



The International League of Dermatological Societies - Newsletter

ISSUE NO 03 / 13 - I

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the President	1
Official relations WHO	1
WCD 2015 Builds Momentum	2
World Skin Health Day	3
Call for expressions of interest	4
Report CME Conference	5
ILDS Certificate of Appreciation	6
Members Corner	6

23RD World Congress of Dermatology

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The 23RD World Congress of Dermatology will take place in Vancouver on June 8-13, 2015. We are very excited about the momentum that is building for this Congress, and greatly appreciate all the input that has been provided by ILDS member societies such as yours. The quadrennial WCD is one of the ILDS's premier events and we would like to build on the successes of the last several Congresses.

The dates for the 23RD WCD have been carefully selected to minimize any potential conflict with major international dermatology meetings, religious holidays, and observances. In order to make it easier for your members to attend the 23RD WCD, the ILDS would like to request that member societies avoid scheduling large national or international

meetings between mid-May and mid-July 2015.

We know that national societies usually plan their meetings one or more years in advance, and hope that you will take this special request into account during your planning process. The ILDS and the Vancouver 2015 WCD team look forward to interacting with you and your members in the lead up to the next World Congress of Dermatology.

Sincerely,

Wolfram Sterry
President, ILDS

We are delighted to report to all our Societies that our "Official Relations" status with WHO has been reviewed and retained

Professor J-H. Saurat
Immediate Past President, The International League of Dermatological Societies, London

Dear Professor Saurat,

In accordance with exchanges between our organizations last year, the WHO Executive Board reviewed the report of our collaboration at its 132nd session. I am pleased to inform you that the Board decided to maintain The International League of Dermatological Societies in official relations with the World Health Organization. In making its decision, the Board commended the continuing dedication of the organization you represent in support of the work of **WHO**.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my thanks to the members of **The International League of Dermatological Societies** for their work with WHO. I hope that our activities continue to be as fruitful. In this connection, please contact Dr K. Weerasuriya, Medical Officer, Medicines Access and Rational Use, who serves as the Designated Technical Officer for our relations, to pursue implementation of our plan for collaboration or, as the case may be, agreement on such a plan.

Yours sincerely,

Dr E. Renganathan
Director a.i.
Partnerships



WCD 2015 Builds Momentum

Momentum is building in the planning of the 2015 World Congress of Dermatology in Vancouver. This will mark the first time that the World Congress takes place in Canada, and it is expected that over 15,000 dermatologists from around the world will gather for the 23RD World Congress. We are pleased to announce the appointments of Prof. David McLean as Senior Advisor and Prof. Neil Shear as the Free Communications Chair for the WCD. Both Dr. McLean and Dr. Shear bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Committee and are excited to be involved in this momentous project. We are pleased with how the meeting is taking shape and look forward to welcoming the ILDS Board for their site visit in June and to share with them our vision for this *Global Celebration of Dermatology*.

We are also very proud to announce Pierre Fabre Dermo-Cosmétique (PFDC) as our first official Silver Sponsor. Partnering with top level sponsors such as Pierre Fabre Dermo

-Cosmétique helps to ensure that the Congress continues to attract and showcase the best in the world of Dermatology and leading edge technology and treatments.

In March we had the pleasure of meeting our colleagues at the American Academy of Dermatology Conference in Miami. We hosted a cocktail reception and provided a sneak preview for delegates as to what's in store for 2015 with a special WCD 2015 Countdown & Preview Symposium which featured dermatologists from around the world presenting state-of-the-art lectures. Our special three-hour symposium highlighted cosmetic, medical and surgical dermatology. Dermatologists were able to get a taste of what they can expect in Vancouver in 2015. Our continued goal is to build awareness of the value of global knowledge sharing. A big thank you to our colleagues at the American Academy of Dermatology for providing us with the space for our exhibit and time for our preview symposium.



We invite you to join us for our next WCD 2015 Preview Symposium at the 9th Asian Dermatological Congress taking place in Hong Kong in July of this year. Stay tuned for more information.

As we build up our contact database, we encourage you to contact the Congress Secretariat at: info@derm2015.org. Please send us your name, mailing and email addresses, so that we can update you on our progress and news. For more information, visit our website at: www.derm2015.org.

Jerry Shapiro, MD, President
Harvey Lui, MD, Secretary-General



American Academy of Dermatology



Prof. David McLean



Prof. Neil Shear



Introducing The World Skin Health Day, a new initiative for 2013

The **World Skin Health Day** has been conceptualized to strengthen and recognise the importance of skin disease in the life of communities. It has been proposed as a collaboration between the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and the International Society of Dermatology (ISD).

The phrase "Community Dermatology" is often used to describe this approach. For some it may be a program designed to provide specialized medical expertise to rural, marginalized communities but for others it may be a sun protection initiative. However the outcome of each programme is similar in that it allows inexpensive but effective treatment or preven-

tive measures to reach a wider group of patients who otherwise might not attend for consultation. Global Skin Health Day is a means of drawing attention to the importance of skin health in every one's lives.

Many dermatological societies already hold action days in which members carry out differing tasks from mole checks and sun awareness to community clinics in remote areas. The nature of these activities is determined by the needs of the populations served by the society and the practicalities of undertaking wider interventions. However the choice of project has been very much left to the individual societies to tailor to the needs

of their local communities.

Several member societies have already responded with the details of their intended day that they will label "World Skin Health Day" and, as we anticipated, the dates of the WSHD will vary from nation to nation. But we hope that all our members might consider changing or co-branding the name of an already planned activity unless they foresee undertaking something new. We believe that World Skin Health Day would provide a boost to the public image of dermatology as well as sending a clear message that we are united in the desire to improve the cutaneous well-being of our patients and the communities in which they live.

OUR BIG CHALLENGES:

To recognise that the care of skin disease in the wider community is an intrinsic part of the work of dermatologists

To improve the care of skin conditions for those in need

To help communities to take responsibility for the health of their skin

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:

We hope that all Members of the ILDS will join us either with an existing program, opting to continue with what they have been doing and just inform us of the preferred date for 2013 or they may start something new. Some Societies already have well established examples, eg conducting volunteer dermatological missions or education programmes to underserved sectors of their communities such as the poor or migrant communities.

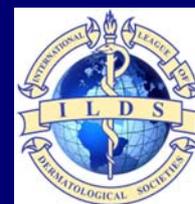
Others undertake teaching/educational initiatives either directed at health care workers or community groups covering such general skin health topics as scabies, sun protection, skin cancer prevention and general skin care and hygiene.

If the initial programme for 2013 is a success we might all decide in future that we should choose a specific day every year. But for the first occasion we have decided to leave the choice of a date open to all who wish to participate.

Please send us, if possible, a copy to admin2@ilds.org of any materials that you are using for your **WORLD SKIN HEALTH DAY** in 2013.

Steering Committee

Claire Fuller
Vangee Handog
Roderick Hay
Abdul-Ghani Kibbi
Jorge Ocampo-Candini
Terence Ryan
Wolfram Sterry



Societies which have already expressed an interest

Algerian Society of Dermatology	Mexican Academy of Dermatology
American Academy of Dermatology	Peruvian Society of Dermatology
British Association of Dermatologists	Philippine Dermatological Society
Bulgarian Dermatological Society	Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology
Chinese Society of Dermatology	Society of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists of Nepal (SODVELON)
Czech Dermatovenereology Society	Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology
Dermatological Society of Malaysia	Swiss Society of Dermatology & Venerology
European Society of Contact Dermatitis	Taiwanese Dermatological Association
French Society of Dermatology	The Australasian College of Dermatologists
German Dermatological Society	Tunisian Society of Dermatology and Venereology
Indian Society of Tele dermatology	Turkish Society of Dermatology
Latvian Association of Dermatologists	Women's Dermatologic Society
Lebanese Society of Dermatology	



Abdul-Ghani Kibbi, Vangee Handog, Claire Fuller, Wolfram Sterry

Call for expressions of interest

The International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) wishes to commission a project that will involve reviewing the current status of the global epidemiology of skin disease and developing a strategy document to identify and develop the grand challenges facing dermatology. Candidates are likely to have a background of epidemiology, health policy, public health, dermatology or statistics. This is suitable for a whole or part-time position for twelve months.

Expressions of interest should be received no later than 10th April, 2013 addressed to:

Eve Arnold
Chief Administrative Officer
The International League of Dermatological Societies
admin@ilds.org



Report from 18th CME Conference at Regional Dermatology Training Centre, Moshi

9-11th January 2013



Dr Claire Fuller Medical Director of IFD

This conference which has taken place annually since the commencement of the Advanced Diploma of Dermatovenerology Programme, was held once again in Moshi, Tanzania in the foot hills of Mount Kilimanjaro. The aim of the conference is to provide a relevant and focused update to the past graduates as well as provide stimulating education on tropical dermatovenerology to interested international clinicians attending the meeting. This year did not disappoint: The Conference covered 15 Sessions with a total of 30 speakers. 181 participants attended from 19 countries of which 10 were African countries. It was also great to welcome back over 80 of the past graduates.

As well as attracting the past graduates, a party from the American Academy of Dermatology participated including the President, Dr Dan Siegel, Eileen Murray, Executive Director and Jennifer Thomson, Senior Manager for Education. The visit was organised by a former AAD President and ILDS Board member, David Pariser

In addition Prof. Wolfram Sterry, president of the International League of Dermatological Societies introduced the ILDS Board to the meeting before they paid a visit to the facilities of the centre. The board had travelled out to Tanzania to hold its annual meeting there and to take the opportunity to review the progress and developments at the Regional Dermatology Training Centre, one of the key flagships of the ILDS work through its International Foundation for Dermatology.

The programme was diverse and there were too many excellent presentations to cover them all with justice but a particular favourite of mine was a great session on the achievements of the Albino outreach programme at the RDTC, started many years ago, but blossoming even more, following the addition of a vocational training programme for albino patients. These individuals can now learn skills that enable them to earn a living out of the sun undertaking such roles as dressmaking.

This programme compliments the already well established care programme for management of skin cancers and sun protection for this group. Additionally we heard about an exciting project which involves making sun screens on site, currently a collaboration with a Spanish group led by pharmacist, Mafalda Soto.

We also heard a wonderful presentation from Dr Isabel Casas from Patagonia who has been in-

involved in establishing a community dermatology programme amongst the Mapuche Indians in rural underserved communities of Argentina. Her dynamism and enthusiasm were impressive.

Dr Martin Ageyi gave in his first international presentation a very interesting and practical account of how he has set up an informal teledermatology network with some international consultant dermatology "friends". He shared with us the highs and lows and some of the amazing cases he has seen and discussed over cyberspace with his teledermatology team.

None of the achievements of the RDTC could have been possible without the generosity of many donors. In particular the International League of Dermatological Societies continues to be the main supporter but in addition many societies provide on-going generous financial contribution specifically for this great cause. We are

most grateful for this backing and hope that this report provides some evidence and encouragement that all is worthwhile.



Dr Isabel Casas, Professor Rod Hay, Professor Terence Ryan, Dr Martin Ageyi



Mafaldo introduces the benefits of sunscreen at an early age



ILDS Certificate of Appreciation

Award recipient

Andrzej Wlodosimierz Langner

The Polish Dermatological Society, founded in 1921, has almost 2900 active members. In September 2012, 30th National Dermatological Congress was organized. During Opening Ceremony Prof. Dr. Andrzej Langner received ILDS 2012 Certificate of Appreciation. It was a great honour for Polish dermatologists.



Members' Corner

Indian Society of Teledermatology



Observation of World Leprosy Day 2013 observed on 30.01.2013 in India

1. World Leprosy Day was observed on 30th Jan 2013 at Thanjavur Medical College Hospital, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

The event comprised of:

- CME on "Recent trends in the management of Hansen's Disease"
- Distribution of blankets & Micro Cellular Rubber slippers to Leprosy patients.
- Distribution of handouts on Hansen's Disease printed in Tamil, to patients of the hospital and the audience of the event to create awareness.

2. On the 30th of January, Prof. Pragma Nair HOD, Dept of Skin & VD Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, has diagnosed and suggested treatment for Hansen's Disease patients from remote village in Gujarat, through teleconsultation. Observation of World Leprosy Day 2013 by The Indian Association of Dermatology Venereology and Leprosy-Chennai City Branch [IADVL CCB] World Leprosy Day was observed on 30th Jan 2013 at Madras Medical College and Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai.

The event comprised of:

- CME on Leprosy- Guest Lecture on "Immunology of Leprosy"- Prof. Jayakar Thomas, International Society of Teledermatology and National President INSTEAD
- Distribution of gifts to Leprosy patients.

Observation of Global Skin Health Day at International Dermatology Update-2013

International Dermatology Update-2013 organized by INSTED partnered by The IADVL CCB observed "Global Skin Health Day" on 02.02.2013, at Chennai. A CME was conducted on "Acne"

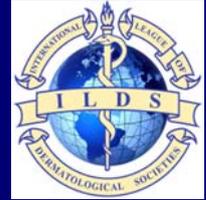
Prof. Jayakar Thomas, International President of International Society of Tele dermatology & National President INSTED, gave In Hall Lecture on Hormonal Acne.

Dr. Sabitha Lakshmi Narayanan, Consultant, South Tayside District Hospital, Locum Specialty Doctor, Leeds, [UK], spoke on Oral Retinoids in the management of Acne.

Prof. S. Sacchidanand, from Bangalore, spoke live through skype on "Newer trends in the procedural management of acne or acne scar"

The event was attended by Heads of Post graduate Institutes, Professors, associate Professors, Assistant Professors, post graduate students and internists.

Association of Cutaneous Surgeons



The roots of the Association of Cutaneous Surgeons of India was formed in 1995 with the aim to develop aesthetic judgement based on ethical practice of cutaneous surgery with the grounding in cutaneous biology and clinical dermatology and to improve the quality of the cutaneous surgery training in the country.

The Association conducts an annual 3-day conference at various centres in India in addition to Zonal conferences in various parts of our vast country. These conferences are attended by members from India as well as countries in the surrounding region. Month-long Fellowships in Dermatologic Surgery are provided to members free of cost at five centres all over the country and it is ensured that all applicants are adjusted at the various centres. In addition, the ACS(I) runs a mentorship programme wherein members can choose a senior dermatologic surgeon as mentor. Members are also eligible for Research grants and Innovation awards started to encourage the growth of the speciality. Members are provided legal assistance on medico-legal issues and also assistance regarding setting up clinics and purchase of lasers and other machines from experts.

The Official Journal, the Journal of Cutaneous and Aesthetic Surgery (www.jcasonline.com), is a quarterly Pubmed Indexed journal and is the first dedicated to this speciality in India. It is offered free of cost to members and is open access online throughout the world. Members are also offered free .pdf access to SKINMED and Journal of Drugs in Dermatology through reciprocal arrangement. An ACS(I) Newsletter is also published twice a year for information of members regarding the various activities of the Association. Patient information material on various

dermatologic surgical procedures are available for members to download and use freely. A multiauthor 952-page textbook with 105 authors and 69 chapters [ACS(I) Textbook of Cutaneous and Aesthetic Surgery] with Dr Venkataram Mysore as Editor-in-Chief has been published by the Association which is provided to members at a discount. Other online facilities are a free online directory of members and a free online first of its kind software and Registry of Dermatological Procedures and their adverse events (www.acsiregistry.in).

The ACS(I) is conducting two multicentric trials, one on stability in vitiligo and another on safety of surgical procedures in patients on isotretinoin by members. Major Association events in the pipeline include the next national conference ACSICON Bengaluru (26-29 Apr 2013), ACSICON 2014 at Calicut, Kerala and the World Congress of Cosmetic Dermatology at Bengaluru in 2017. In between, national and Zonal conferences would be conducted regularly as well as sister society session during the World Congress of Cosmetic Dermatologists (WCOCD) at Athens, Greece in June 2013.

The Association is committed to spearheading the growth of Dermatologic Surgery not only in India but also in the entire South Asian region.

Dr Venkataram Mysore **Dr Manas Chatterjee**
President **Secretary**



ACSI President Dr. Venkataram Mysore



Dr Venkataram Mysore



Dr Manas Chatterjee



ACSI Quiz finalists with Organizers and Sponsors



The IPC is honored to become a new member of the ILDS in 2013. IPC is a dermatology led, global nonprofit organization dedicated to innovation across the full spectrum of psoriasis through research, education and treatment. IPC identifies priorities, brings experts together and facilitates discussion to attain advanced knowledge and improve patient care. In 2013, we will continue our work around the globe with programs in Edinburgh, Paris, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lithuania and New Delhi. Please join us at one of our upcoming events:

Stratifying Psoriasis: Methods and Clinical Utility

Co-chaired by Catherine Smith and Errol Prens. Topics of discussion include; stratification of psoriasis, tissue transcriptomics, immunological biomarkers, and markers of response delivered by J.T. Elder (University of Michigan); Mike Barnes (Queen Mary's, London) and James Krueger (Rockefeller University).



IPC Meet the Experts Program – The IPC Meet the Experts program is a case-based learning discussion presented by a panel of psoriasis experts. The interactive program invites the panel to discuss challenging psoriasis cases they have encountered in their clinical practices and also provides the attendees the opportunity to ask questions of that panel.



2013 schedule:

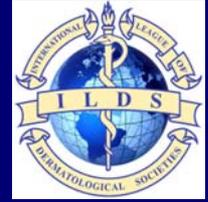
- | | |
|--------------|--|
| July 4 | Psoriasis International Network congress, Paris, France |
| July 10 - 13 | 9th Asian Dermatological Congress, Hong Kong |
| Oct 19 | Baltic Association of Dermatology meeting, Lithuania |
| Oct 3 - 6 | Fall EADV Annual Congress, Istanbul, Turkey |
| Dec 4 - 8 | IDS & the Indian Assoc. of Dermatology & Venereology, Greater New Delhi, India |

This year we will also launch our groundbreaking global genetics project designed to identify rare susceptibility alleles and the functional characterization of causal susceptibility variants. The results of this project are expected to contribute a wealth of knowledge to the treatment of psoriasis. The project aims to genotype 20,000 DNA samples with exome chips. These chips will produce results allowing assessment of the majority of the genetic variation that could account for psoriasis, thereby creating a bridge between the genotype and the phenotype of the disease. This information, which has been previously unavailable, will facilitate the design of targeted treatments, the development of prognostic markers, and the prediction of drug responsiveness. Any one of these possible outcomes could lay the groundwork for innovative approaches to novel treatment strategies and thus be of great benefit to psoriasis patients.

For more information about our projects and events please visit our website at www.psoriasisCouncil.org



The annual conference of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists(IADVL)



The National conference of IADVL, '**DERMACON-2013**' was held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, hosted by IADVL-Gujarat State Branch, from 24th to 27th January 2013. Ahmedabad is one of the most vibrant cities of India with good connectivity by air, rail and road, with a pleasant weather during the month of January. As a result conference was attended by more than 6000 delegates from all over India and out of India including USA, UK, Germany, other European countries, China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and South-east Asian countries.

Conference was held at a huge and beautiful Gujarat University Convention Centre & Exhibition Hall with all world class amenities & facilities including huge multiple conference halls, spacious dining and recreation areas, ample parking facility and Wi-Fi facility for continuous connectivity. Delegate registration was efficient with bar-coded ID card, with more than 30 registration counters, which helped in avoiding hassles to delegates.

Conference was inaugurated by the Mayor of Ahmedabad city, Mr Asit Vora. CME and Workshop were inaugurated by Prof. Pankaj Patel, Dean NHL Municipal Medical College and Prof. Bharat J Shah, Dean BJ Medical College, respectively on 24th January. Trade exhibition was inaugurated by Ahmedabad Medical Association President Dr Pragnesh Vaccharajani.

The theme of CME was 'Current Concepts In Dermatology'. Topics discussed by the Scientific faculty included: advances in Acne, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, Vasculitis, Vesiculo-bullous disorders, Connective tissue disorders, with time ear

marked for discussion and questions from audience. CME was paralleled by a 'Hands-on-Training workshop' on various cosmetic and anti-aging procedures which was attended by more than 400 delegates.

During the the inaugural function of the main conference, new executive of IADVL for the year 2013 were installed, with Dr Suresh Talwar taking over as president from Dr CR Srinivas. Theme of the main conference, 'Evidence Based Dermatology (EBD) – from Concept to Clinics' was apt for today's clinicians as well as academicians. There were parallel sessions in 6 halls apart from plenary sessions. Orations delivered by Dr Koushik Lahiri, Dr S. Sacchidanand and Dr Archana Singal were of high academic quality. Various guest lectures by eminent national as well as international faculty on different themes were appreciated much by delegates. There were lectures on vesiculo-bullous disorders by Dr Razzaque Ahmed, on genodermatosis by Dr Uppala Radhakrishnan, on infective disorders by Dr. Stephen Tyring(all from USA), on skin cancers by Dr Robin Graham Brown from UK, on cosmetic dermatology by Dr John Flynn from Australia, on EBD by Dr Uwe Wollina and many other informative lectures by eminent personalities in the field of Dermatology from all around India and the world, which enriched the conference.

E-paper presentation, instead of posters, was a new addition to this DERMACON-2013; conceptualised in a successful manner to accommodate more than 600 papers. All the e-papers were pre-uploaded on website by enthusiastic delegates, were assessed by

judges beforehand and shortlisted candidates interacted with judges during the conference. Lead authors of 18 e-papers were declared winners for best e-paper presentation. Display of all the e-papers segregated in different categories; on 35 LCD screens to be reviewed by delegates as per their convenience and interest was welcome by one & all. Young Dermatologist Forum was new addition in this conference and 6 prizes were declared to encourage post-graduate students and young dermatologists for their work. Twelve papers, out of all award papers received, were selected by central scientific committee for presentation in 'award paper session' and out of which few very high quality presentations were awarded different awards. Approximately 100 free papers by delegates also attracted large number of audience.

IADVL felicitation function on the second day of conference was marked by honouring eminent Dermatologists by various prestigious awards by IADVL, honouring distinguished teachers of Dermatology and conferring various other awards to other deserving Dermatologists for their academic achievements, apart from release of 9 books and periodicals written by IADVL members.

Apart from enriching scientific feast; there was daily lunch during the conference days, apart from entertainment programmes with dinner in the evenings, organized by catering and cultural committee. There were daily sight-seeing tours and entertainment programmes for the accompanying persons of delegates in sync with whole event.



Looking at the huge attendance by international delegates morning Yoga and Pranayam were arranged daily, which was welcomed by delegates and accompanying persons.

Valedictory function was eventful with various awards given to the winners of award paper session, young dermatologist forums, e-papers etc. Various other awards were also announced by IADVL academy during the same. Yearly training fellowships at various reputed institutes of India were also conferred to suitable for young

members of the association.

On the last day of the conference an public interactive forum was arranged on 27th January, 3.00M onwards to create general awareness about the skin diseases in the citizens of Ahmedabad, which was attended by more than 400 people. International faculty Dr George Reizner along with Dermatologists of repute from Gujarat answered the queries of attendee. This innovative addition was an effort to reach common public and breaking their myths regarding skin diseases. Organising Chairperson and past

President IADVL Dr Suresh Joshipura and Organising secretary Dr Ranjan Raval, scientific committee chairpersons, Dr Yogesh Marfatia & Dr Bela Shah, left no stone unturned to make this national conference of IADVL a successful event as a whole. More than 600 evaluation forms received are being analysed. Delegates have rated this conference as one of the most successful and well-organised conference.

Reported by:
Dr. Krina Patel,
Scientific Secretary



Conference inauguration by the Mayor of Ahmedabad city, Mr. Asit Vora



Felicitation of the teachers par excellence at DERMACON-2013



Members at IADVL e-Group meeting at DERMACON-2013



PDS for L.I.F.E

Last year was a milestone in the history of the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) as we celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the organization with yearlong activities focusing on service and camaraderie. Now in 2013 we begin a new term and take off with the theme "PDS for L.I.F.E. (Leadership. Integrity. Faith. Excellence.)" which is most appropriate as it embodies the values that we espouse as an organization. These are core values to live by and inspire us in our daily activities.

L.I.F.E. will drive the three main priority areas to be developed by the leadership over the next two years. These priority areas are aptly embodied in the acronym **PDS-**

People, Dominance in Dermatology and Service and Social Responsibility.

P, for **people**, and this means focusing on membership empowerment and engagement. The Organizational Development Program (ODP) was launched last January, with workshops for the Board Members, Officers and the society's workforce - the chairpersons of the committees, subspecialties, task forces, board of examiners and board of accreditation. The ODP is an ongoing series of workshops designed to increase our society's effectiveness and relevance to its members. Action plans were formulated with this goal in mind.

In an effort to reach out to the members, a **L.I.F.E.** Enhancement Action Program was launched in 2011. Non-academic discourses such as "Assertive Communication" and "Financial Management" were conducted among the society's regional chapters. For the next two years, we shall expand the program to include academic and administrative lectures. For starters, we will be bringing subspecialty core group workshops, such as Patch Testing and Dermatologic Surgery, to the regional chapters in an effort to drum interest for the subspecialty of the member's choice.



D, for **dominance in dermatology**, as PDS continues to lead the way in dermatologic excellence. We will increase the society's visibility by fostering stronger relationships with our partners in the local government, industry, as well as in the international community. PDS is closely working with the government agencies responsible for the preparations for the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Medical Practitioners in 2015. This will allow open borders for physicians and dentists to practice in 10 ASEAN countries. On an exciting note, we are hosting a Sister Society Meeting in the 11th International Congress of Dermatology conference in New Delhi, India on December 4, 2013. We are warmly inviting everyone to attend this session

and meet your colleagues from the Philippines!

Lastly, **S**, for **service and social responsibility**, which is the heart of our society's mission. For the months of January-March, we are promoting a countrywide "Impetigo Awareness Campaign". We are disseminating medical information and lectures to different schools and providing medical missions in different localities. Just recently, as part of our Leprosy Mission for the month of February, we visited and gave gifts to the 70 leprosy patients confined at the Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital. All these projects are part of our Skin Safety Campaign- a nationwide advocacy to promote skin health and patient safety. It is our pledge in the Philippine

Dermatological Society to continue serving the underprivileged. We will be more involved in programs promoting an eco-friendly environment. These are some of the plans for the society as we welcome the year of 2013 and hopefully these and more will reach fruition. With the members joining hearts and hands, together we are living and loving PDS for L.I.F.E.

**Rosalina E. Nadela,
MD, MSc, FPDS
President - Philippine
Dermatological Society**

The Community Dermatology Journal is online!



http://www.ifd.org/pdf/Community_Dermatology_14.pdf