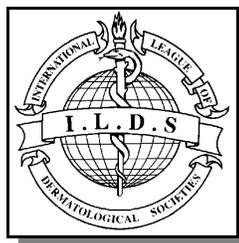

International League of Dermatological Societies

News from the International Committee of Dermatology

May 2001



*International League
of Dermatological
Societies*

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Message from the ILDS President

For some time now we have wanted to provide an opportunity for the International Committee of Dermatology (ICD) and International Foundation of Dermatology (IFD) to witness, first-hand, the accomplishments of those who have worked so hard to establish the Regional Dermatology Training Center in Moshi, Tanzania. In January a majority of committee members, at their own expense, made the trip to Africa for our annual committee meetings and were rewarded with an introduction to the programs, facilities and students of the RDTC as well as to the challenges of continuing success. Details are provided in the following IFD Update article.

A number of important issues were discussed in Moshi: the ICD nominations process, ILDS By-Laws changes, selection of Dermatologists Link grants, and more. A summary of committee decisions and details about other ICD activities appear in the following pages. Comments from Member and Affiliate Member Societies are welcome.

Just prior to our January meetings, members of the ICD and IFD were deeply saddened to learn of the loss of our colleague, Maria Duran. She was elected to the ICD in 1992 and enthusiastically served on a number

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International Foundation of Dermatology Update: 2001

At the beginning of this year, the International Foundation of Dermatology (IFD) consolidated its activities that began in Africa over 13 years ago. In 1987, there were 25 countries in Africa with no dermatologists. Any Africans who did train as a dermatologist either emigrated, or opted to work in urban-based private practice. On the other hand, the vast majority of common skin problems in Africa occur in rural areas. Therefore, the needs of Africa's huge community for skin care remained largely unmet. In this context the IFD decided to establish a Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshi, Tanzania. The aim was to provide education for allied health workers, from East African countries initially, so

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“Message from the ILDS President”

of ICD and IFD subcommittees and task forces. We recall with gratitude the part she played in committee projects over the past nine years, in particular her leadership as chair of the ad hoc “Role of Women in Dermatology” committee. She will be missed.

Stephen I. Katz, MD, PhD
ILDS President

Ten Recognized for Contributions to Worldwide Dermatology

The International Committee of Dermatology is pleased to announce the names of ten notables who will be honored with ILDS Certificates of Appreciation in 2001. The ICD annually recognizes individuals who have made important contributions to the field of international dermatology. To the extent possible, Certificates will be presented to the awardees in plenary sessions of forthcoming regional, national or international meetings.

Named for their career-long excellence in service to international dermatology are: **Otto Braun-Falco, Robin Eady, Alexander Fisher, Thomas B. Fitzpatrick, Malcolm Greaves, Atsushi Kukita, Aaron Lerner, Arturo Tapia, Jean Thivolet, and Raul Vignale.**

The ICD congratulates the honorees on their outstanding achievements and recognition by these awards.

Share ICD News With Society Members

Keeping Member and Affiliate Member Societies apprised of ICD activities has always been a challenge – and informing the individual dermatologists who are members of each society would be quite impossible without your help. We urge you to copy any or all of the information contained in this newsletter and share it with your membership. It is our hope that information reaches as large an audience as possible. We will very much appreciate your assistance in this endeavor.

Important Addresses

ILDS Secretariat

P.O. Box 35069
 Sarasota, FL 34242 USA
 Fax: 1-941-927-1936
 E-mail: mtgmgr@gte.net

ICD Officers

President:

Stephen I. Katz, MD, PhD

Secretary-General:

Takeji Nishikawa, MD

Treasurer:

Robin Marks, MBBS

Use the address, fax and e-mail numbers of the **ILDS Secretariat** to communicate with the ICD officers.

IFD

Chairman:

Professor Terence J. Ryan, MD
 Oxford Brookes University
 Oxford Ctr. for Healthcare Research
 44 London Road
 Headington, Oxford OX3 7PD, UK
 Fax: 44 1865 485 297
 E-mail: tryan@brookes.ac.uk

Secretary:

Ramon Ruiz-Maldonado, MD
 Professor of Dermatology
 Puente de Piedra 150-221
 Col Toriello Guerra
 Tlalpan, DF, Mexico CP 14050
 Fax: 52 5 606 63 65
 E-mail: rrm@servidor.unam.mx

International Skin-Care Nursing Group Formed

The newly established organization, International Skin-Care Nursing Group (ISNG), is working with the IFD in providing expert nursing advice to the IFD skin hygiene program and the WHO lymphatic filariasis (LF) elimination program. The ISNG is based at the University of Southampton in Great Britain and has employed a full-time project worker using funds obtained from SmithKline Beecham and the British Government. The main goal of the ISNG is to improve the provision of skin care nursing worldwide. This is to be achieved through establishing networks of interested parties and through contribution to key public health initiatives such as the LF elimination program. Ultimately the group aims to have an elected committee that will be able to influence policy and practice in skin care nursing at an international level.

Three successful international meetings have already been held and, as a result, the networks are growing stronger with key links throughout Europe, Africa, Australia and the United States. Website development is underway and a nursing workshop is planned for the World Congress in Paris, 2002. This will provide an ideal platform for debate and discussion on the role of dermatology nursing in the future. At this meeting the officially elected committee of the ISNG will be announced.

The ISNG sees collaboration as a key part of its work and looks forward to a productive relationship with all other health care professionals. Anyone interested in finding out more about the group should contact Rebecca Penzer at R.H.Penzer@soton.ac.uk

ILDS Website Expands

A new section of the ILDS website (www.ILDS.org) will feature a Meetings Calendar to include Member Society and Affiliate Member Society international congresses and other educational opportunities. To make this as comprehensive as possible **we need your help!** Please send by e-mail to the ILDS Administrative Office (mtgmgr@gte.net) the following information about your society's meetings:

1. Name of meeting
2. Name of sponsoring organization
3. Dates and location of meeting
4. Address (including email and/or website address) where further information may be obtained.

Actions from the January ICD Meeting

- Accepted the Affiliate Member Society membership application of the International Society for Cutaneous Lymphoma.
- Approved a contribution of \$50,000 to the IFD to assist in funding a faculty hostel at the RDTC in Moshi.
- Agreed to offer to Member and Affiliate Member Societies the opportunity to list their meetings on the ILDS website.
- Named awardees of ILDS Certificates of Appreciation. (See article on page 2.)
- Approved ILDS co-sponsorship of the 4th (Estonia, 2003) and 5th (Lithuania, 2005) Baltic Association of Dermatovenerology congresses.
- Awarded Dermatologists Link grants to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (application submitted by the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine), the National Hospital of Sri Lanka Department of Dermatology (application from the Sri Lanka Association), the Limassol General Hospital Department of Dermatology (application from the Cyprus Society), the Instituto de Ciencias de la Salud CES (application from the Colombian Association), and the Zagreb University Hospital (from the Croatian Society.)

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“IFD Update: 2001”

that they could deliver some level of dermatological care to their local community on return to their own country.

The RDTC, which is a Collaborating Centre with the World Health Organisation for Dermatology, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Leprosy, is situated in Northern Tanzania almost on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. Within the campus where the RDTC is sited is a regional hospital, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, with its Medical School and Nursing School, and the associated Tumanu University Medical College.

In the year 2000, the RDTC admitted its 100th allied health worker for the Advanced Diploma in Dermatovenereology of the University of Dar es Salaam. Although the initial aim was to provide education for workers from East Africa, the countries served over the last eight years have included Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotha, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The vast majority of students coming through the course are not medical practitioners, but our first medical practitioner to graduate in the course has now returned to Ghana as the first of the IFD Community Dermatologists. We now have places for three medical practitioners to be admitted annually for the four year Master of Medicine in Dermatology course. In other words, we have come a long way since 1987.

In January 2001, the International Committee of Dermatology (ICD) and the Board of Directors of the IFD held their annual meetings in Moshi. This was associated with a CME program for 54 graduates returning from many countries throughout Africa and was supported by a grant of \$20,000 from the ICD. The CME program followed immediately after the ICD/IFD meetings. Also visiting were representatives of the Tuscan rotary clubs from Northern Italy who are providing support for the RDTC albino program.

With the increasing student intake, the medical practitioner intake, and also the service provided by

the RDTC, we are getting to a stage where the medical faculty is becoming hard pressed. Although there is a core group of full time medical practitioners, volunteer medical staff are desperately needed. We have been fortunate in having several helpful visitors during the year. An example being the volunteer leprosy teaching by Ben Naafs from the Netherlands, who stays with us from January to April each year. We hope that dermatologists throughout the world might see this as an opportunity to spend time away from their normal work environment. At the same time, they can contribute in a voluntary capacity to the work of the RDTC and thus provide some measure of care for the people of this vast continent who are so much in need.

Housing and some travel costs can be provided. New housing for the faculty is currently being developed. This year the ICD has given a grant of \$50,000 towards this top priority of new housing. It complements a contribution of \$25,000 from the Society of Paediatric Dermatology. We are now able to complete accommodation adequate for the needs of visiting medical faculty and others for the coming years.

A major decision of the IFD board at its meeting this year was to continue its focus on the RDTC in Moshi for the time being. Of course, it is still open to any suggestions for other programs and through its many collaborations is able to contribute to practice or policy in such programs as the “Elimination of Disease” program of the WHO.

Pilot Mali Study

Another initiative of the IFD Board was to support a new development in Mali, West Africa - a Francophone project in the fight against common skin diseases. It was initiated by John Thivolet a decade ago and will be the IFD's second major contribution to the needs of Africa. Dr. Antoine Mahe has been appointed to direct the program, supported by senior specialists in Mali, Professor Somita Keita, Doctors Ousmane Faye and Hawa Thiam N'Diaye. A subcommittee, chaired by Professor Rod Hay, includes Professors Jean Revuz,

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“IFD Update: 2001”

Terence Ryan, Kristian Thestrup-Petersen and Ramon Ruiz Maldonado will oversee its development and implementation.

Several recent studies have been conducted in the Bamako area in West Africa. The Malian health authorities, both dermatological and otherwise, have repeatedly expressed their interest in a public health approach to the problem of common skin disease. This context has allowed the proposal of a well-structured pilot study to be undertaken in Mali. During a meeting in October, the Bamako area was identified as the area of choice for such a project.

The *general* objective of the program is to improve the skin health of a population living in the Bamako area through promoting access to basic dermatological care. The *specific* objectives of the pilot program are to:

- Focus on “priority skin diseases”; including scabies, pyoderma, tinea capitis, and leprosy, among others. These diseases are not only the most common, they are frequently undiagnosed and inadequately treated. Thus they represent a major burden of cutaneous disease to the population.
- Promote action at each step of the health system; training health professionals (the target being all first level prescribers belonging to community or public health system, medical doctors, midwives and nurses); ensuring that essential dermatological drugs are accessible at the most peripheral end of drug distribution; and if possible, promoting prevention of some of the common diseases in the general population.

The program is being developed as one of low cost, that is short and simple, but with sufficient information delivered in a way which is ample to supply the educational needs of the community. One of the major aims of this project is not only to test its applicability to the Mali/Bamako area, but also to see whether it is generalisable to other developing countries.

So, in summary, it has been an exciting year for the IFD. Major decisions about future projects have been made in a way which will allow them to be developed, delivered, evaluated and, if successful, promoted in other countries. It is not so many years since 1987, but it is clear that enormous progress has been made. We are looking forward to the future as we fulfil the principal mission of the IFD which is to improve dermatological care particularly in rural areas of developing countries.

New Mailing Address for ICD/ILDS

Please note the new mailing address for the ICD and ILDS office, below:

(The fax and email numbers did not change.)

International League of Dermatological Societies
P.O. Box 35069
Sarasota, Florida, 34242 USA
FAX: 1-941-927-1936
Email: mtgmgr@gte.net

Guidelines for Organization of the World Congress

A 14-page booklet providing information about hosting a future World Congress of Dermatology – the facilities that are needed, the invitational process and the organizational aspects of program development and financial planning – is available to Member and Affiliate Member Societies from the ILDS Secretariat at the following address:

P. O. Box 35069, Sarasota, FL 34242 USA
FAX: 1-941-927-1936
Email: mtgmgr@gte.net.

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“Actions from the January ICD Meeting”

- Agreed that for the 2002 election, the call for nominations will outline the criteria for nominations and explain how the committee will develop the final slate. The ILDS By-Laws state that societies may nominate up to 12 individuals; however, it was felt that societies should be encouraged to list fewer names (as few as three) in order to indicate their true preferences for candidates. Nominations must include a one-page CV for each listed individual.
- Recommended the following By-Law change for the 2007 election: Each Member Society may nominate up to three persons (up to two from their own society) for election to the ICD, and from the resulting list the ICD will select a slate of nominees.
- Voted to require hosts of the World Congress of Dermatology (WCD), beginning with the WCD in 2007, to remit to the ILDS a per capita fee (currently \$25) for each fee-paying medical or scientific registrant – plus 50% of the net surplus of the congress, to be calculated after paying the per capita fee. Funds partially support ILDS programs for the five years between congresses, including the provision of contributions to dermatology in developing countries (Dermatologists Link) and the IFD.
- Made further By-Laws revisions that will be recommended to the Assembly of Delegates during the July 2002 WCD meeting in Paris. The most notable of these changes would be to schedule a World Congress of Dermatology every four (4) years after the 2007 congress.
- Approved “Guidelines for Organization of the World Congress of Dermatology”, to be sent to societies which have expressed interest in hosting the next WCD, and to others upon request.

The next meeting of the ICD will take place in February 2002, at the time of the American Academy of Dermatology meeting in New Orleans.

Time for Selection of Delegates Nears

Forms on which to name Delegates to the Assembly of Delegates meetings in Paris will be mailed to the Secretary of each Member Society and Affiliated Member Society in mid-July 2001. Each Member Society and Affiliate Member Society is entitled to be represented by one Delegate, and Member Societies which have more than 100 society members may select additional Delegates on the basis of a formula outlined in the ILDS By-Laws. Further information, including the specific number of Delegates your Society may name, will accompany the form.

Share ICD News with Your Society Members

Member and Affiliate Member Societies are urged to copy any or all of the information contained in this newsletter for distribution to their members.

Reminder to Members: Keep your Society Officers' Addresses Updated

Please remember to keep the ILDS Administrative Office informed of any changes in your society officers (President, Secretary, and Treasurer). To assure that your society receives timely information about ICD and IFD activities, particularly about the Assembly of Delegates and the ICD nominations process, we ask that you keep us up-to-date.

You can check your current address listing on the ILDS website (www.ILDS.org) and let us know if your record needs to be changed. Please send changes to the ILDS Secretariat at mtgmgr@gte.net or by mail or fax to the Secretariat address on page five. Please include the name, mailing address, phone/fax, and email address of your President, Secretary, and Treasurer – and for your permanent society office or secretariat. Also, provide the month and year when Officers will again change.