



International League of Dermatological Societies Newsletter

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Message from the President

How time flies! It is now over two years since the new Board of the ILDS (The International Committee of Dermatology) commenced its work following the elections in Paris 2002. Much change has been achieved since then.

In this Bulletin you will find brief summaries of some of the areas of activity undertaken by the Board. The League is growing larger and stronger with a lot of thought and long-term planning going into

creating a body that can act globally on behalf of dermatology in this rapidly changing world.

As 2004 draws to a close, we have plenty of things on the agenda to develop further and promote on your behalf in global dermatology. ILDS Board members join me in hoping that you also have had a busy and successful 2004 and we wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

Professor Robin Marks

The Time has Come for a Permanent Office for the ILDS

You might recall the brief comments on a new long-term home for the ILDS that were included in the last ILDS Newsletter in April this year. We have continued to work on this process, which is getting closer and closer to finalisation.

It has been agreed that the permanent office for the ILDS will be in London, England. The British Association of Dermatologists have moved into a new building on Fitzroy Square in London. They have been very welcoming in offering the ILDS space and the ability to have administrative staff in the ILDS office there.

time we shall seek our Member Society approval for the transfer of the office and the incorporation as a charity in the United Kingdom.

As you can imagine, there are lots of things to do. But we have planned well ahead. We look forward to receiving your final approval and support for these long-term changes to underpin the increasing global activities of the League. Don't forget to put the date for the Assembly of Delegates meeting into your diary – the EADV meeting in London, October 2005.

As part of relocation of the office, we are going through the legal process of establishing the ILDS as a charitable organisation in the United Kingdom. We are also working on establishing a new financial service for the League in London associated with the ILDS office.

You will have read that an Assembly of Delegates meeting is necessary to approve the changes to the By-laws of the ILDS allowing the new structure for the Board and the new voting process. At the same

Reminder

If the Officers of your Society change details, it would be most appreciated if you could let the ILDS Administrative office know the new details as soon as possible.

Big Changes Coming to the ILDS Board (The International Committee of Dermatology)

At its recent meeting in Buenos Aires in October 2004, the Board worked on the final changes to the governance of the ILDS and a new election process for members of the Board. Member Societies will recall the proposed changes that we have recommended to allow regional representation on the Board. This is an attempt to have a fair distribution and input into the work of the League by our members from all regions of the world. There are also substantial changes proposed to the election process to allow a more equitable participation of our Member Societies in the process that results in election of both regional members and international members to the Board.

We received many comments from our Member Societies on the proposed recommendations. Virtually all of them were positive in supporting the recommendations. A few minor amendments were suggested and the vast majority of these have been incorporated into the final changes for which we are going to seek your approval.

The proposals require major changes to our By-laws. Therefore, we shall need an Interim Assembly of Delegates meeting to have our Member Societies vote to approve the changes that have been agreed upon. The Interim Assembly of Delegates Meeting will be at the EADV meeting in London in October 2005.

We shall be writing to you early in the New Year to have you nominate your voting Delegates, based on the number of dermatologists in your Society. We shall keep you informed of the arrangements and all the details so that we are able to meet you and host the Assembly of Delegates meeting next year.

It is a very exciting time. We are very pleased about the positive reception that we have received to the changes we have recommended. We look forward to the formalisation of this process at the EADV meeting in London in October 2005. Put that date in your diary now!

IFD News - An International Workshop in Atlanta, USA 13/14 September 2004



A planning meeting of key players in dermatology in developing countries organised by the International Foundation for Dermatology, Atlanta, Georgia, September 2004.

There are now a number of community dermatology programs, all of which have adopted the approach of using education to improve the standard of skills at primary care level. They include a focused training scheme for medical officers and future leaders in Africa based on the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Moshi Tanzania, a rural and urban program developed in Mali and the Dermatologia Comunitaria program in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. All these initiatives are linked by working with or through the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) either as discrete programs or as partnerships with other national or international organizations.

In a recent IFD workshop in Atlanta which brought together key workers from dermatology with both medical or nursing backgrounds, parasitology, tropical medicine and public health a number of important decisions over future directions for work in health improvement of skin conditions were reached.

There is an urgent need for an updated analysis of the current status and evidence-base for the effectiveness of common dermatological treatments for scabies delivered at community level. This is required for the development of rational schemes for the control of this common infestation and its complications.

The development of a simple diagnostic scheme for recognition of potential AIDS cases through changes in the skin and mucosal surfaces would be of great benefit at primary care level in countries that are adequately resourced to cope if cases are to be detected in this way. This could be developed alongside other detection or screening strategies.

Development of regimens targeting skin health as a means of preventing or ameliorating a range of other diseases through skin antisepsis and cleansing protocols should form the basis of a concerted program of new work. These would have a potential impact from morbidity control in lymphatic filariasis to the management of tropical ulcer and pyoderma.

Regional initiatives will be developed with international dermatology collaboration for a range of local problems from the complications of albinism in Africa to chronic photodermatitis amongst the American Indians and would be informed by *cont'd on p3*

From p2 focused research on prevention.

Over the two days in Atlanta the group analysed in great depth the potential benefits of extending a global programme for the improvement of skin disease in disadvantaged communities. The proposals developed by the group will now be taken forward by international and national dermatology organizations working closely together to achieve a common goal.

Professor Rod Hay
Chairman, IFD



Dr Roberto Estrada, Professor Rod Hay, Professor Robin Marks, Dr Guadeloupe Chavez, Professor Henning Grossman; Ms Rebecca Penzer at the IFD Planning meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, September 2004.

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



A Wonderful Congress Site and an Exciting Scientific Program

The most recent Board meeting of the ILDS was held in Buenos Aires at the beginning of October this year (2004). The meeting was held not only to conduct the business of the League, but also to allow a site inspection for the 2007 World Congress of Dermatology. The Board inspected the Congress Centre; spoke to the Congress Organisers; got a feel for the wonderful city of Buenos Aires, its hotels, its transport, its safety, its delights such as its food and wine; and other special flavours of the region. They also examined the exciting possibilities for visits to other parts of Argentina and surrounding countries.

The visit was an outstanding success. The Congress Centre is a wonderful complex of buildings that are centred around what has now been restored and adapted from an early 20th century equine market. There is a large range of buildings that are easily adaptable to the needs of a Congress the size of the World Congress of Dermatology. The layout is ideal for easy movement between plenary sessions, breakout sessions, poster displays and trade displays. You won't get lost on this Congress Site!

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The Board of the League, plus the local organisers, on the site of the 21st WCD in Buenos Aires, October 2004.



Inspecting the Congress Hall plans on site in Buenos Aires.

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The Board also worked on the structure and topics to be included in the Scientific Program. They incorporated all the suggestions made by our Member Societies as a result of the input that we sought from you earlier in the year. We had a wonderful response from our Member Societies to enable us to develop a Program that will be truly embracing and attractive to all dermatologists throughout the world.

Each World Congress of Dermatology has its own special flavour. There will be a special Latin American flavour to the 2007 WCD.

There is much exciting potential in the developments that are occurring as the full program unfolds.

October 2007 may seem far away, especially as we concentrate on our day-to-day activities. Nevertheless, time is flying past. It won't be long before we will be sending out to you the Early Announcement with details of the Scientific Program. We are sure that you will be pleased with what we can see is going to be an innovative, exciting and informative Program in all aspects of dermatology that will attract you to Buenos Aires in October 2007.

A New Project of the ILDS – A Global Definition of Dermatovenereology

One of the areas of concern that we have had expressed to us often by Member Societies, or by individual dermatologists, is the gradual loss of areas of practice that are traditionally thought to be dermatological. It is not only organisations such as government or health insurance companies that are telling dermatologists that they can't treat certain conditions. Even other members of the medical profession are claiming that they are the ones to treat various conditions that have been always looked after by dermatologists. Examples include allergology, surgery or infectious diseases.

With this mind, the ILDS Board has initiated a new project, under the Chairmanship of Professor Wolfram Sterry - Defining Dermatovenereology. We plan to seek from our Member Societies details of what conditions are treated by dermatologists in their countries. We shall also be seeking details of what training and qualifications dermatologists have in providing care for people affected by skin conditions. No doubt there will be differences between countries. Nevertheless, it is expected that there will be a core of activities which are central to all dermatologists throughout the world.

From the information we receive, we shall develop a clear definition of what conditions dermatologists treat and the training that a dermatologist has to qualify them for the services that they offer.

An example of this type of activity is the "White Book" produced by the European Dermatology Forum. It lays out details of what a dermatologist does in Europe. A new edition of the EDF "White Book" will be coming out soon. We don't want to reinvent the wheel. No doubt we shall be using that document as an important resource. We shall build on the substantial information that it contains as we try to compile a global view of dermatological practice.

We are under no illusion that this is going to be an easy task. There is a huge amount of information to gather and a lot of

broad thinking required to condense it into something that is worthwhile. If successful it will provide a benchmark that dermatologists around the world can use in what is described by so many as their constant "battle to maintain the turf".



Professor Georg Stingl chairing the Scientific Program development with the International Committee of Dermatology, Buenos Aires, October 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