



ISD *Connection*

The Official Newsletter of the International Society of Dermatology

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ISD Committees Eyeing Innovative Ways to Move Forward with Programs During Pandemic



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues

The International Society of Dermatology (ISD) is a glue that holds us together. It is up to us to sustain and grow this bond even during times of separation. Our viewpoint is global and as the virus recognizes no borders, we too look beyond nationalities and governments to see the best ways to serve our members and fellow citizens.

Our Mission statement defines our core ideals: "To promote global skin health through international professionalism, communications, education and patients as a shared experience." We build upon these duties and leverage our strengths to provide educational opportunities and mentorship in addition to promoting community and climate awareness. To overcome social distancing, we are organizing virtual meetings and virtual mentorships while continuing to publish the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)*. In fact, the *IJD* recently scored its highest impact factor ever. The *Journal* remains one of our finest examples of offering a voice to all comers.

We must also ensure an orderly succession of new leaders. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Percy Naidu, has already started its work. Along with the other committee members (see below), he is asked to name a slate of qualified nominees for the Officers on the Executive Committee, the Vice Presidents and the Board of Directors. The timetable for this process with key deadlines is listed below. I encourage all interested members to check the ISD website for the [Call for Nominations](#) to review the position descriptions, the application process, the required letters of recommendation and any prerequisites.

- Online submission opens December 1, 2020
- Online submission ends January 31, 2021



This is one of our most important responsibilities. It is by selecting the best candidates that the ISD's future will be secure.

Face-to-face meetings will return, but they may look different and may not be as frequent initially. The draw to see those you know and to share ideas remains strong. These personal relationships are at the heart of the ISD. We will persevere, reinvent ourselves and look forward to future reunions.

Ironically, 2020 was going to be my one of my busiest years for participating in ISD-affiliated meetings. Although most of our meetings were cancelled, I did attend the regional meeting in Catania, Italy, this January. It was excellent and a lasting reminder of why face-to-face meetings are so important.

As the cascade of cancellations began, I initially felt numb. Now in retrospect, it was an unanticipated gift allowing me to focus on the joys right in front of me. I can't recall witnessing an entire spring and summer in Madison, digging in the dirt to establish my first vegetable garden, and riding my bike as many places as my legs and weather permitted. This was complimented by renewed friendships with neighbors and the gratification of seeing patients again when we could safely. Sometimes having less makes you realize you have more.

In the same breath, I realize I am among the most fortunate. Our home is comfortable, our source of food is stable, and we haven't been directly touched by the virus. My thoughts and heart turn to those who aren't as lucky. This is also part of the "gift" which put matters in perspective.

With this as our backdrop, the ISD will continue to move forward, more deliberate and resolute in its actions. Let's view this as an opportunity and when our world reopens safely, understand how fortunate we truly are.

Sincerely,

George Reizner, MD
President, International Society of Dermatology

ISD Nominating Committee

Dr. Percy Naidu, Chair (South Africa)
Dr. Luca Borradori (Switzerland)
Dr. Margarita Larralde (Argentina)

Ma. Angela Lavadia (Philippines)
Dr. Suzanne Olbriecht (US)



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FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Leonardo da Vinci, the 15th century Italian genius, said *“Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets”*....

What it means to me is that the ISD’s top priority will always be to bring and promote knowledge and care to all communities around the globe, thanks to the efforts of our members and volunteers. I constantly feel motivated to learn and share in order to inspire all-inclusive connections amongst colleagues and encourage new friends to join and stay with the ISD. That being said, the most important objective of ISD leadership, while co-sponsoring, participating in or attending international meetings, is to encourage state-of-the-art scientific programs and sharing of up-to-date information regarding research and clinical practice.

Contrary to all our motivations and plans for the year 2020, a pandemic virus swept around the world, putting everything we know on hold. Although a vast majority of dermatologists are not on the frontlines fighting for the lives of patients, we all had to dramatically change our practices and day-to-day life. And with that came a paradigm shift from face-to-face



and procedural dermatology to tele dermatology and virtual health care delivery. We needed to get familiar with artificial intelligence as it relates to our profession, learn quickly how to incorporate tele dermatology into our practices, and investigate evolving ways to continue our educational programs. I am sure that you, members of our global community, understand and appreciate the steps ISD leadership made to continue to *“provide educational opportunities, mentorship and promote community and climate awareness”*.

Nevertheless, right now our closely connected dermatological community remains as connected as ever -- albeit virtually. So don't hesitate to let us know what you think about the newsletter, the web page, Facebook activities, and educational resources. I will be delighted to receive your opinion or suggestions and motivate you to work together for the future of our specialty.

With my warmest regards,

Nellie Konnikov, M.D.

Nellie Konnikov, MD
Your Secretary-General

IJD Impact Factor Continues to Rise

International Journal of Dermatology (IJD) Editor-in-Chief Dr. Rokea el-Azhary proudly shared that the *IJD*'s newly released impact factor for 2019 rose to 2.067 from 1.794. In this ranking, *IJD* is now ranked #37 of 70 dermatologic journals (in 2018 the *IJD* was ranked 37 of 66 journals). Dr. el-Azhary explained that this is the highest impact factor that the *IJD* has ever had -- and the first time it ever scored above a 2.0.

Congratulations to Dr. el-Azhary and the entire editorial board who continue to help raise the profile of the *IJD* in the greater medical community.



ISD Hosts Subspecialty Society Meeting at the EADV

The EADV has gone virtual in 2020, so a face-to-face meeting was not held in Vienna as planned. Instead, the Education Committee organized a virtual meeting that presented an international perspective on viruses, and specifically on COVID, as they relate to the dermatological community.

The session also featured new data from the ISD Climate Change survey, as well as how homelessness affects skin disease.

ISD members who registered for the virtual EADV meeting could access the lectures in real time during the meeting. Sessions will also be available on the ISD web site for members following the conclusion of the meeting.

Lessons from COVID

1. Going Viral 2020 - Ken Tomecki, MD (USA)
2. Lessons of COVID-19 from the *International Journal of Dermatology* - Rokea el-Azhary, MD (USA/Egypt)
3. Face mask-induced itch and other inconveniences - Jacek Szepietowski, MD (Poland)
4. Cutaneous hyperesthesia: novel manifestation of SARS-Cov-2 infection - Piotr Krajewski, MD (Poland)

5. Sexual and other routes of SARS-Cov-2 transmission - Alain Tatu, MD (Romania)

Potpourri of Global Dermatology

1. Cutaneous leishmaniasis: Old and New World, the blurred classification - Wendemagegn Yeshaneha, MD (Ethiopia)
2. Climate change perception among dermatologists: An online survey of International Society of Dermatology members - Louise Kronberg Andersen, MD (Denmark)
3. Scabies: Update on global control efforts - Aileen Chang, MD (USA)
4. Betnovate® babies from Mexico - problems of over-the-counter steroids for scabies - Lupita Estrada, MD (Mexico)
5. Homelessness and skin disease - Sarah Coates, MD (USA)
6. Atypical mycobacterial diseases including *M. marinum*, rapid growers, and *M. ulcerans* - Jose Dario Martinez, MD (Mexico)
7. The challenge of resistant tinea corporis – Shyam Verma, MD (India)



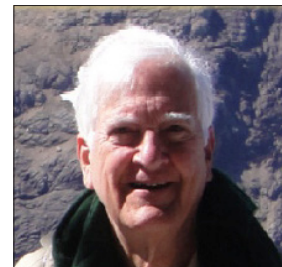
On June 18, 2020, Dr. Francisco Kerdel-Vegas passed away at the age of 92 in Madrid, Spain. Before establishing his practice in Venezuela, he trained in dermatology in the United States at both Harvard University and New York University.

Dr. Kerdel-Vegas was a renowned dermatologist who made important contributions to tropical medicine. He served as President of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) from 1984 to 1989 and was co-founder of the Institute of Dermatology in Venezuela (now known as the Institute of Biomedicine).

In addition, Dr. Kerdel-Vegas was a founding member of the Simon Bolivar University, the Metropolitan University, and the Teaching Medical Center of La Trinidad. He also focused on multiple educational programs, with the intent of having fellow Venezuelans further their education abroad. For example, he established 12 scholarships for Venezuelans to study at the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford and was instrumental in creating the Simón Bolívar Chair and the Andrés Bello Chair at the two universities, respectively.

During his career, Dr. Kerdel-Vegas was appointed the Venezuelan Ambassador to the United Kingdom, France, and UNESCO. He also received multiple honors for his work in medicine, education, conservation (e.g., World Wildlife Fund) and social work, both nationally and internationally. He was named a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) and was a recipient of the Legion d'Honneur from France and Knighthood of the Order Of Malta. In Venezuela, Dr. Kerdel-Vegas was a member of both the National Academy of

ISD Remembers Dr. Francisco Kerdel-Vegas



Dr. Francisco Kerdel-Vegas
January 3, 1928 - June 18, 2020

Medicine and the National Academy of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences and was an Honorary Member of the National Academies of Medicine in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Paraguay.

Dr. Kerdel-Vegas is survived by his wife, Martha, and his six children – Margaret, Pancho, Martín, María Isabel, Luisa Sofia, and Ana Luisa – in addition to 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. His legacy in dermatology lives on through his son, Pancho, who served as President of the ISD from 2011 to 2013, as well as four grandchildren who are also following in his footsteps.

"I admired and respected Francisco for his energy and enthusiasm not only for dermatology, but for global humanity without limits. His presence always exuded optimism for the greater good. He was the last of his generation of giants of international medicine. We all should be very proud of him."

– Dr. Vincent Cipollaro

"Dr. Francisco Kerdel-Vegas was an outstanding dermatologist, a gifted teacher, a keen evaluator of human beings, a loyal and dutiful pupil, and an inspiring teacher. His most important characteristic, however, was that of a visionary of what the future could be and a multifaceted worker to put his visions into reality. He demanded much but provided much more."

– Dr. Mauricio Gohman-Yahr

"Dr. Francisco Kerdel-Vegas was like a Living Monument of Global Dermatology and an incredible human being."

– Dr. Rafael Falabella

Call for Nominations



The International Society of Dermatology (ISD), founded in 1959, is a nonprofit membership association whose purpose is to promote education and international collaborations in various fields of dermatology with a special emphasis on tropical, geographic and ecologic dermatology in developing countries.

The **Nominating Committee** of the **ISD** is inviting applications from the membership for open leadership positions. The membership will vote on the slate of nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee during the General Membership Meeting at the XIII International Congress of Dermatology in Melbourne, Australia. Applications will be accepted online from December 1, 2020, to January 31, 2021.

Requirements for Nominees

Only Regular and Individual Sponsoring Members in good standing for at least three (3) years may be nominated for the Board of Directors (including Officers).

Applicants must provide the following information to the Nominating Committee:

- Years of ISD Membership.
- Activities on behalf of the Society.
- Personal Statement describing qualifications – not to exceed 1 page.
- Short CV – not to exceed 2 pages.

Nominees will be selected from the applicants based on leadership skills, ethical conduct, commitment to the specialty of dermatology and especially level of activity within the Society.

Open Leadership Positions

Officers:

- President (1 term*)
- Executive Vice President (1 term*)
- Secretary-General (2 terms*)
- Associate Secretary-General (1 term*)
- Treasurer-General (2 terms*)
- Archivist-Historian (2 terms*)
- Vice Presidents (10 total for 1 term*)
- Directors (25 total, eligible for re-election)

*A term is from one ICD to the next.

The members of the ISD Board of Directors are the stewards of the Society. The Board provides leadership, a shared vision and sense of mission for the Society and is responsible for the fiscal health of the Society.

You may apply on your own behalf. If you know of an ISD member who would be a good choice for a leadership position within the ISD, please suggest they fill out an application. You may submit a one paragraph recommendation on their behalf through the ISD web site at www.intsocderm.org. A maximum of three recommendations per applicant will be accepted.

Members of the Nominating Committee

Percy Naidu (Chair) – South Africa/Africa/Middle East
Luca Borradori – Switzerland/Europe
Margarita Larralde – Argentina/South America
Angela Lavadia – Philippines/Asia
Suzanne Olbricht – US/North America

Submit your application beginning December 1, 2020, through January 31, 2021, at www.intsocderm.org





ISD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The ISD Mentorship Program provides an unmatched learning opportunity for young dermatologists around the world. This interview included here is the last mentorship completed before the pandemic temporarily halted the program. Complete interviews of this, and other, mentorships can be found on the [ISD website](#).

Dr. Shikhar Ganjoo of the Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary Medical College and Research Institute in Gurugram, India, participated in the ISD Mentorship Program by spending seven weeks in Australia, from February 3 to March 20, 2020. His mentor was Dr. Dedee Murrell.

Major goals for your mentorship experience: My major goals were to acquire more knowledge regarding the use of biologics in various cutaneous conditions including psoriasis and to gain more insights into the evaluation and management of blistering diseases. Also there was a plethora of complex medical dermatology patients that I saw in Professor Murrell's practice and at the St. George Hospital.

What did you like best about your mentorship experience?: The wide spectrum of patients that I saw. Professor Murrell allowed me to experience dermatologic emergencies at the public hospital and took me around to see each patient in her private outpatient department. Her practice of taking a good history and doing a detailed examination was exemplary. She spent a lot of time teaching me as we discussed each patient at length. Also it was wonderful to see her established patients who have been included in her publications.

Describe any special experiences with your mentor: Professor Murrell is a wonderful and warm human being. I always felt at home during my stay and she would always invite me for lunch. Her enthusiasm for medicine has instilled in me a fresh impetus. Her dedication to attend to each patient with the same energy is worth a mention, whether it was 8 AM or 7 PM. Sydney will always be my second home.

Describe a skill acquired during your mentorship that you will definitely use when you return home: I learned how to properly use biologics in psoriasis patients and how to conduct clinical trials. By combining these two skills, I plan to conduct clinical trials in my country. In addition to psoriasis, I saw how biologics could be used to treat other disorders including pyoderma gangrenosum and hidradenitis suppurativa.

How will your mentorship experience impact your patient care and professional goals over the next year?: I am now extremely confident with regard to prescribing a biologic agent, which is a needed skill in a country like India where there is a pool of patients with psoriasis who are not attaining remissions with standard therapies. I also learned about using naltrexone for inflammatory dermatoses including Hailey-Hailey disease.

How will your mentorship experience make an impact five years from now, including for your region or country?: I have already started teaching my post graduates about the safe use of biologics and have started using them for psoriatic patients in my region. Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, Chair of the ISD Mentorship Committee, has always encouraged and motivated me to put my best foot forward and Dr. Anil Ganjoo, Head of the Department at Saroj Hospital in Delhi, has always stood beside me as a friend, philosopher, and guide.

Share a pearl you learned during your mentorship experience: Hidradenitis suppurativa can involve only the neck area without involvement of other areas of the body. Life pearls learnt from Professor Murrell are that you can be a successful clinician and yet maintain an excellent life balance. She is an inspiration and I can't help but remember her in all aspects of my daily life including professional ethics.



Dr. Shikhar Ganjoo (right) with mentor Dr. Dedee Murrell



ISD Mentorship Committee Meets Virtually, Pilot Online Program Proposed

By Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, Chair, ISD Mentorship Committee

There has been a huge change in our professional and personal lives due to COVID 19. To meet and discuss the challenges of the health and safety of mentors and mentees as well as the way forward, the ISD Mentorship Committee met online on May 5, 2020. The Committee was previously scheduled to meet physically in Denver at the annual AAD meeting in March, but the entire meeting was cancelled. The virtual meeting was moderated by Dr. Rashmi Sarkar, Chair, ISD Mentorship Committee, and also attended by Dr. Nellie Konnikov, ISD Secretary-General.

The committee proposed to defer and postpone the accepted ISD 2020 mentorships until early 2021, depending on circumstances improving regarding international travel and acceptance at international universities of overseas observers. The committee will review plans near the end of this year. The ISD will not be accepting mentorships for 2021 -- applications for which would have been due this year -- in light of the prevailing health crisis. The ISD Board was in concordance with this at their subsequent meeting.

The committee discussed a way forward for the interim period. Dr. Sarkar proposed an ISD Pilot Online Mentorship Program to fulfill the requirements of some mentees. This was supported by the members of the committee. A task force was set up within the committee comprised of Drs. Sarkar (Chair), Martin Kassir (Co-Chair), Luiz Castro (Brazil, member), Adebola Ogunbiyi (Nigeria, member), and Leopoldo Santos (Brazil, member). The task force discussed a provisional plan which has subsequently

been shared with the Committee for further discussion. The ISD Mentorship Committee is excited to roll out the pilot online Mentorship Program early next year, while hoping for the world to get back to normal.

Have a suggestion for the task force on the Pilot Online Mentorship Program?



Please send your ideas to info@intsocderm.org. Thank you!

ISD Mentorship Committee's Virtual Meeting, May 5, 2020

Mentorship Committee

- Rashmi Sarkar, MD (India) - Chair
- Martin Kassir, MD (US) - Co-Chair
- Hao Guo, MD (China)
- Luiz Castro, MD (Brazil)
- Thomas Ruzicka, MD (Germany)
- Leopoldo Santos, MD (Brazil)
- Evangeline Handog, MD (Philippines)
- Adebola Ogunbiyi, MD (US) - Board Liaison
- Nellie Konnikov, MD (US) - Ex-officio

Past Mentee Reflects on Lessons Learned from ISD Mentorship



Dr. Jesse Chua

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. As the Mentorship Program takes a pause due to the pandemic, ISD spotlights past mentee and ISD member Dr. Jesse Chua of the Philippines.

Jesse Chua of the Philippines.

Dr. Chua, where and when did you do your ISD mentorship? Who was your mentor?

I did my mentorship from June to July 2009 with Prof. Goh Chee Leok at the National Skin Centre in Singapore.

Where do you practice now?

I'm back in the Philippines now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but for the past eight years I practiced in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

How did your ISD mentorship impact your career?

The ISD mentorship increased my overall knowledge of dermatology.

Do you still keep in touch with your mentor?

Over the years, I have seen Prof. Goh at conferences.

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

I learned to be more confident and motivated in my practice.

What advice would you give to a young dermatologist considering the ISD mentorship program?

I would recommend applying for the mentorship program. He or she would clearly gain more experience.



Past ISD Mentee Dr. Jesse Chua (left) and his mentor, Prof. CL Goh (right) from 2009 in Singapore.



ISD's First-Ever Climate Change Survey Garners Media Attention



Dr. Louise K. Andersen

In order to address the question of how dermatologists perceive climate change and its impact on public health, and skin disease in particular, the ISD's Climate Change committee developed a short online survey that was sent electronically to ISD members in November 2019. Results of this first-ever climate change survey commissioned by the ISD were published online in the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)* on June 12, 2020, and are now in print in the *IJD* Volume 59, Issue 9 (September 2020).

The ISD worked with Dr. Louise K. Anderson, Chair, ISD Climate Change Committee, to develop a news release (see page 9) highlighting these important findings that was then sent to select media outlets in the United States. As a result, interviews

were requested and media coverage was secured with the dermatology trade media.

The climate change survey news release and media highlights are included here, and the original correspondence published online in the *IJD* can be accessed via this link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijd.14984>.

Climate Change Committee

- Louise Kronborg-Andersen, MD (Denmark) - Chair
- Mark Davis, MD (US) - Co-Chair
- Sarah Coates, MD (US)
- Johannes Dayrit, MD (Philippines)
- Markus Boos, MD (US)
- Wendemagegn Yeshaneh, MD, PhD (Ethiopia)
- Vinod Sharma, MD (India) - Ex-officio

Climate Change Survey Media Highlights

Members of the ISD Climate Change Committee participated in multiple interviews on the survey results, and more stories are anticipated in the coming months. The following are links to completed interviews to date.

Derm Pulse (Practical Dermatology) — An interview with Dr. Louise K. Andersen aired Aug. 10, 2020. [Click here to view.](#)

Dermatology Times — Podcast with Dr. Sarah Coates about the survey posted July 23, 2020. [Click here to view.](#)

DermWireTV — An interview with Dr. Louise K. Andersen aired July 30, 2020. [Click here to view.](#)



ISD Community Dermatology Committee Announces New Community Dermatology Award

In an effort to provide more visibility to community dermatology-oriented projects and provide opportunities for ISD members to collaborate on existing ones, the ISD Community Dermatology Committee is pleased to inform the ISD community about the newly established Community Dermatology Award.

This new award is intended to recognize a project with a significant and outstanding contribution to enhancing healthy skin for all with a particular focus on benefitting those in resource poor settings. Principally, it should be a project which has the capacity to continuously run successfully, makes an impact on the community served and demonstrates sustainability.

Community Dermatology focuses on both individual care of a patient by a health care provider, as well as extending skin care awareness in the community. Its application differs depending on the situation -- from skin cancer awareness to skin hygiene and prophylaxis of skin injury -- integrating traditional methods, when possible, in different cultural

settings and different countries.

The first award will be announced at the XIIIth International Congress of Dermatology (ICD) in Melbourne in November 2021.

The deadline to submit nominations for the award is March 31, 2021. Additional information and a [link to the application](#) is available on the ISD homepage.

The Community Dermatology Committee thanks ISD members for their continued support of community dermatology!

Community Dermatology Committee

- Lucinda Fuller, MD (UK) - Chair
- Aisha Sethi, MD (US) - Co-Chair
- Helmut Beltraminelli, MD (Switzerland)
- Olivier Chosidow, MD (France)
- Aldo Morrone, MD (Italy)
- Mojakgomo Motswaledi, MD (South Africa)
- Roderick Hay, MD (UK) - Advisor
- Vinod Sharma, MD (India) - Ex-Officio



NEW SURVEY FINDS DERMATOLOGISTS SEEING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PATTERNS OF SKIN DISEASES

Waldorf, Md. (June 29, 2020) -- The first international survey of dermatologists gauging their perceptions of climate change and their beliefs about its effects on clinical practice found that the vast majority of respondents (95.6 percent) believed climate change is occurring and 88.6 percent indicated that climate change will impact the incidence of skin diseases in their areas.

The online survey was conducted by the International Society of Dermatology's (ISD) Climate Change Committee -- originally established in 2009 as a Task Force led by Dr. Sigfrid A. Müller, an early advocate of research into climate change -- and included responses from dermatologists practicing in Asia, North America, Europe, Africa, Australia and South America. Results were recently published in the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)*, the first dermatology journal focusing on climate change having published articles on this subject since 2011.

"While dermatologists around the world have seen evidence of the effects of climate change on skin health for quite some time, our goal was to understand how dermatologists perceive these effects and how they view its influence on public health and the patterns and burden of skin disease," said Louise K. Andersen, MD, Chair of the ISD's Climate Change Committee and lead researcher of the survey. "While we have found that climate change has already affected dermatology practices, we also see an opportunity to mitigate the adverse health effects of climate change in the future by improving dermatologists' knowledge about how climate change can impact the skin."

Nearly all dermatologists surveyed (94.3 percent) reported concern about climate change, with 86.1 percent reporting concern that climate change will affect their life and 81 percent expressing concern that it will affect their work as dermatologists. In addition, 88 percent of dermatologists thought that dermatologists should play an advocacy role in climate change-related health issues.

When asked if they believed that climate change will affect the incidence of specific infections and diseases in their areas, the majority of dermatologists surveyed agreed this to be true. Specifically, 76 percent of respondents believed that climate change will affect the incidence of fungal infections, while 81.6 percent and 75.3 percent said it will affect the incidence of vector-borne diseases and water-borne diseases, respectively.

Approximately one-third (31 percent) of respondents currently reported unusual skin conditions in their communities that they believed could be related to climate change, including common and atypical infections, UV- or heat-related diseases (including skin cancers, photodermatoses and miliaria), and inflammatory dermatoses (allergic contact dermatitis and psoriasis). Dr. Andersen added that nearly one-fourth (21.5 percent) of respondents observed unusual infectious diseases such as cutaneous fungal infections and vector-borne diseases (e.g., Lyme disease, leishmaniasis and dengue) but also ectoparasitic, bacterial, and viral infections that they thought may be related to the changing climate in their areas.

"This small study is an important first step in understanding the scope of climate change on skin health," said Dr. Andersen. "The ISD welcomes an open dialogue among experts across the spectrum of the international medical, scientific and political communities as we seek to better understand the potentially serious health implications of climate change."

Dr. Andersen's team has published 10 articles on the topic of climate change in the *IJD* since 2011 and expects to conduct a follow-up climate change survey next year.

About the ISD

Founded in 1959, the International Society of Dermatology is the only international society consisting of individual dermatologists from all fields of dermatology with a focus on global issues in dermatology. The Society's mission is to facilitate the exchange of information among dermatologists on a global basis and remains true to its roots by concentrating on issues relating to global dermatology and tropical skin diseases -- including basic sciences, venereology and public health as well as teaching dermatology in developing countries. For more information, visit the ISD website at www.intsocderm.org.

About the IJD

Published monthly, the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)* is specifically designed to provide dermatologists around the world with a regular, up-to-date source of information on all aspects of the diagnosis and management of skin diseases. Accepted articles regularly cover clinical trials; education; morphology; pharmacology and therapeutics; case reports; and reviews. Additional features include tropical medical reports, news, correspondence, and proceedings and transactions.

About the Survey

Conducted by the International Society of Dermatology's Climate Change Committee, the 16-question online survey was sent to ISD members electronically and data were collected from November 20 to December 31, 2019. Of the ISD's 1,559 current members, 158 (10.1 percent) replied to the survey. Of these, 87.4 percent were dermatologists, 12 percent were dermatology residents, and 0.6 percent represented other healthcare providers.

###



Members of the Education Committee demonstrated flexibility in response to the coronavirus pandemic, including the cancellation of meetings that ensued and the general conditions of uncertainty.

The committee had selected 16 recipients for the 2020 Global Education Awards, which were to be presented at the 2020 Continental Congress of Dermatology (CCD) in Mexico City. Global Education Awards provide a limited number of scholarships to young dermatologists who are presenting oral or poster abstracts at the congress. With the cancellation of the CCD, the committee recommended that the awardees be allowed to present via a taped presentation at the ISD virtual session that will be held a day prior to the AAD Annual Meeting in San Francisco (March 2021). For those who decide to participate, the awardees will receive acknowledgment of their award and an award of \$500.

Global Education Awards will be available for the 2021 International Congress of Dermatology (ICD) scheduled for November 10-13, 2021, in Melbourne, Australia. Members will be notified when the call for submissions is opened.

The ISD Sister Society session at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology's (EADV) Annual Meeting -- organized annually by the Education Committee -- is normally held in-person. However, while the EADV was not canceled, it went virtual. The speakers have all agreed to tape their lectures,

Education Committee Adjusts to Pandemic, Cancellations and Zoom

which will be available to EADV meeting attendees and later this year to ISD members. Members will be notified when the lectures are available for viewing on our website. The program is listed on page 4.

In planning for upcoming events and activities, the committee is seeking input from ISD members on their educational needs, type of training desired, and formats of educational delivery that members would like to receive. To participate in the survey, click [here](#) to provide feedback to the committee.

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Tania Cestari (Brazil) has joined the Committee.

Education Committee

Jacek Szepietowski, MD (Poland) - Chair
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ISD Announces New Global Outreach Task Force

On August 3, 2019, the ISD Executive Committee approved the formation of the Global Outreach Task Force. The brainchild of Dr. Martin Kassir, its primary goals are to identify low-resource countries or regions with populations in need of dermatologic care and to offer educational, administrative, technical, and financial support to those providing this care.

While several underserved communities have been identified by the task force, West African francophone countries will be the first target area. Amongst these eight countries, there are varied levels of trained dermatologists, dermatology residency programs, other skin care practitioners and training programs.

This task force will strive to improve training and education in these countries by offering mentorships for young dermatologists, educational support materials, and travel grants. It will also strive to increase the visibility of ISD members in these countries in regional, continental and international meetings. In addition, liaisons will be formed with other ISD committees including Communications, Mentorship, Membership and Fundraising in order to enhance collaborations.

The Global Outreach Task Force members include Drs. Martin Kassir (Chair), George Reizner (ISD President), and Nejb Doss (ISD Board Member).

2021
 XIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY
 MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

10 – 13 November 2021
 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Website: jcd2021.com.au
 Email: jcd2021@arinex.com.au

Keynote Speaker
Professor John McGrath
 St John's Institute of Dermatology
 Kings College London

Presenting on
Translation Dermatology
 Bench to bedside in Dermatology

Behind the Scenes: Getting to Know ISD Board Members

Despite busy professional and personal lives, members of the ISD Board of Directors spend a significant amount of time working to improve the quality of all the benefits the Society offers its members. Their commitment to ISD is unwavering and they clearly play a vital role. Here, meet five ISD Board Members – **Drs. Vinod Sharma (India), Anthony Benedetto (United States), Pavel Chernyshov (Ukraine), Jacek Szepietowski (Poland), and Jorge Ocampo-Candiani (Mexico).**

Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma, India

Dr. Sharma, where did you train in dermatology?

VKS: I trained in dermatology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, one of the premier programs in India since the 1960s. In addition, I did a one-year research fellowship at the National Institute for Leprosy Research and Department of Dermatology at Juntendo University, Tokyo, Japan.

Where do you practice dermatology?

VKS: I practice dermatology in a tertiary care hospital and I am a Professor and the Chairman of Dermatology and Venereology at AIIMS, New Delhi. I am involved in training postgraduates in dermatology and venereology and conduct clinics in general dermatology, contact dermatitis & urticaria, psoriasis and vitiligo.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

VKS: I have special interest in alopecia areata, dermatitis/eczemas, drug eruptions, psoriasis and complex dermatologic disorders, as well as systemic dermatology. I like writing and editing books, research papers, and guiding MD and PhD students.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

VKS: I joined ISD as it is a truly international society with representation from around the world and it gives equal opportunities to its members. Access to the *International Journal of Dermatology*, along with membership, is an added attraction.

I enjoy participating in the International Congress of Dermatology and multiple Regional Congresses organized under the banner of ISD. These conferences bring together leading international speakers, giving opportunities for fellowship, collaboration and meeting of mentors and mentees.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

VKS: I love traveling; I am an avid reader and I practice yoga for relaxation.

What 3 words best describe you?

VKS: Motivated. Self disciplined. Sensitive.



Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma, India

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

VKS: I go for daily walks with friends and help my wife with gardening. On weekends, I go out with family for dinner or movies.

How has ISD impacted your career?

VKS: ISD membership has had a great impact on my career. It provided me a platform to meet my peers from around the world. I was fortunate to be nominated and selected as an observer to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) by Dr. Evangeline Handog, Past President of ISD. It helped me tremendously to get a glimpse of dermatology practice in the US as well as meet and interact with board members of the AAD. ISD also gave me an opportunity to organize the XI International Congress of Dermatology in Delhi in 2013, helping me to project Indian dermatology at international forums.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

VKS: I am a member of the ISD Executive Committee and serve on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Dermatology*, and both are equally valuable to me. I also enjoy the ease of interaction and friendly atmosphere at board meetings and social gatherings.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

VKS: ISD offers young dermatologists the opportunity to interact with experts in all sub-specialties of dermatology, in addition to opportunities for international training and access to the *International Journal of Dermatology*.

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

VKS: First, I suggest that young dermatologists ascertain what is their area of special interest or a gap in their training that they want to fill. I also would recommend that they look for a mentor and eventually do a fellowship at a center of excellence locally or abroad. I also counsel them to have more experience in general dermatology before pursuing aesthetics and laser practice.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

VKS: I started pencil sketching and oil painting during the lockdown.

Dr. Pavel Chernyshov, Ukraine

Dr. Chernyshov, where did you train in dermatology?

PC: I trained at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology of the National Medical University in Kiev, Ukraine, and was a post-doctoral student at the Centre of Dermatovenereology, Vilnius University Hospital, in Vilnius, Lithuania. In addition, I did further training at the Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Technical University of Munich, in Munich, Germany.



Dr. Pavel Chernyshov, Ukraine

Where do you practice dermatology?

PC: I currently practice in the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at the National Medical University in Kiev.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

PC: I am most interested in general dermatology and the quality of life in chronic skin diseases.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

PC: I enjoy serving as a member of the ISD Board of Directors.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

PC: Reading, walking, and watching movies.

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

PC: At least I am trying to balance it.

How has ISD impacted your career?

PC: My article "Gender differences in health-related and family quality of life in young children with atopic dermatitis" published in the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)* in 2012 has the highest citation rate among my publications. In 2009, for the second time in my life, I was an invited speaker at the 10th International Congress of Dermatology organized by the ISD.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

PC: The honorable ISD Board position.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

PC: ISD offers young dermatologists grants and access to the *IJD*.

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

PC: To the residents and young specialists, try to use each opportunity provided by the ISD and other professional organizations.

Dr. Anthony V. Benedetto, U.S.

Dr. Benedetto, where did you train in dermatology?

AB: I trained in dermatology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Where do you practice dermatology?

AB: I practice in Pennsylvania at the Dermatologic SurgiCenter of Philadelphia and Drexel Hill.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

AB: My areas of interest within dermatology are Mohs micrographic surgery and cutaneous oncology, procedural dermatology, aesthetic dermatology, laser surgery, women's health, and the history of dermatology.



Dr. Anthony V. Benedetto, United States

Why are you a member of the ISD?

AB: I am fascinated by how dermatology is practiced around the world. I have been an active member and participated in various committees and the Board since 1992, and in 2014, I was appointed the Society's Historian. It is truly an honor to serve the members of one of the oldest and most prestigious societies in dermatology. Its inclusive legacy continues to broaden the horizons of practicing dermatologists all over the world.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

AB: I enjoy photography, opera and classical music, cooking, traveling with my wife, Dianne, and spending time with my four children and grandchildren.

What 3 words best describe you?

AB: Conscientious. Undeterred. Loyal.

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

AB: Family needs always come first, followed by full attention and dedication to the care of patients.

How has ISD impacted your career?

AB: The ISD has made it possible for me to meet and network with brilliant colleagues -- young and experienced -- from all over the world, adding depth to my understanding of our specialty and how I practice dermatology. I would not be the dermatologist I am today without their influence and support. I can only hope some of them were also able to learn something from me!

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

AB: Learning from others and the lifelong friendships I have made over the years.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

AB: Access to a global network of colleagues and resources which will expand their professional horizons and enrich their understanding and practice of dermatology.

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

AB: Be inquisitive and do not be afraid of trying something new. Work hard for the benefit of your patients and they will be forever grateful and loyal to you. Also, be honest to yourself and to your patients.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

AB: I managed and was the head chef at our family's summertime resort restaurant while in college and medical school and later as a young dermatologist.

Dr. Jacek C. Szepletowski, Poland

Dr. Szepletowski, where did you train in dermatology?

JS: I am from Poland and was trained in my home city of Wroclaw at the Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology of Wroclaw Medical University. I finished my residency and graduated with honors. I also gained experience working and training in dermatology in several foreign countries, such as The Netherlands, the UK and Japan.



Dr. Jacek C. Szepletowski, Poland

Where do you practice dermatology?

JS: Currently, I am a Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology at Wroclaw Medical University in Wroclaw, Poland.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

JS: My main areas of interest are itch, psychodermatology and chronic inflammatory disorders, including hidradenitis suppurativa.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

JS: ISD is a wonderful society. I like its global character and it is important for me that the society supports colleagues from developing countries.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

JS: My main hobbies are skiing and tourism. For many years I served as a tour guide -- I was even the Vice President of the Guide Club of Lower Silesia in Poland. Recently, I created a Ski Racing Club within our region to encourage people to practice skiing.

What 3 words best describe you?

JS: This is a very difficult question for me, but let me try to answer. Active. Responsible. Helpful.

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

JS: It is not easy. I am lucky to have a fantastic wife and daughter. I can always count on them. They both are a great help to me. Without my family's support, I would never be at the place I am now.

How has ISD impacted your career?

JS: ISD helped me immensely to obtain a global view of dermatology and venereology throughout the whole world.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

JS: I am honored to be involved in ISD activities, serving as a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Education Committee. For me, it's nice to be among such a great group of people that really characterizes the ISD. We are like family and work together in a pleasant atmosphere that allows us to achieve a lot.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

JS: ISD offers young dermatologists knowledge, the journal, education and friendship. The Mentorship Program also provides

great opportunities. I have trained numerous colleagues from different countries, such as Ethiopia, Bhutan and Georgia.

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

JS: Join ISD and be part of a great society! Work hard, extend your knowledge and skills, and always do your best in helping your patients.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

JS: Recently, my daughter has encouraged me to take up roller skating. Now, I consider it great fun!

Dr. Jorge Ocampo-Candiani, Mexico

Dr. Ocampo-Candiani, where did you train in dermatology?



Dr. Jorge Ocampo-Candiani, Mexico

JOC: I was born in the state of Sonora in Northwestern Mexico and have been married for 37 years to Sonia Garza. We have two children, Jorge Alejandro and Sonia Sofia, 34 and 31 years old, respectively. Both are dermatologists and work together with me at MEDIPIEL Dermatology, Cosmetic, & Laser Clinic.

I began my training in Dermatology in 1983 at the Dr. Jose E. Gonzalez University Hospital in Monterrey, Mexico. I completed my studies in 1986 after which I obtained the position of Chief of Residents based on personal merits. From 1987 to 1988, I trained in Dermatological Surgery and Mohs Surgery at the Hospital Sagrado Corazón of the University of Barcelona in Spain. I also studied in the United States in Houston, Birmingham, Minneapolis and Atlanta as well as in Paris, France.

Where do you practice dermatology?

JOC: In 1988, I joined the teaching staff in the Dermatology Department at the Universidad de Nuevo León as a Professor, implementing and coordinating dermatological surgery. I am a National Level III Researcher (the highest level), and in 2003, I was appointed Chairman of the Dermatology Department, a position I currently hold.

What are your areas of interest within dermatology?

JOC: My interests are skin cancer, dermatological surgery and lasers, in addition to clinical and basic research. I have been the recipient of multiple awards in clinical research and have been recognized by societies, colleges, and institutions for teaching and patient care.

Why are you a member of the ISD?

JOC: Since I started my dermatology residency in 1984, I have had admiration and respect for the members of the ISD. In 1984, the fifth congress of the society was held in Mexico City with Dr. Ramón Ruiz Maldonado as President. This meeting was the first international congress that I ever attended and it has influenced my life.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of medicine?

JOC: Jogging, mountain climbing, reading, going to the movies and music concerts.

What 3 words best describe you?

JOC: Entrepreneur. Motivator. Leadership.

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

JOC: I try to be strict in distributing my time for teaching, research, writing books and articles, dermatology private practice, daily exercise, and dedication to my family and friends and my leisure time. The secret is in balance. Never lose balance!

How has ISD impacted your career?

JOC: This society has allowed me to become friends with outstanding specialists around the world. Most of them still honor me with their friendship and according to my Latin style, I consider them part of my family.

One of the main goals of our Society is to spread the international knowledge of dermatology. No less important, the ISD seeks to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and friendship among our members so that we enjoy every moment we spend together. I can assure you that very few professional associations have this spirit of fellowship.

I also have found a wonderful humanistic team of people who are hard-working, highly committed, and possess a strong moral and professional resolve. I would like to recognize the ISD Board of Directors. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

What do you value most about your involvement in ISD?

JOC: I have been a member of ISD for 32 years and have served on the Membership, Communications and Nominating Committees, as well as two terms on the Board of Directors. For the XII International Congress of Dermatology held in 2017, I served as chair of the Scientific Program Committee.

What does ISD offer aspiring young dermatologists?

JOC: The ISD offers to strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship among all members, to improve communication, to exchange ideas and techniques, and develop excellence in our field along with an atmosphere of respect and harmony.

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

JOC: Pursue the goal of being the best, achieve excellence in dermatology that distinguishes us from other doctors, and maintain our specialty at the forefront of current worldwide knowledge.

What would ISD members be surprised to learn about you?

JOC: I am a simple person who likes to share with colleagues and friends. I really enjoy a dinner, a good wine with music, and, of course, I enjoy dancing.



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



Dr. Qianjin Lu

ISD member **Dr. Qianjin Lu** (China) was recently promoted to Executive Vice Director of the Hospital for Skin Diseases (Institute of Dermatology), Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, which is located in Nanjing. In this role, Dr. Lu will be in charge of all administration of the hospital and will also set up a new laboratory in Nanjing. Dr. Lu is the President of the Chinese Society of Dermatology and serves on the ISD's Scientific Committee for the XIII ICD taking place in Australia next year.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

2021 Meetings

March 2021 (date TBD)

First ISD Virtual Meeting

- Scientific program with Global Education Awardees, Maria Duran Fellows, Maria Duran Lecture
- Awarding of the Maria Duran Medal -- Ncoza Dlova, MD (South Africa)
- Social Events with Meet the ISD Executive Committee and ISD's Got Talent!

November 10 - 13, 2021

XIII International Congress of Dermatology

Melbourne, Australia

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

Regional Meetings

April 8-11, 2021

Congres Association Dermatologistes

Francophones

Hammamet, Tunisia

<https://adf2020.com/>

April 23-25, 2021

Sarajevo Dermatology Days

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

<https://www.sarajevodermadays2020.org/>

Call for Nominations for Board of Directors

December 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Bids for 2025 International Congress of Dermatology

Proposals due May 1, 2021

<https://www.intsocderm.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3474>



International Society of Dermatology

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Join online at www.intsocderm.org

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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.

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Email: _____

Sponsored Member Name: _____

Email: _____

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

Indicate method of payment:

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 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:

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PO Box 79524 • Baltimore, MD 21279-0524 USA

Phone: +1 386-437-4405 Fax: +1 386-437-4427

E-mail: info@intsocderm.org

Web site: www.intsocderm.org

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