

International League of Dermatological Societies Newsletter

April 2004

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Message from the President

The Board of the ILDS (the International Committee of Dermatology) has been working hard on many areas of ILDS activity since we last sent you a Newsletter a year ago.

A very successful Board meeting was held in Singapore in January this year. As part of this, we participated in a regional meeting of the National Skin Centre in Singapore where there were a large number of registrants from the Asian Pacific Region. This was an example of the ILDS trying to carry out its mandate of being a global organisation responding to the needs of dermatologists throughout the world.

An important topic on which the Board worked in Singapore was the governance of the ILDS. That includes the composition of the Board, the voting process for election to the Board and the representation of our Societies through their Delegates in voting on matters of the ILDS. Some substantial changes have been proposed by the Board and we now are seeking feedback from our Member Societies through a process of consultation.

The Board also reviewed the functions of the Dermlink Grants for Member Societies from developing countries,

the ILDS Awards of outstanding dermatologists throughout the world, and our relationship with the World Health Organisation (WHO) which was due for review. Of course, the major functions of the ILDS, the World Congress of Dermatology in Buenos Aires 2007, and the progress and future directions of the International Foundation for Dermatology in trying to improve the access to dermatological care for people in developing countries, were intensively discussed. The Minutes of our Board meeting are available on our website www.ilds.org.

Each of these areas of work is highlighted briefly in this Newsletter. I hope you have time to read it and pass it on to as many dermatologists who are Members of your Society as possible. In this time of increasing globalisation, there is a need for a body that acts internationally on behalf of dermatologists in the many areas in which dermatological advice and care is required. The ILDS, being the global body for dermatological Societies, has taken up this challenge.

We look forward to continuing our work on your behalf in the future.

Professor Robin Marks

World Health Organisation (WHO) Links

The World Health Organisation has recently reviewed the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) with whom it is in official relations, the ILDS being one of them. We submitted a document detailing all our activities that fit into the guidelines for NGOs in official relations with the WHO. The document was submitted by Professor Jean-Hilaire Saurat, our Board member who is Chairman of

our Commissions and International Health Organisations Committee. Following review, the WHO has confirmed that we continue as an NGO in official relations with them. This is a great feather in our cap for dermatology. We offer our services to the WHO in all aspects of their work on any conditions related to cutaneous diseases.

A New and Long-Term Home for the ILDS

Communications Committee

Have a look at our new website! – www.ilds.org – Professor Wolfram Sterry is Chair of the ILDS Communications Committee and the new website is a reflection of the changes that are occurring in this area. In the long-term, we hope to develop electronic communication pathways with Member Societies. In this way, we shall be able to improve our level of communication in a two-way traffic of updating our Societies on our activities and responding to opinions and suggestions from our Societies in return. For example, this Bulletin, although printed now, is the ideal communication resource that could be sent electronically to our Member Societies, and through them to the dermatologists whom we represent. There is more to come here!



Professor Amal Kurban receives his ILDS Certificate of Appreciation in Washington DC in February 2004 from Professor Robin Marks, ILDS President. Dr Raymond Cornelison, President of the American Academy of Dermatology, watches from behind.

It has been traditional that the administrative office for the ILDS has moved with each new President of the ILDS Board. For example, with the previous two ILDS Presidents, Professor John Strauss and Professor Steve Katz being sited in the United States, the ILDS administrative office was also sited there. At the moment, that ILDS office has been relocated to Melbourne, Australia, where the current ILDS President, Professor Robin Marks, lives and works.

With the increasing complexity of ILDS activities internationally, the Board has agreed that we need a permanent home for both the administrative office and also the accounting services. For the last 2½ terms of the ILDS, the financial services have been undertaken by Dermatology Services Incorporated (DSI) the financial services arm of the American Academy of Dermatology. The ILDS has been grateful for the service received from DSI, especially as it has been charged at a very reasonable rate. However this cannot continue in the long-term.

The Board has sought out a number of sites that might be suitable for a long-term permanent home. After much consideration, it has been agreed that this could be in London, England. All the administrative affairs of the ILDS are in English. The British Association of Dermatologists has been very welcoming in offering space in their administrative offices in central London. A British law firm has been contracted to advise on how the ILDS can be incorporated as a charity in the United Kingdom. This is a lengthy and rather complex process. However, structural foundations like this are critical in the long-term performance of the ILDS as it increases its level of activities. It is anticipated that we should be able to move into our new home within the next 12 months.

Finance Committee

The ILDS Finance Committee, Chaired by Professor Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen, has the brief to examine all financial aspects of ILDS activities. Included in this is the change in policy which has occurred in the last ILDS term whereby 50% of the surplus of World Congresses in future will be remitted back to the ILDS as a source of income to underpin its international activities. To enable high quality financial control, the Board is currently seeking opinions on ways in which it can have more direct input and oversight of the financial aspects of the World Congresses. It is currently looking at various organisations who run their own Congresses and the degree to which the central office of these organisations oversees or directly participates in the structural and financial components of the Congress. A new Policy Manual for Management of the World Congresses of Dermatology will be drawn up by the ILDS Board following consideration of all aspects of Congress management.

International Foundation for Dermatology

The International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) has continued its work on improving health care for patients with skin disease in the developing world, or remote underserved areas, with two new schemes. We started a new collaboration this year with a Mexican dermatology group based in the state of Guerrero, headed by Dr Roberto Estrada Casteñon. The objective of the work of this group is to train doctors, including newly qualified doctors or pasantes, the equivalent of interns in other health care systems or nurses with responsibility for primary health care in rural areas of the State. The programme is designed to provide instruction in diagnosis and management of the commonest dermatoses seen in the rural areas of the State and teaching is patient-centred, based on teams going out from the main centre in Acapulco. Over many years the work of this team has been enhanced by the input of other dermatologists from different parts of Mexico. The group has published widely on community dermatology and health care assessment in relation to skin disease. The collaboration should provide the opportunity to assess the suitability of this approach in other countries in Latin America or elsewhere interested in adopting a similar scheme. A study based in Mali, West Africa, carried out by Drs Antoine Mahé from Senegal and Ousmane Faye from Mali and co-workers, has adopted a novel approach

using a syndromic method of diagnosing and managing common skin diseases. The programme, which has now been formally assessed, has proved an effective way of improving dermatological skills for the management of the commonest diseases facing primary health care teams. The assessment programme, sponsored by the IFD, has now been completed and it will be formally presented in June to the government of the Republic of Mali.

The ILDS wishes to thank our corporate friends who are sponsoring students at the Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshi, Tanzania. The cost of training a Dermatology Officer is \$US7,000 per year, for each of two years. Our thank you goes to L'Oreal, France and Fujisawa, Canada who are each supporting trainees at the RDTC.



Professor Rod Hay, Chairman, IFD

Professor David McLean, Secretary-General, IFD

ILDS Awards

Following a recommendation by the Awards Committee and approval by the Board at its October 2003 meeting, the following people are being awarded the ILDS Certificate of Appreciation:

- Rachel Friedman-Birbaum (Israel)
- William Cunliffe (UK)
- Martin Black (UK)
- Rona MacKie (UK)
- Herschel Zackheim (USA)
- Amal Kurban (USA)
- Stephane Belaich (France)
- Young Pio Kim (Korea)
- Anton Luger (Austria)

Reminder

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of the Awards nomination form for the next round. Please note that the nomination form should be completed and returned to the ILDS office no later than 2 August 2004.



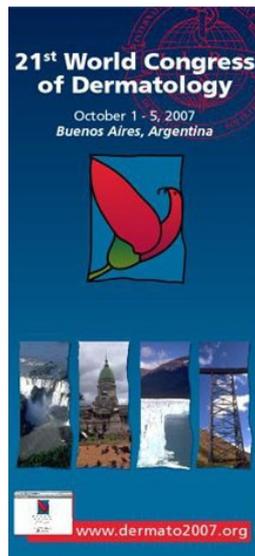
The ILDS had a presence at the "Journées Dermatologiques de Paris – JDP 2003" in Paris, France. Professor Jean Revuz, Chairman ILDS Governance Committee, with Professor Robin Marks, stand in front of a special ILDS poster designed for Dermatology meetings.

The World Congress of Dermatology 1-5 October 2007, Buenos Aires

The infrastructure development necessary to underpin a major World Congress of Dermatology is progressing steadily in Buenos Aires, Argentina in preparation for 2007. The President of the Congress, Professor Ricardo Galimberti, and the Secretary-General, Professor Adrián-Martin Pierini, have been reporting regularly to the ILDS Board on the progress. The Board will be visiting Buenos Aires in October 2004 as a site visit to inspect the structural components of the Congress including the Congress Halls, the accommodation and transport facilities and to meet the local Professional Congress Organiser (PCO).

An important early discussion point has been the cost of registration. A deliberate policy of trying to keep the registration fee at a moderate level, rather than being too expensive, has been agreed on. This will enable as many people as possible from developing countries to participate in the Congress and benefit from the Program.

The Scientific Program Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Professor Georg Stingl. This Committee will collate all the suggestions that we will be seeking from Member Societies for topics, chairs, speakers, and other components that make up the extraordinary range of activities that comprise the World Congress of Dermatology. We shall be seeking your input on this soon. Of course, the Scientific Program will have a Latin American flavour because of the special site of the Congress on this occasion.



Dermlink Grants

The following Societies were awarded Dermlink Grants for 2004.

- Chilean Society of Dermatology
- Dermatology Society of Mauritius
- Nepal Society of Dermatology
- Sri Lanka Association of Dermatologists
- Palestine Dermatological Society, Jerusalem Center
- Pan Arab League of Dermatology
- Philippines General Hospital

Reminder

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of the Dermlink application form for the next round of grants. Please note that the nomination form should be completed and returned to the ILDS office no later than 2 August 2004.

Administrative Office

International League of Dermatological Societies

Department of Dermatology
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
27 Victoria Parade
Fitzroy Victoria 3065 Australia

Tel: (613) 9288 3293

Fax: (613) 9288 3292

Email: rebecca.joss@svhm.org.au

Web: www.ilds.org