meetings conducted at UANL since then.

As a Professor, he gave his all to help anyone who crossed his path, be it a student, resident or colleague, always with his characteristic friendliness and joyfulness. A very empathetic person, he was also a gentle soul -- traits that served his patients well. He was a tireless reader, reading not just medical books. Dr. Welsh was always capable of holding an interesting and rich conversation.

At the forefront of multiple areas of dermatology, he was most interested in orphan diseases such as leprosy and mycetoma, which primarily affect underserved populations. He was an innate researcher and spent his entire career answering questions via the scientific method. His research findings regarding treatments for mycetoma benefitted patients all over the world and he was part of the international group



that persuaded the WHO to designate mycetoma a neglected disease.

Dr. Welsh participated in over 300 national and international conferences, as well as authoring over 100 journal articles, 30 book chapters and 150 congress abstracts. He reviewed articles for many prestigious journals including the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, the International



Dr. med. Oliverio Welsh Lozano

Journal of Dermatology, JAMA, Clinics in Dermatology, and PLOS One Tropical Neglected Diseases.

In recognition of his many contributions, he received multiple awards from local associations, including the Citizen Merit Medal of the state of Nuevo Leon and the Leader of Mexican Dermatology Award from the Mexican Academy of Dermatology. This past year, the mycology course at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico was named after him. On an international level, he received the Certificate of Appreciation from the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and Leader of Ibero-Latinoamericano Dermatology Award from Colegio Ibero-Latinoamericano de Dermatología (CILAD). He even received the Miguel Otero Arce Award, granted to him by the Mexican President in 2018 for his worldwide contributions to the medical field.

Up to the day he died, he was working as an Emeritus Professor at UANL.

His great legacy and exemplary behavior will live on for many generations.

Rest in peace, Dr. Oliverio.

Dr. med. Minerva Gomez Flores Professor, Dermatology Service, UANL Dr. med. Jorge Ocampo Candiani Chief, Dermatology Service, UANL



From left to right: Dr. Luna Azulay, Mrs. Esperanza and Dr. Oliverio Welsh



Dr. Oliverio Welsh proudly accepts his award from former President of Mexico, Lic. Enrique Peña Nieto.



Dr. Rekha Sheth Leader, Mentor, Friend

It is my proud privilege to write a tribute to the late Dr. Rekha Sheth who breathed her last breath on January 30, 2020, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. ISD has lost a leader, a huge supporter for three decades, and a loyal friend. She was the first woman from India to serve as Vice-President of the ISD and was also an active member of the Membership and Nominating Committees. In 2013, she was awarded the prestigious Maria Duran Lectureship.

Dr. Sheth was a pioneer of cosmetic dermatology in India. She did her postgraduate training in dermatology at KEM Medical College in Mumbai and then established her practice in the same city. In 1993, at a time when cosmetic dermatology was in its relative infancy in India, she formed the Cosmetology Society of India (CSI), now known as the Cosmetic Dermatology Society of India (CDSI), and served as its Founder President. That same year, Dr. Albert Kligman was invited to speak at the inaugural CSI meeting in Mumbai. This society introduced



Dr. Sheth with Dr. and Mrs. Albert Kligman

cosmetic procedures to a wide range of dermatologists in our country.

She was a valued mentor to young dermatologists, advising them on how to establish a successful practice. As a young dermatologist, I was in awe of Dr. Sheth and was introduced to her by Dr. Wendy Roberts, Past President of the WDS, whom I had invited to our first Indian WDS meeting in New Delhi. Former ISD President Dr. Evangeline Handog, a mutual friend, brought us even closer. Over the past 10 years, she became a wonderful friend and a



Dr. Rekha Sheth

senior dermatologist I could trust to provide valuable advice on complicated issues, a relationship I will forever cherish.

Many knew of her kindness, fun-loving spirit, and enjoyment of both seafood and dancing – there never was a sense of age difference. She was an avid reader with a keen interest in academics. Dr. Rekha Sheth is survived by her husband, Dr. Ashit Sheth, a psychiatrist, and her two sons, Arnav and Aneesh Sheth. She has left behind a rich legacy and lasting impact on the practice of dermatology in India, in addition to her concept of holistic aging. On behalf of the ISD, "may you rest in peace as you lived a very full and spirited life".

– Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, Vice-President, ISD



From left to right: Drs. Rashmi Sarkar, Wendy Roberts and Rekha Sheth

Comments from members of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL)

"I have known Rekha since we were teenagers. I have lost a great friend and all of us a kind leader."

- Dr. Amala Kamat, IADVL Member and CDSI President

"Everyone addressed her as Dr. R. My postgraduate journey started with Dr. R. In the real world, my parents gave birth to me, but in the professional world it was her and I am forever grateful to her for that."

- Dr. Bhavini Lodaya, IADVL Member

"I knew her since medical college and she had a keen interest in medical dermatology, too."

- Dr. Niranjan Nagpur, IADVL Member

"I was moved at her demise as an elder commanding sister. I always responded as a sergeant major when she entrusted me with any responsibility without questioning."

- Dr. DS Krupashankar, IADVL Member

"She always pushed us to publish and gave us a platform in various national and international conferences and trainings."

- Dr. Priti Shenoi, IADVL Member

"Stalwart, great inspiration, great teacher, great leader. The one who brought cosmetic dermatology to India."

- Dr. Neetu Rajdeo, IADVL Member

7

Organizers Working Hard Preparing to Host ICD 2021 in Melbourne, Australia: Updates on Deadlines, Program, Scholarships and Social Events

The XIII International Congress of Dermatology (ICD 2021) will offer something for everyone. Here, conference organizers provide answers to the most pressing questions about the program and outline important deadlines so ISD members can make plans to attend this world-class meeting.

What is the theme of the ICD 2021?

For the ICD 2021, our key themes are **Common skin diseases and their treatment**, **Translational Dermatology**, **Global Health** and **Technology**. The program will be built into tracks to enable delegates to specifically follow these individual themes or to mix and match their educational content and activities.

Can you give ISD members a sneak peak of the speaker line-up for the meeting?

We have nine plenary lecturers, all confirmed:

- P1: Eli Sprecher (Israel): From Genes to Patient Care
- P2: Martin Kassir (USA): Revolution in Cosmetic Therapies
- P3: Amanda Oakley (New Zealand): Technological Revolutions in Dermatology
- P4: Ingrid Winship (Australia): Genetics of Appearance
- P5: Roy Chan (Singapore): HIV What's New?
- P6: Paula Luna (Argentina): What's Hot in Adolescent Dermatology
- P7: Andrew Steer (Australia): Eradication of Scabies
- P8: Shyam Verma (India): The Epidemic of Fungal Diseases
- P9: Aldo Morrone (Italy): Refugee Dermatoses

Have the keynote speakers been selected? What can attendees expect to hear in these addresses?

In addition to the plenary lecturers, the following keynote speakers have been invited:

- K1: Ian Fraser (Australia): Vaccines for HPV and SCC
- K2: Georgina Long (Australia): Revolution in melanoma therapy
- K3: John McGrath (UK); Where is dermatology heading?
- K4: Ncoza Dlova (South Africa): Dermatology in Africa

There are also concurrent symposia and workshops across all four themes. The content is set to reflect current dermatology challenges and delivery of optimal patient care.

Will the program offer courses geared toward dermatologists of all skill levels – from beginners to advanced?

Yes. The different themes will cater to all levels of dermatology experience with an emphasis on patient care.

What are the Global Education Awards and how many scholarships will be offered?

The Global Education awards are always a prestigious component of the ICD congresses. They are given to young dermatologists from World Bank-listed poorer countries whose abstracts are voted to be the best submissions for the meeting. Recipients will receive waived registration and an allowance to cover accommodation for the meeting.



From left to right: Prof. Rodney Sinclair, Secretary-General, and Prof. Dedee Murrell, President, work together to plan an unforgettable meeting experience for ISD members.

What are some of the upcoming deadlines that members should be aware of if they're planning to attend the meeting?

The following deadlines appear on the Congress website (*https://icd2021.com.au/*) but are subject to change given the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

Abstracts Submission Opens: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Abstracts Submission Closes: Monday, November 2, 2020 Registrations Open: Monday, November 16, 2020 Author Notification: Friday, November 27, 2020 Early Bird Registrations Closes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 Congress Dates: November 10-13, 2021

Will there be organized activities for guests of attendees to enjoy throughout the meeting?

Our local organizing committee has been busy arranging some very exciting venues for the social events of ICD 2021. These will be within walking distance of the congress venue, along the southbank of the Yarra River in Melbourne. The Board dinner will be held at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. Melbourne is an easy city to navigate with free trams in the central part of the city where most of the attractions and museums are located. Arinex will provide information on tours that may be pre-booked before and after the congress. In addition, congress ambassadors are offering visits to their regional clinics to those dermatologists who would like to see how dermatology is practiced in Australia.

A note from ISD President Dr. George Reizner:

We hope future ISD meetings can go on as planned. This includes the ICD scheduled for November 2021 in Melbourne. The value of in-person meetings cannot be replaced, but a return to our regular ISD calendar will be based on safety, availability of transportation and travel restrictions. Because of this uncertainty, ISD members will be informed of changes as soon as possible. We look forward to a time when our members can again assemble and celebrate international fellowship, a signature part of the ISD.



ISD Board Member Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli (Switzerland) received the 2019 Young Dermatologist Achievement Award by the International League of Dermatologic Societies (ILDS) for his work in bringing dermatopathology services to sub-Saharan Africa.

ISD member Dr. Nejib Doss (Tunisia) was honored with the EADV International Clinical Care Award during the President's Dinner at the EADV 2019 in

Dr. Nejib Doss (left) receiving

Dr. Carle Paul (right)

Madrid, Spain.



Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli



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

Dr. Rashmi Sarkar (India), ISD Vice President and Chair of the ISD Mentorship Committee, was awarded the prestigious Prof. V. N. Sehgal Award for Excellence in Dermatology at Dermacon Pune in January 2020.



From Left to right: Dr. Dhanashree Bhide, Scientific Chair, Dr. P. Narasimha Rao (Immediate Past President IADVL), Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, Dr. Kiran Godse (President IADVL), and Manjunath Shenoy (Vice President IADVL).

Hundreds Gather for 19th Giornate di Terapia in Dermovenereologia in Italy

Catania, Italy, was the site of the 19th Giornate di Terapia in Dermovenereologia meeting held from February 1-2, 2020. This historic and beautiful seaside city in Sicily attracted over 650 registrants, both local and international.

Professor Giuseppe Micali, meeting president and chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Catania, created a brilliant program. The two-day meeting, offered every other year, has continued to grow in attendance and popularity because of its practical clinical pearls and cutting-edge talks. The International Society of Dermatology (ISD) helped support this conference through a regional meeting grant.

This year's meeting featured presentations on melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, actinic keratoses, atopic dermatitis, hair disorders, rosacea, the microbiome, pediatric dermatology and big data, among others. The international faculty came from Scotland, Germany, France, Spain, Canada and the United States and included Professors Johannes Ring, Dennis West, Jerry Tan, Girish Gupta and Thomas Luger. Representing the ISD as faculty were Professors Antonella Tosti, Anthony Benedetto and George Reizner.

Most of the program was dedicated to presentations from Italian professors representing the country's major departments, as well as many young faculty and residents giving oral presentations

and posters. Simultaneous translation allowed all registrants to enjoy the lectures.

A gala social event was held Saturday night at Radice Pura, considered one of the premier garden houses in Europe. The audience was treated to a beautiful setting, sublime delicacies and extraordinary entertainment by a contemporary dance troop

combining modern avant-garde dance with elements of Cirque du Soleil.

The meeting concluded just as the festival of St. Agatha was beginning. This meaningful religious festival gave an uplifting postscript to the successful meeting. The stage has now been set in anticipation of the 20th meeting in Catania in 2022.



From left to right: Drs. Giuseppe Micali (Meeting President), Gabriella Fabbrocini (Chair, University Federico II, Napoli), and George Reizner (ISD President)



Dr. Gboyega Olarinoye of the Federal Medical Center in Lokoja, Nigeria, participated in the ISD Mentorship Program by spending six weeks in the Philippines, from November 1 to December 15, 2019. His mentor was Dr. Evangeline Handog.

What were the major goals for your mentorship experience?

By rotating through the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) and Asian Hospital and Medical Center, I hoped to have a firsthand experience of how skin diseases are generally managed in a different clime. I also specifically wanted to learn about cosmetic dermatology and management of pigmentary disorders from Dr. Handog, who is a well-recognized expert in the field. Skin conditions requiring such competences are quite common in Nigeria and addressing them can be challenging.

Describe any special experiences with your mentor.

Dr. Handog has such a wonderful personality that every encounter with her was special. She is extremely skillful, kind, generous, pleasant and thoughtful. I still relish the extended lunch breaks we had at her clinics where she would discuss academics, personal interests and career development with me and other residents. On one such occasion, she showed us how to start a modest, yet very impactful, dermatology practice. I found this very humbling and productive.

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

During my stay, I developed a broader perspective into the diagnosis and management of various dermatoses, many of which are also common in my country. This helped me develop a wider range of treatment options for my patients, based on factors such as the specific phenotype of their skin disease and their response to previous treatments. Secondly, my interaction with dermatology experts has birthed collaborative research opportunities, which I intend to pursue.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience.

An important pearl is to never underestimate the value of a good clinical history. I saw this play out on a good number of occasions. Despite Dr. Handog's busy clinic sessions, I witnessed the combination of good history taking and sound clinical acumen being used to unravel complex cases as well as to identify avoidable triggers of skin diseases.







The ISD Mentorship Program provides an unmatched learning opportunity for young dermatologists around the world. Highlights of four recent mentorship experiences are presented here. Complete interviews of these, and other, mentorships can be found on the <u>ISD website</u>.

Dr. Ambika R. Pradhan of the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Bhutan participated in the ISD Mentorship Program at Wroclaw Medical University's Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology. She spent two months in Poland, from September 1 to October 31, 2019, with her mentor Dr. Jacek C. Szepietowski.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?

My mentor, Professor Jacek C. Szepietowski, had elaborately planned my two-month stay. He had assigned plastic surgeon Dr. Karolina Wojcicka and dermatologist Dr. Iwona Chlebicka as my teachers. I was able to follow patients from the time of presentation and evaluation to their treatment and followup. I observed and learned how to surgically remove benign and malignant tumors, perform reconstructions, and manage hidradenitis suppurativa surgically.

Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home.

I will now perform excisions of facial tumors rather than referring these patients to the surgical unit. When appropriate, I will repair skin defects via grafts and simple skin flaps. I also witnessed a very comprehensive skin

cancer screening program which could be implemented back in my country.

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

In addition to continuing to perform surgical procedures, I will pursue further training. In five years, my goal is to have



Dr. Ambika R. Pradhan (left) with mentor Dr. Jacek C. Szepietowski

good data on skin cancers in Bhutan. Based upon first-hand experience with clinical trials and writing a case report with Dr. Iwona, I hope to publish articles in the future that focus on skin diseases in Bhutan.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience.

The best surgical option has to be individualized and be dependent on the type of skin lesion as well as the patient's co-morbidities and age. Successful reconstruction with skin grafts can be tricky, but with excellent technique, adequate moisture and compression, chances of graft survival is high.





ISD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Dr. Svetlana Ponorac from the Department of

Dermatovenereology at Ljubljana University Medical Center in Slovenia participated in the ISD Mentorship Program at the Irmandade da Santa Casa de Misericórdia de São Paulo. She spent two months in Brazil, from October 1 to November 30, 2019, with her mentor Dr. Leopoldo Santos.

What were the major goals for your mentorship experience?

To learn trichoscopy skills in order to diagnose hair disorders and to improve my knowledge in the treatment of hair disease.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?

Working under the supervision of an accomplished and skillful physician is such a rewarding experience and a privilege. Being a part of the everyday life of dermatologists in another region of the world broadens and opens your mind to different possibilities and ways of thinking.

Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home.

After my mentorship program I feel confident and adept at performing trichoscopy. I also expanded my knowledge of different treatment modalities for hair disease, as well as the interpretation of the histopathologic features of scalp biopsies. These skills will prove extremely valuable in my everyday clinical practice and career goals.

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

It will serve as a strong foundation for my practice in hair disease. Currently there are no subspecialized clinics in hair disease in my country, so I believe my patients will experience great benefit from the skills I obtained during this mentorship.

I will do my best to provide optimal care in addition to providing assistance and education for colleagues interested in this field.



Dr. Svetlana Ponorac (right) with mentor Dr. Leopoldo Santos



Dr. Jin-long Zhai of the No. 1 Hospital of China Medical University in China participated in the ISD Mentorship Program from November 1 to December 15, 2019. He spent six weeks in Dallas, Texas, with his mentor Dr. Martin Kassir.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?

I was able to communicate with Dr. Kassir as an equal and in a relaxed manner. This is because Dr. Kassir is a really nice

and easygoing person who is sincere and has a sense of humor. We talked not just about medicine, but also about history and culture.

Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home.

Because I watched Dr. Kassir perform injections of botulinum toxin and fillers as well as thread lifting in more than 30 patients, I think I will definitely use these techniques back in China.

Describe any special experiences with your mentor.

Dr. Kassir would formulate new ideas and questions when talking with his patients. He would then ask me questions and discuss various topics with me. Since he has a broad background in internal







Dr. Jin-long Zhai (left) with mentor Dr. Martin Kassir

medicine, I learned a lot about diagnostic approaches and the relationships between systemic and skin diseases. The most important advice Dr. Kassir gave me was in order to become an excellent doctor, I should not only master the common diseases, I should learn more about rare diseases.

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

I was most impressed by the excellent relationships between Dr. Kassir and his patients – they talked like friends and family. This is important for building trust between doctors and patients. My professional goals over the next year are to read more related books, to practice what I learned through this mentorship program, and to try my best to be an excellent doctor.

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

This mentorship really opened my eyes and changed how I view relationships between doctors and patients. I will try to spread the idea of better medical care and provide better medical service to my patients in China. I think the impact will be for a lifetime, not just five years.

International Journal of Dermatology Reports Increase in Submissions from Sub-Saharan Africa

As the impact factor of the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)* continues to rise, so do the number of submissions from Sub-Saharan Africa. Here, *IJD* Deputy Editor for Review Articles Dr. Lawrence Gibson (USA) shares insights into these submissions and why they are so significant. An editorial by *IJD* Editor-in-Chief Dr. Rokea el-Azhary (USA) on the increase in articles from this region will be published this May in the *IJD*.

With regards to submissions from Africa, how has this rate of submissions changed over the last 10 years?

Before 2010, the *Journal* was receiving less than 20 manuscripts per year from Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2014, we received 21 manuscripts and by 2019 it was 42. So submissions doubled in that five-year period.

Which countries are submitting articles?

Some of the countries that have more recently submitted articles are Angola, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Senegal, Sudan and Uganda. For years, we have been receiving articles from South Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania and still are, to this day.

Describe the type and quality of these submissions.

We have received case reports of unusual infections such as *Nigrospora* from South Africa (Motswaledi, HM, Pillay, RJ. An unusual deep fungal infection with *Nigrospora sphaerica* in an HIV patient. *Int J Dermatol* 2019; 58(3):333-335), as well as a study describing thousands of patients (3,500) with varied dermatological diseases from Angola (De Luca, DA, Mainski, Z, Averbukh, M. A study of skin disease spectrum occurring in Angola phototype V-VI population in Luanda. *Int J Dermatol* 2018; 57(7):849-855).

From Senegal, there was a large case series of 78 patients with lichen planus (Diop A, Ly F, Ndiaye MT, et al. Epidemiology, clinical features and associated factors in 78 cases of lichen planus on black skin. *Int J Dermatol* 2020; 59:137-142). From Botswana, there were two publications -- one dealing with a series of 239 patients with Kaposi sarcoma (Slaught C, Williams V, Grover S, et al. A retrospective review of patients with Kaposi's



Dr. Lawrence Gibson

sarcoma in Botswana. *Int J Dermatol* 2019; 58:707-712) and another that investigated 27 patients with cutaneous lymphoma (Rodriquez O, Sowash M, Mosojane KI, et al. A retrospective review of cutaneous lymphoma in Botswana. *Int J Dermatol* 2020; 59:352-358).

Is there interesting research or case studies in any areas of dermatology that you feel hold particular promise?

Interesting aspects of these articles include learning about uncommon infections seen in these countries, but also learning about the breadth and scope of diseases seen in their dermatological clinics -- including common problems that we also see in our clinics in the U.S. The presentation of these diseases, as well as the means to diagnose and treat them, are all interesting aspects to consider.

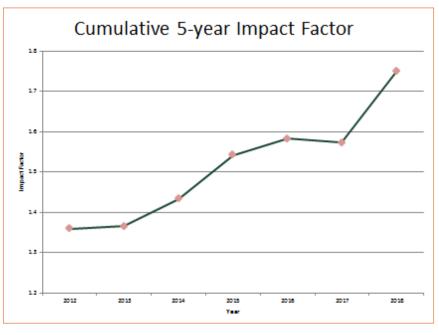
What has surprised you the most about the submissions from Africa in recent years?

I was somewhat surprised, yet impressed, by how several publications pointed out the utility and need for supportive dermatopathology. We learn how they collect data and in what

> areas there could be collaboration to improve diagnosis and therapy. By publishing these articles, we have gained insight into the breadth and complexity of the dermatological diseases seen in this region.

> In addition, there are many other possibilities for understanding the application of immunodermatology and molecular diagnostics. Publication of these papers should stimulate greater interest in collaborations within many areas of dermatological diagnosis and therapy. I am impressed by the nearly limitless possibilities that collaborations could bring about. We hope publications of this nature will facilitate this process and that the number, breadth, scope and interest of these publications will continue to grow.

Reminder...ISD members can access the *Journal* online through the *www.intsocderm.org* portal.







6th African Dermatopathology Conference (ADPC) Held at the Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshi, Tanzania, January 6-7, 2020

A report by ADPC organizer Dr. Helmut Beltraminelli (Switzerland), ISD Board Member

The African Dermatopathology Conference (ADPC) is part of a project emanating from the Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC). It was started in 2011 with the goal of developing expertise in dermatopathology within Africa. The RDTC is a pan-African reference center, serving as an epicenter of African and tropical dermatology. Many of the specialists trained there are from different African countries. The RDTC educates a range of individuals from clinical officers and medical students to dermatology residents, and it organizes a yearly CME dermatology conference with substantial international participation.

We have organized the ADPC during the same week (but on different days) as the RDTC's CME conference, in order to attract a larger number of participants who then have the possibility of participating in both conferences. We are very thankful to Dr. Daudi Mavura, Director of the RDTC, and his staff for the very much appreciated local support in the organization of the ADPC.

The conference features sessions on clinical-pathological correlations, interesting case presentations (from participants). and a dermatopathology game. It is a meeting where African pathologists and dermatologists with an interest in dermatopathology can participate without paying a fee. The presence of both pathologists and dermatologists greatly enriches the conference.

Over the past six years, we have had lecturers from Australia, Canada, USA, India, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, in addition to the following African countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania. The ADPC is highly regarded, with several African specialists traveling very long distances to participate. Some of our African colleagues, from Congo, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia and



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Daudi Mavura (Tanzania); Dr. Alice Amani (Rwanda); Dr. Fuad Temam (Ethiopia); Drs. John Masenga (Tanzania), Daniel Zuriel (Kenya), and Helmut Beltraminelli (Switzerland)

Uganda, actually left their own country for the very first time to participate in the conference.

In 2015, the inaugural ADPC had five participants plus a few local residents. However, since 2016, 40-63 participants from at least ten African countries have participated. In total, representatives from 16 different African countries have attended the ADPC. We made the decision in 2018 to hold the ADPC outside of Tanzania every second year so that

> other African countries would have the opportunity to host the meeting, and in 2019 the conference was held in Kigali, Rwanda. The 7th ADPC will be in the spring of 2021 to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Of note, three ADPCs were supported by the ISD via grants -- the 2016 and 2018 ADPCs by Regional Meetings grants and the 2020 ADPC by the Global Outreach grant. We are very thankful for this encouraging endorsement.

During the conference, we regularly inform the participants about the ISD, its mentorship program, the International Journal of Dermatology and the advantages of being an ISD member. Since 2011, we have supported the ISD membership of several African specialists.



AFRICAN DERMATOPATHOLOGY CONFERENCE Held on January 06 -07, 2020 Regional Dermatology Training Center (KU

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 ISD Board Members – Drs. Keyvan Nouri (United States), Dr. Adebola Ogunbiyi (Nigeria), and Rashmi Sarkar (India).

Dr. Keyvan Nouri

Where did you train in dermatology?

KN: I trained in dermatology at the University of Miami, Department of Dermatology & Cutaneous Surgery in Miami, Florida, USA.



Where do you practice dermatology?

Dr. Keyvan Nouri, United States

KN: I practice dermatology in the Dr. Phillip Frost Department of Dermatology &

Cutaneous Surgery at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine in Miami, where I serve as a Professor of Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology and Surgery.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

KN: My areas of interest are Mohs surgery, dermatologic and laser surgery, and cosmetic procedures.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

KN: I believe in the mission of ISD -- global dermatology and bringing the dermatology community together.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

KN: I enjoy travel, exploring different cultures, sports, various athletic activities, and cooking.

What 3 words best describe you?

KN: Dedicated and hard working. Reliable and committed. Caring and compassionate.

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

KN: It's hard to balance everything, but I try my best to integrate my family, professional, community and personal life as much as possible.

How has ISD impacted your career?

KN: Being involved with a global dermatology family through ISD has been an amazing, eye-opening experience and has significantly enhanced my professional career.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

KN: Collegial collaboration with our international global dermatology family is invaluable, as well as learning from each and every culture.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

KN: ISD offers aspiring young dermatologists the opportunity to be part of a global dermatology family and connects young

dermatologists from one region of the world to another. Offering young dermatologists an opportunity to learn about the practice of dermatology in various parts of the world is also beneficial.

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

KN: To be happy with being part of one of the greatest specialties in the medical field in addition to an amazing global dermatology family.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

KN: I am passionate regarding learning about various fields and interests outside of medicine. I have completed various leadership development programs as well as a health MBA at prestigious programs. My favorite food to cook is Persian food, including traditional tadigh.

Dr. Adebola Ogunbiyi

Where did you train in dermatology?

AO: I did my residency training at the Lagos University teaching hospital in Lagos, Nigeria. Afterward, I went for a one-year diploma program in dermatology at St. John's Hospital at the Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital, University of London, in the United Kingdom.



Dr. Adebola Ogunbiyi, Nigeria

Where do you practice dermatology?

AO: I currently practice dermatology at the University College Hospital at Ibadan, Oyo State, in Southwest Nigeria.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

AO: My interests are dermoscopy, as well as scalp, hair and nail disorders.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

AO: ISD gives me an opportunity for networking. I also have the opportunity of inviting young dermatologists from Africa to join and enrich their careers.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

A0: I'm also involved in medical education. I like reading and walking.

What 3 words best describe you?

AO: Intuitive. Adaptable. Diligent.

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

AO: I'm not sure if I have perfected the balance, I like to think each one has its season of dominance.

How has ISD impacted your career?

A0: I benefited from ISD travel grants. The international exposure was educationally enriching. I also met a few ISD members whom I subsequently worked with, which positively impacted my academic career.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

AO: The fellowship. The members are cordial and the

atmosphere of the meetings is relaxing. Everyone gets an opportunity to be useful.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

A0: It's a great opportunity for young dermatologists -especially from developing countries -- to expand their scope of knowledge of dermatology by attending various international conferences (some with hands-on workshops) and by participating in the mentorship program.

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

AO: Acquire procedural and entrepreneurial skills, get involved in research early in your career, and be professional in all you do.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

AO: I love baking, aerobics (dance), and collecting arts and crafts.

Dr. Rashmi Sarkar

Where did you train in dermatology?

RS: I trained in dermatology (MD Dermatology) at the prestigious Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, India. I also did a Visiting Fellowship in Pediatric Dermatology at UCSF in San Francisco, California, through a WDS award.



Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, India

Where do you practice dermatology?

RS: I am a full-time Professor in Dermatology at Maulana Azad Medical College in New Delhi. In April 2020, I joined the Department of Dermatology at Lady Hardinge Medical College and Sucheta Kripalani and Kalavati Saran Children's Hospital in New Delhi.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

RS: My areas of interest within dermatology are pigmentary disorders and pediatric dermatology. I have published extensively on these topics in high impact factor journals and have edited books on them. Other interests are tropical dermatology and leadership development.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

RS: The ISD is one place which is truly representative of international dermatology involving all the continents, with a good focus on Asia, Africa and underdeveloped countries. It has enriched me greatly through my interactions with global leaders. These have honed my leadership skills and academic acumen as a clinician. I have made real friends across the world. ISD has played an important role in changing my way of thinking, as a person and a dermatologist.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

RS: I enjoy travelling, writing, blogging, music, and Bollywood movies.

What 3 words best describe you?

RS: Enthusiastic. Loyal. Leading by example.

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

RS: I don't think the perfect balance exists. That said, I do try to plan in advance and do things ahead of time, especially when I anticipate a busy professional time or travel for work. I try my best to be organized, although it is not always possible. My husband and son are very cooperative. I have people to help me at home and work, wherever I can. Most importantly, I try to be mindful when I am at home or at work -- for that moment I try to give all of myself into the situation. I try to have fun times with family and friends and give importance to real conversation, which is therapeutic!

How has ISD impacted your career?

RS: ISD is a fantastic platform to learn globally about tropical diseases and dermatologic disorders, through the journal and their conferences all over the world. I have interacted with international experts and formed international collaborations. Meeting some wonderful leaders has made me more confident and capable in trying to handle leadership duties in our own organization, the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL). So, ISD has impacted both academic and administrative roles in my career.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

RS: The friends I made and the mentors I have and even though late in my life, their trust in me. Becoming a Vice President of ISD and Chair of the International Mentorship Committee has given me the invaluable gift of giving back to the community by helping mentees around the world. It has helped me to grow and given me a sense of direction! Being a member of the Editorial Board of *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)* was also an invaluable learning experience.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

RS: ISD offers aspiring young dermatologists a lot. There are several generous scholarships like the Global Education awards and Maria Duran Fellowships that support travel and allow presentations at international ISD meetings as well as the *IJD*, with the opportunity to contribute articles. The ISD Mentorship Program provides training with a world famous expert and interactions with friendly like-minded colleagues.

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

RS: Slow and steady always wins. It is difficult to juggle an initial career with getting married and raising kids, both for men and women, so don't try doing everything together. Concentrate on your main job and home while keeping up with some academics at the local level. Think of a fellowship or mentorship in a few years when things are steady. In order to do well in your career, you have to sustain it -- so work gradually and ethically up the ladder.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

RS: I love writing on subjects other than dermatology, with Bollywood being a special interest area. I love conversing with like-minded people and can do so for hours, given the opportunity. I love singing and also like trying new things by stepping out of my comfort zone.

Burma Skincare Initiative Hosts 1st International Dermatology Meeting in Myanmar, Burma, February 21 - 23, 2020

A report by meeting co-chairs Drs. Su M. Lwin (St. John's Institute of Dermatology, King's College London, London, UK) and Christopher E.M. Griffiths (Dermatology Centre, The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK)

The Burma Skincare Initiative (BSI), a UK-registered charity founded by dermatologists Drs. Su Lwin and Chris Griffiths, organized and conducted the inaugural international meeting for Myanmar dermatologists and nurses in Yangon, from February 21-23, 2020. The full meeting program can be accessed at www.bsi2020.com.

The overall vision of the BSI charity is to remove barriers to skincare access in Myanmar (Burma). The first day of the meeting, held at the University of Nursing, Yangon, was devoted to dermatology nursing and was attended by 70 nurses from across the country. Nurses from the UK including Rebecca Penzer-Hick, President of the British Dermatology Nursing Group, delivered lectures and workshops. Myanmar nurses found the workshops involving practical skills, such as how to apply topical therapies, particularly helpful for their clinical practice.

The main meeting of the BSI, developed specifically for Myanmar dermatologists, was attended by more than 200 delegates. The meeting consisted of plenary lectures on the diagnosis and management of skin diseases delivered by eminent international speakers from the UK and Germany, including Drs. Ruth Murphy (President, British Association of Dermatologists), Claire Fuller (Chair, International Foundation for Dermatology), and Russell Roberts (Associate Global Director, Asia-Pacific Region, Royal College of Physicians, London). Important presentations were made by Myanmar dermatologists including Drs. Khine Khine Zaw and Myat Sanda Kyaw from Yangon. Oral and poster presentations were delivered by Myanmar and UK dermatology trainees including Drs. Su Lwin, Tina Tian and Sidra Khan who received generous sponsorship from the ISD. Myanmar dermatologists have a real enthusiasm for joining the wider international community, such as through membership in the ISD, to enable enhancement of dermatology in their country. The overwhelming sentiment was that this first international meeting of the BSI had been a resounding success -- academically, socially and culturally. A roundtable discussion regarding the sustainability of the BSI was attended by the co-chairs, international speakers and Thinn Thinn Hlaing (Regional Director of the Tropical Health and Education Trust), in addition to senior nurses and dermatologists from the UK, Myanmar township (district) hospital doctors, and representatives of Article 25 (a humanitarian architect charity). Action items included holding future educational events in Myanmar and establishing a regional dermatology training center in the country as a long-term strategic goal.



Rebecca Penzer-Hick, President of the British Dermatology Nursing Group (standing, in white), demonstrates how to use topical therapies to Myanmar nurses at the BSI Nurses' Day Workshop.



From left to right: Drs. Aye Thida (University of Medicine 2 [UM2]), Khin Maung Lwin (University of Medicine Mandalay), Chris Griffiths (University of Manchester), Su Lwin (King's College London), Zaw Wai Soe (University of Medicine 1 [UM1]), the Pro-Rector of UM1, Khine Khine Zaw (Dermatology Lead, UM1), and Myat Sanda Kyaw (UM2).

16



International Society of Dermatology

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