

# Maria Durán

## Biography



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- Maria Durán was born in Bogotá, Colombia, on November 16, 1948. Bogotá is one of the oldest cities of South America founded in 1535



# Colombia's geographical location





## Maria as a child

- Her parents, Dr. Jorge Durán and Mrs Mélida Merchán-Durán took wonderful care of this privileged girl that would become an important figure in the International Society of Dermatology



## Maria's early education

- During her first years, her father organized a kindergarten at home that he labelled "The delicious place" where Maria took her first lessons. Her mother was her first teacher and taught her how to read at the early age of 3



- Since childhood she had an enormous interest in books and very early on developed the life long habit of reading
- Maria had two sisters, Annabella and Aminta. As the oldest daughter, Maria was frequently arranging all kinds of activities for them



- Also as a child, she became very interested in ballet; a discipline she maintained for a number of years.
- Maria was a joyful girl that made friends easily and cared about people



- María had her First Communion as a Christian Catholic at age 7
- As an adult, she was a person with a spiritual life and a firm believer in God and eternity, a belief that she kept all of her life





## Maria as an adolescent

- In her adolescent years she organized and directed the girl scout group at her high school, disclosing her ability for leadership at a very young age



- Later on, Maria Durán became a nice young lady with a pleasant personality that remained unchanged for the rest of her life.
- This was one of the strong tools that helped in complementing her ability for leadership. With this attitude she was able to manage the most diverse situations with a smile in her face and plenty of warmth in her heart



## High School graduation

- Maria graduated from “Maria de los Angeles” High School in 1963, at age 15. At this time she was already planning to become a medical doctor



## Medical studies

- After her high school and college years Maria decided to enroll at Javeriana Medical School in Bogotá.
- Her qualifications and high performance in diverse medical disciplines were the foundations for a brilliant career as a physician
- During her years as a medical student she became very interested in dermatology



## Medical graduation

- In 1970, when she successfully finished her medical studies, Dr. Alfonso Lopez, former president of Colombia, handed Maria her Medical Diploma at her graduation ceremony



## **Maria's graduation as a dermatologist**

- In 1976 she graduated as a dermatologist after 3 years of training at Federico Lleras Center of Dermatology in her native Bogotá, becoming one of the most brilliant trainees in this institution

## Her initial research

- During her residency training, Maria participated in several research projects on actinic prurigo, a prevalent photo - dermatosis of the high lands of Colombia that affects numerous patients of indian-mestizo descent. This work was presented at several meetings and would stimulate her future research interests in this condition
- Once she graduated as a dermatologist, she took a one year post-graduate course in immunology. Maria would use this knowledge several years later for her research in actinic prurigo



## Maria as a mother

- Maria married Dr Manuel Rueda and had her only son Marcelo Rueda
- She paid constant and loving care to Marcelo throughout her life





- ..and was close to him at all times, as the superb mother that she always was..



## Her willingness to teach

- Maria was constantly ready and willing to help collaborate whenever was requested of her and delivered numerous lectures to many Dermatological Societies and traveled frequently for this purpose
- Dermatology was her life and only passion



## Maria as a Director and Professor of Dermatology

- Maria Durán was appointed as Director of the Federico Lleras Center of Dermatology in Bogotá, for 2 years (1983 – 1985). During this time she reorganized this institution and added an important academic component.
- She is seated close by Dr Carlos Lleras, former president of Colombia and member of the board of Directors



## Her career in the ISD

- From then on, she decided to dedicate her work to international dermatology but mostly to the International Society of Dermatology
- ...and when traveling was needed to recruit more ISD members, Maria was always ready to attend dermatologic meetings held in the most distant countries



## Her educational interest

- One of her most important goals in the ISD was her interest in providing scholarships for young dermatologists in developing countries
- .... and she fulfilled this goal with great success.

- **Maria Durán main interest: actinic prurigo**

(clinical findings, HLA typing, immunology, therapy)

-**Duran MM**. Human lymphocyte antigen in actinic prurigo. *Dermatology in Five Continents. XVII World Congress of Dermatology*. Eds. Orfanos C et al, Springer Verlag, Berlin, 1987

-Bernal JE, **Duran MM**, et al. Human lymphocyte antigen in actinic prurigo. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 1988; 18:310-2.

-**Duran MM**, Bernal JE, et al. Actinic prurigo at sea level in Colombia. *Int J Dermatol*. 1989; 28:228-9.

-Bernal JE, **Duran MM**, et al. Actinic prurigo among the Chimila Indians in Colombia: HLA studies. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 1990; 22:1049-51.

-Bernal JE, **Duran MM**, et al. Cellular immune effects of thalidomide in actinic prurigo. *Int J Dermatol*. 1992; 31:599-600.

-**Duran MM**, Bernal J. HLA typing in actinic prurigo. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 1992; 26:658

-**Durán MM**, Ordoñez CP, et al. Treatment of actinic prurigo in Chimila Indians. *Int J Dermatol*. 1996; 35:413-6.

-Umaña A, **Durán MM** et al. Lymphocyte subtypes and adhesion molecules in actinic prurigo: observations with cyclosporin A. *Int J Dermatol*. 2002; 41:139-45

## Human lymphocyte antigen in actinic prurigo

JE Bernal, MM Duran de Rueda, D de Briqard

### Abstract

Thirty-one patients with actinic prurigo were human lymphocyte antigen (HLA)-typed. The results showed an association of this disease with the alleles B40 and Cw3, both usually found in linkage disequilibrium in most populations. Because these two antigens are more frequent in Amerindians than in whites, it is suggested that they may partly account for the restricted ethnic distribution of this disease. (J Am Acad Dermatol 1988 Feb;18(2 Pt 1):310-2)

- In a group of 31 amerindians an association of actinic prurigo with alleles B40 and Cw3 was found.
- These antigens are more common in this ethnic group and suggest that may take part in the restricted ethnic distribution of this condition



## International Journal of Dermatology

Volume 28 Issue 4, Pages 228 - 229; May 1989

Published Online: 31 May 2007

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### **Actinic Prurigo at Sea Level in Colombia**

MARIA M. DURAN DE RUEDA, M.D.<sup>1</sup>, JAIME E. BERNAL, M.D., PH.D.<sup>1</sup> CLARA PATRICIA ORDONEZ, M.D.<sup>1</sup>

- South America patients reported with actinic prurigo live at altitudes above 2,000 m (6,500 ft), in the Andes ranges.
- This is the first report of a peculiar tribe, the Chimila Indians, in which 48 of 600 members had actinic prurigo living at sea level in northern Colombia.
- Two factors were emphasized in the pathogenesis:
  - 1) marked sunlight exposure and
  - 2) ethnic origin



## Actinic prurigo among the Chimila Indians in Colombia: HLA studies

JE Bernal, MM Duran de Rueda, CP Ordonez, C Duran, D de Brigard

### Abstract

The Chimila, a Colombian Amerindian group that lives at a low altitude, have a high incidence of actinic prurigo. We present the human lymphocyte antigen (HLA) findings of 43 Chimilas with the disease and of 62 control subjects and show an association of actinic prurigo with the Cw4 antigen. (J Am Acad Dermatol 1990 Jun;22(6 Pt 1):1049-51)

- When comparing 43 Colombian Chimila Indians with 62 control subjects, an association of actinic prurigo with HLA Cw4 antigen was found



## International Journal of Dermatology

Volume 31 Issue 8, Pages 599 - 600 ; Aug 1992

Published Online: 31 May 2007

Journal compilation © 2009 International Society of Dermatology

### **Cellular Immune Effects of Thalidomide in Actinic Prurigo**

J. E. Bernal, M.D.<sup>1</sup> Maria M. Duran, M.D.<sup>1</sup> F. Londoño, M.D.<sup>1</sup> Angela Umaña, M.Phil.<sup>1</sup>

- In a group of 15 patients randomly selected, CD3+ and CD4+ cells were significantly reduced during thalidomide therapy whereas CD8+ & B cells did not change significantly
- These findings may constitute further evidence of an immunologic alteration in this condition



## International Journal of Dermatology

Volume 35 Issue 6, Pages 413 - 416; Jun 1996

Published Online: 31 May 2007

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### **TREATMENT OF ACTINIC PRURIGO IN CHIMILA INDIANS**

MARIA M. DURÁN, M.D.<sup>1</sup>, CLARA P. ORDOÑEZ, M.D.<sup>1</sup>, JUAN C. PRIETO, M.D.<sup>1</sup>, JAIME BERNAL, M.D., PH.D.<sup>1</sup>

- Thalidomide is the treatment of choice for actinic prurigo, but teratogenesis limits its use. Sixteen Chimila Indians were treated with either 500 mg tetracycline or 100 mg vit E daily for 4 and 2 months.
- The antioxidant properties of both medications produced a remarkable improvement of lesions in most patients



Figure 3. Plaques – infiltration – tetracycline vs vitamin E trial.



Figure 5. Cheilitis – modifications tetracycline vs vitamin E.



## International Journal of Dermatology

Volume 41 Issue 3, Pages 139 - 145; Mar 2002

Published Online: 14 May 2002

Journal compilation © 2009 International Society of Dermatology

### **Lymphocyte subtypes and adhesion molecules in actinic prurigo: observations with cyclosporin A**

Angela Umaña, MPhil , Alberto Gómez, PhD , María Mérida Durán, MD , and Luisa Porras, MD

- A group of 19 patients showed a reduction of CD3, CD4, CD45RA, CD45RO, CD45RB lymphocytes and Langerhans cells, and also LFA-1, ICAM-1 and ELAM-1.
- Patients improved clinically with Cyclosporine A and showed alterations in cells and molecular markers



**Figure 5** Evolution of a patient with actinic prurigo during treatment with cyclosporin A (CsA): (a) before initiation of treatment with CsA; (b) after 2 months of treatment with CsA; (c) 2 months after completion of treatment

- Fragments of a letter thanking her parents after her last publication

“.....thank you for your example of discipline, commitment and seriousness for work”.....

“.....thank you for teaching me that work is the fountain of happiness because it is in perfecting and achieving perfection what produces joy”.....

“.....thank you for teaching me how to enjoy the satisfaction of the job done with excellence...”

## Positions Held

- ISD Secretary General 1989-1999
- ISD Executive Vice-President 1999-2000
- Colombian Dermatology Association Secretary 1978-1980
- Colombian Dermatology Association, President 1986-1988
- Bolivarian Derm Association, Vice-President and President 1983-85, 1989-91 and 1986-88
- Int League of Dermatological Societies, Board of Directors
- Iberian Latin American College of Dermatology, National Delegate
- Honorary member of more than 20 International Dermatol. Societies
- International Journal of Dermatology, Editorial Board





**Academician  
Maria Durán**

- Maria's high standards in academic work and international activities were recognized by many colleagues and important medical authorities which led to her being appointed as a member of the National Academy of Medicine of Colombia



## Maria's social life

- During her multiple congress activities, Maria had plenty of time to interact socially with important figures in International Dermatology.

We see her in these pictures with Dr. Vincent Cipollaro and Prof. Alberto Gianetti



- Maria spent many hours working with other members of the ISD Executive Committee which usually met during dermatologic congresses in different countries, but most of all during the AAD annual meeting



## Maria as the ISD Executive Vice-President

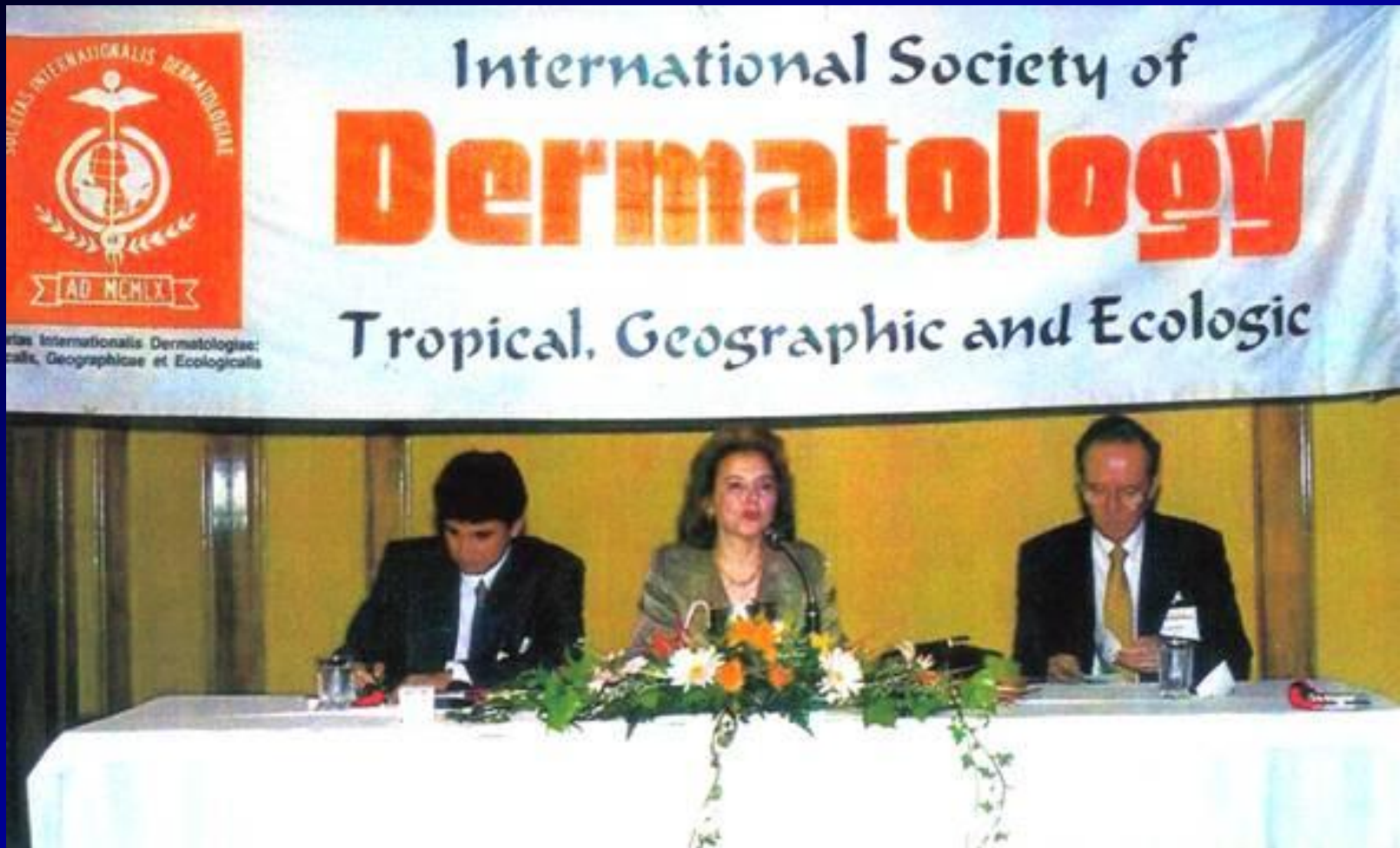
- At the ISD Congress in Egypt, and after 10 years of work as Secretary General, she was appointed as Executive Vice-President of the ISD, a position she held for 2 years until her death.



- Maria was a lovely woman, full of energy for teaching and research, and a master organizer of dermatological meetings. In addition, she played an important role in the ISD on many fronts and administration tasks



- Every person that met Maria had the feeling of her interesting personality; she was kind and nice to people, but above all, dedicated to spread the word of dermatology



- June 24, 2000 - ISD 18th Regional Meeting, Bogotá, Colombia  
Last meeting that Maria organized. This photograph was taken just 2 days before her death

## María Mélida Durán

Su temprana desaparición – en el cenit de su meteórica carrera – no fue obstáculo para dejarnos el mejor de los ejemplos, especialmente para las nuevas generaciones de dermatólogos, a quienes dejó la tarea de continuar impulsando el desarrollo, el decoro y los intereses académicos de la dermatología nacional.



gía, María M. Durán. M.D.  
Jairo Victoria Ch; M.D.

Misa Segundo Aniversario mañana 26 de junio, a las 6 p.m.. Parroquia Cristo Rey (calle 98 No. 18-23)

## Maria Duran decease

- After her passing, much sympathy was given to her family by dermatologists from many countries.
- In Colombia, many of her colleagues expressed their sympathy as well.



## Maria Duran legacy



- Maria Durán died at the early age of 52, with many accomplishments to her credit, but many other things left undone as she departed too early from this world...
- Maria helped to strengthen the ties of many countries with the ISD, contributed to the knowledge of actinic prurigo, promoted dermatological education, and stimulated the role of women in dermatology



Her memories remain with her family and close friends. Her life is a model and example for young dermatologists..

To the  
10th International Congress of Dermatology  
Maria Durán Committee

Dr Maria Durán's family whole heartedly thanks the Committee for the homage that will be done in memory of our beloved Maria in Prague this May, 2009

Sincerely

Jorge Durán (Father)

Mélida de Durán (Mother)

Marcelo Rueda-Durán (Son)

Annabella & Aminta Durán (Sisters)

Vanessa Gómez-Durán & Raúl Motta-Durán (Nephews)

Maria Durán

1948 - 2000