



ISD *Connection*

The Official Newsletter of the International Society of Dermatology Vol. 8, No. 3 • Fall 2014

ISD Member on Frontlines of Fighting Leprosy in India



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Celebration of FIRSTs

First can have several meanings – chief, foremost, highest, leading, principal. It can also stand for initial, opening, or introductory. Here, I denote both.

After a quick search of the Web, we find distinguished FIRST women everywhere. From the first woman doctor, Elizabeth Blackwell, receiving her medical degree in 1849 to astronaut Dr. Peggy Whitson, who became the first female commander of the International Space Station in 2007. In the 2008 USA elections, former First Lady Hillary Clinton won the New Hampshire presidential primary, the first woman to do so. Not to forget, the first woman Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, who served for four terms. “Iron Lady” Margaret Thatcher holds the record of being the only woman and longest-serving Prime Minister of Great Britain in the 20th century. President Cory Aquino toppled down the 20-year dictatorship in the Philippines through a peaceful revolution that impressed the world.

The International Society of Dermatology boasts a number of FIRST ladies. They are celebrated in their domestic fields, but sooner than later they will be internationally recognized for their unselfish commitment and advocacies.

Currently, the ISD has a majority of women on the Executive Committee, and I was deeply honored to be elected the first female (and first Asian) president. Here is a list of ISD women from around the world who have joined our board or committees for the first time:

Rokea el-Azhary, MD, FAAD (USA) is our current *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)* editor-in-chief. The colossal task of continuing the tradition of having the *IJD* as one of the best-read dermatology journals in the world lies on her shoulders.

Gail Todd, BSc (Agric) MBChB, FFDerm(SA), PhD (South Africa) is now a Vice-President of ISD. She is also a member of the Community Dermatology Committee.



Adebola O. Ogunbiyi, MBBS, FWACP, FMCP (Nigeria) is now a member of the Board of Directors. So are Louise Kronborg Andersen, MD (Denmark), Rashmi Sarkar, MD, MNAMS, FAAD (India), Margarita Larralde, PhD, MD (Argentina) and Mercedes Florez-White, MD (USA).

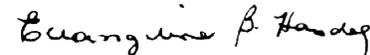
ISD women are also co-chairs or members of our standing committees, including:

Ncoza Dlova, MBChB, FCDerm (South Africa), who was the 3rd Continental Congress of Dermatology President (2012), is now a member of the Maria Duran Committee, as is Alin L. Tatu, MD (Romania). Wilma Bergfeld, MD, FAAD (USA), who happened to be the first woman President of the American Academy of Dermatology, serves as a member of the Communications Committee, along with Branka Marinovic, MD (Croatia) and Esperanza Welsh, MD (Mexico). Angela Lavadia, MD, FPDS (Philippines) and Rosemary Nixon, MD (Australia) serve on the Mentorship Committee.

Positively, being first is always prestigious, but could really entail much responsibility, dedication and hard work. Congratulations to these wonderful FIRST ladies.

In the coming issues, we will salute other FIRSTs of the ISD – including accomplishments of the men of ISD who are also making great strides in representing our Society and our profession. ISD is truly proud of all of you!

Mabuhay!



Evangeline B. Handog, MD (Philippines)

ISD President

** Editor's note: In addition to serving as the first woman President of the ISD, Dr. Handog is the first Asian (woman) to serve on the Executive Committee.*



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FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that the summer is over here in my hometown of Boston, Massachusetts (USA), and with that, careless family fun, dream trips, and long vacations are now embedded in our memories and snapshots posted in electronic media. Our children, grandchildren and loved ones are back to school, back to work – and so are we!

As your Secretary-General, I believe that we all re-energize during our respective summer months and head into the next season full of passion to participate and contribute to the success of planned ISD activities and venues in the coming months. The program is full of captivating professional meetings, meticulously planned to combine state-of-the-art formal dermatological sessions with rich local cultural events and time to socialize. Whether you are planning to attend the regional ISD meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Tehran, Iran, or EADV Sister Society session in Amsterdam in October, always expect to meet your old friends and make new ones.



The crown jewel of ISD for 2014 is the much-anticipated 4th Continental Congress of Dermatology in the Philippines. We are all planning to bring our international ISD community to Manila, show our camaraderie and make it a truly shining star of the year.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln's famous saying, ISD is the society "of the people, by the people, for the people." What it means for me is that the main mission always will be bringing and promoting dermatological care to all communities around the globe with your help – our members and volunteers. Let's challenge and inspire ourselves with new projects helping with dermatological knowledge and care around the world, whether it is in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East or Asia. Become a mentor, become a volunteer, become a skin community organizer and become an ISD ambassador of goodwill.

Let's make it happen together, my dear friends and colleagues!

Do vstrechi! See you soon!

Nellie Konnikov, M.D.

Nellie Konnikov, MD
Secretary-General, International Society of Dermatology

ISD Announces Modest Membership Dues Increase

*A special announcement from ISD Treasurer
George Reizner, MD*

The primary mission of the ISD is to promote and encourage scientific investigation and to facilitate mutual acquaintance and collaboration between persons of different nationalities and various fields of dermatology. One of our greatest challenges is to ensure that dermatologists worldwide can share in the society regardless of income.

We have maintained an "open door" policy by keeping our dues low, especially for members practicing in low-income countries. Currently, the Associate Member dues are lower than the cost of the Journal for each member.

The last time dues changed was in 2000 and during the past 14 years, the dues have remained steady but our expenses have increased. The ISD Board of Directors recently agreed to add a category of membership and to implement a small increase in dues.

First, there is a new category of membership called E-Memberships which is available to members living and practicing in a Group A or Group B country as defined by WHO and the World Bank. A complete list of those countries can be found at <http://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/>. The E-Membership is \$45.00 (USD) for those who are eligible, and they will receive only electronic access to the *International Journal of Dermatology* and all correspondence will be electronic. If you are a current member wishing to switch to this level, you need to contact the ISD office so that we can change your membership status.

Our regular membership will increase from \$100.00 (USD) to \$125.00 (USD) per year and Associates (residents and members residing in low-income countries **not** covered by Hinari) will see an increase from \$65.00 (USD) to \$75.00 (USD). This increase starts January 1, 2015.



George Reizner, MD

Can you renew early and renew at the current, lower rate? Yes, you can, but you must renew before January 1.

The ISD is also privileged to have a group of members who voluntarily pay a higher rate of \$250.00 (USD) per year in order to support young dermatologists or those who cannot afford the dues. The Individual Sponsoring Members (ISM) embrace the concept that knowledge, especially the knowledge that improves patient health, should have no boundaries.

To summarize, the new dues structure for 2015 will be:

	Current	Starts January 1, 2015
Regular Members	\$100.00 (USD)	\$125.00 (USD)
Associate Members	\$ 65.00 (USD)	\$ 75.00 (USD)
E-Membership		\$ 45.00 (USD)
Individual Sponsoring Memberships	\$250.00 (USD)	\$250.00 (USD)

Your renewal notices for 2015 will be mailed in September to give you an opportunity to renew early, and the new fees will be explained further. If you have any questions about the dues increase, contact the ISD at info@intsocderm.org. Thank you for your support of ISD!

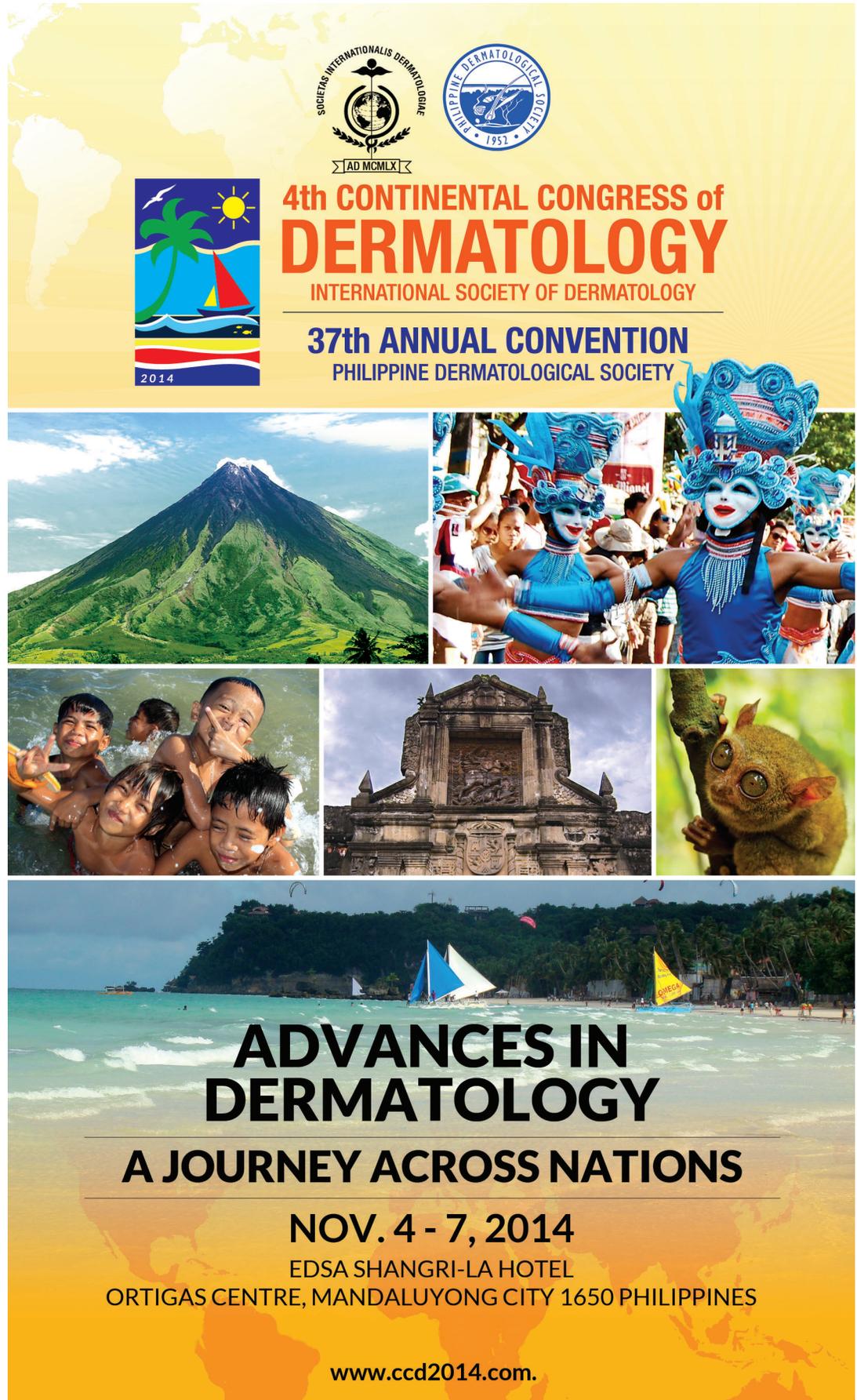
All Roads lead to the 4th Continental Congress of Dermatology November 4-7, 2014, in Manila, Philippines

“Advances in Dermatology – A Journey Across Nations” promises to be a trek with respected leaders in the field of dermatology. Not only will they speak of the latest innovations in lasers and other technologies, but also of their experience with long-known diseases, such as atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, and melanoma. In addition to opening new doors to generational dermatology, genetic diseases, photodermatoses and pigmentary disorders, speakers will make each one of us rediscover the essence of dermoscopy and dermatopathology. Not to be overlooked is how they will revisit and instill indispensable wisdom on acne, hair and nail conditions, as well as various medical and infectious skin conditions.

This 2014 Continental Congress of Dermatology may be the fourth in the history of the International Society of Dermatology, but this is the first to be celebrated in the continent of Asia – in the beautiful country of the Philippines. Experience the hospitality of the Filipino people, enjoy the mouth-watering delicacies, take in the fascinating sunset and sunrise firsthand, hop on every stunning island and swim in its pristine beaches. If there is anything this Congress will promise, it will be an event that will make memories last for a lifetime.

Lead your November 2014 to an unforgettable meeting in the Philippines!

Visit the website www.ccd2014.com for more information and updates on the Congress.



**4th CONTINENTAL CONGRESS of
DERMATOLOGY**
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF DERMATOLOGY

37th ANNUAL CONVENTION
PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**ADVANCES IN
DERMATOLOGY**

A JOURNEY ACROSS NATIONS

NOV. 4 - 7, 2014
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
ORTIGAS CENTRE, MANDALUYONG CITY 1650 PHILIPPINES

www.ccd2014.com



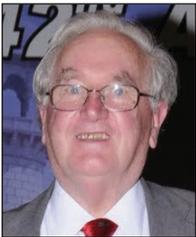
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The ISD proudly recognizes members who are accomplishing great things and fulfilling the mission of the ISD. Congratulations to all! Here's a sampling of a few recent notables:



Prof. Roderick Hay

Prof. Roderick Hay (UK) was nominated as a new honorary member of ISD. Widely recognized as a leader in international health, Prof. Hay led the International Foundation for Dermatology's initiative for developing primary care services for skin and sexually transmitted diseases and leprosy in Africa. This initiative resulted in a number of specific outcomes, including the new section on skin health for the WHO needs assessment manual. His storied career includes serving on the editorial boards of numerous international medical journals, authoring hundreds of journal articles on skin-related topics, and appointments in academia around the world.



Prof. Terence Ryan

Prof. Terence Ryan (UK) was appointed the 2014 Featured Global Expert Dermatologist by the Who's Who International Registry of Executives and Professionals for demonstrating exemplary achievement and success in the business community.



Dr. Evangeline Handog

ISD President **Dr. Evangeline Handog** (Philippines) was awarded one of the Most Outstanding Physicians by the governing Philippine Medical Association in May 2014.



Dr. Luis Diaz

Dr. Luis Diaz (US) received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Medical Dermatology Society at the 2014 AAD Annual Meeting in Denver. Dr. Diaz, originally from Peru, still supports his medical school at Trujillo University and has exchanges with trainees from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, and UNC Chapel Hill, where he is the chair of dermatology. He has made significant discoveries in Pemphigus and bullous pemphigoid.



Dr. Stephen Katz

Dr. Stephen Katz (US) received the Walter B. Shelley, MD, Leadership Award from the Women's Dermatologic Society (WDS) at the 2014 AAD Annual Meeting in Denver. This award is given to recognize a worthy individual who has made a significant contribution toward supporting women in dermatology.

Dr. Oliverio Welsh (Mexico) was awarded the 2014 International League for Dermatologic Societies (ILDS) Certificate of Appreciation for his work and contributions to the field of dermatology during a ceremony at the Mexican Academy of Dermatology September 12, 2014, in Puebla, Mexico. He also was awarded the National Research Investigator Level III in Mexico, which is the highest research level in the country.



Dr. Oliverio Welsh (left) is presented with the ILDS Certificate of Appreciation, here with **Dr. Blanca Carlos Ortega** (right), president of the Mexican Academy of Dermatology.

In Memoriam

Prof. Emiliano Panconesi (Italy), former executive vice president of the ISD and founding president of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), passed away recently. A highly respected clinician, teacher, mentor and scientist, Prof. Panconesi spent the greater portion of his career serving as a professor of dermatology and chairman of the Department of Dermatology at his medical school alma mater – the University of Florence. Before serving 10 years (1989-1999) as executive vice president of the ISD, Prof. Panconesi was elected by his peers as the first president of the EADV (1987-1989) and organized the first EADV Congress in Florence in 1989. During his long and illustrious career, Prof. Panconesi authored more than 300 scientific papers in clinical, immuno-pathological and psychosomatic dermatology in several different languages. He will be dearly missed.





Bombay Leprosy Project Reaching Millions in Need in India

An interview with ISD member Dr. V V Pai, director of the Bombay Leprosy Project.



Dr. V V Pai

Can you describe the work of the Bombay Leprosy Project and how the Project has grown since its founding over three decades ago?

Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP) is an internationally recognized non-governmental charitable organization established in 1976 by founding member, the late Dr. R. Ganapati, with the objective of working for the cause of leprosy and improving the quality of life of leprosy patients entirely through public donations. Since 1976, the organization has been working relentlessly in implementing the policies of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme and assisting the Government in its endeavor.

Our work approach is community-based for detection, treatment and follow-up of patients – the advantage being inclusive with general health and promoting elimination of stigma. Apart from diagnosis and treatment of patients, BLP has been carrying out operational and technical research in the field of leprosy with publication of over 300 scientific papers in Indian and international journals. The efforts of BLP have been highly recognized for its excellence in leprosy research.

Although the prevalence of leprosy has declined drastically with implementation of Multi Drug Treatment (MDT) strategy over the years, patients with clinical problems and disability arising from nerve damage remain a major public health and clinical challenge today at the national level. This is mainly due to lack of services and expertise in the field of leprosy.

In order to reach the expertise and simple technology to the rural areas, BLP extended its service about a decade ago to rural areas of the Thane district adjoining Mumbai. BLP has been providing prevention and care of deformity (POD) services to persons affected with leprosy related disability with aids and appliances like splints, dressing kits and MCR footwear under the guidance of physiotherapists and paramedical workers.

How is the project funded and organized to diagnose and treat patients with leprosy and also prevent the lasting disabilities associated with leprosy?

There is no single donor to financially support our entire leprosy relief activities, as we therefore have to raise donations from multiple sources and pool the funds to sustain the activities. Special appeals are made for individual donors for permission to place donation boxes in establishments, malls, multiplexes, shops, outlets and hotels. Donations are also raised by the sale of old newspapers and magazines from corporate houses,

establishments, business houses and individuals. Project proposals are made to approach foundations, trusts and funding organizations.

Despite best efforts to raise funds to meet the basic requirements, there is a shortfall every year and therefore a lurking fear and feeling of insecurity on sustaining our leprosy relief work.

On average, how many patients are referred to your referral centre each year? Do you track demographic information on these patients and, if so, have you observed any trends?

On average, we examine and treat about 250-275 new leprosy patients with clinical problems every year. These referrals are not only from the city, but also from adjoining areas of Mumbai and other parts of the state and beyond. Follow-up care includes approximately 10,000 multiple visits by the patients to the centre and clinics as a part of treatment service.

“New cases of leprosy in India still are sufficiently numerous to make one doubt whether this disease will be eradicated in this millennium. They include children with a worrying degree of disability. It is not proving satisfactory to rely on general health services for early diagnosis. We need Best Practice units like those directed by Dr. Pai to make sure Community Dermatology is an effective partner in a battle, the end of which is not yet in sight.”

– Dr. Terence Ryan (UK), Chair, ISD Community Dermatology Committee

Currently, how many medical professionals are employed by the project and what are their roles? What volunteer positions are needed for the day-to-day function of the project?

We have a small team of 40 (mainly medical and paramedical professionals) comprised of two dermatologists, two general physicians and one nonmedical supervisor, two paramedical workers, a physiotherapist, one laboratory technician, field assistants and community volunteers in urban and rural areas supported by administrative staff to take care of the Referral Centre, satellite clinics and extension center field work, and follow-up of patients and administration.

As the newest director of the Bombay Leprosy Project, what is the biggest challenge you anticipate in the coming years? How do you plan to deal with this challenge?

I have been looking after the Project as Director for the past seven years with the main purpose of sustaining the care and services to leprosy patients from a research point of view. Considering the need for enhancing the scope of providing clinical care, I extended the scope of satellite centers in the municipal city medical college and peripheral public hospitals.

In our experience, our extensive studies in Mumbai indicate that patients from adjoining rural areas do travel a long distance to reach the city for medical relief. This clearly indicates a need for strengthening Leprosy Referral Centre equipped with experienced manpower and expertise with skills and other required resources. We intend to strengthen the existing Referral Centre and ongoing satellite clinics to improve the quality of services and sustain the comprehensive services to leprosy patients.

What resources are most in need at the Referral Centre?

Since our activities are service oriented, we need trained medical and paramedical manpower to provide services at our Referral Centre and extension centers. As leprosy is declared eliminated in India in 2005, there is a general sense of complacency in the programme and the clinical and technical skills are fast dwindling or getting eliminated – hence it is difficult to get medical professionals specially interested in a neglected tropical disease like leprosy with no career opportunity compared to other attractive medical fields.

Can ISD members volunteer to serve as visiting medical professionals, or are there opportunities for members to contribute their time and expertise to help the patients you serve?

Yes, ISD members can volunteer to serve as visiting medical professionals. For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.bombayleprosy.org.

The goal of the Bombay Leprosy Project is a “world without leprosy.” Do you think this can be achieved, or what more needs to happen for this disease to be eradicated completely?

The dream of a “world without leprosy” is a tall order and a herculean task, but BLP has been making every effort for the last 38 years trying to set up a model that can be applied elsewhere towards this goal. Besides our own Project, BLP is participating and contributing its expertise and experience in various national and international programs towards pursuance of the dream.

The Project is registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA 1976) and eligible to receive Donations from Donors abroad.



A staff meeting of doctors and paramedical team of the Bombay Leprosy Project



Wax therapy and physiotherapy measures given at the Referral Centre for correction of hand deformity



Community-based disability care of leprosy patients in rural areas



An ophthalmologist from the nearby medical college at BLP main Referral Centre screening leprosy patients for eye problems



Patients with nerve damage and deformity referred for management

Key Achievements

Undaunted by various odds, BLP has forged ahead in its mission and goals

- Reached 1.95 million people of which 60% are from slums of Dharavi and other similar slums in Mumbai
- 35,000 patients have been cured with MDT
- Disabilities have been prevented in 3,000 patients
- 300 leprosy patients and physically challenged persons have benefitted under the Integrated Rehabilitation program



Dr. V V Pai, along with the community volunteers, examining a leprosy patient with disability at the patient's house under its community-based disability care program in rural areas.

Dr. Rokea el-Azhary Takes the Reign as New Editor-in-Chief of *IJD*

In her new role as editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Dermatology (IJD)*, Dr. Rokea el-Azhary (US) is already making history as the first woman – and first Middle Easterner – to lead this thriving dermatology journal.



Dr. Rokea el-Azhary

Born and raised in Cairo, Egypt, Dr. el-Azhary graduated from pharmacy school there before heading to the U.S. to pursue a doctorate and medical degree.

Now on staff at the top-rated Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, Dr. el-Azhary currently serves as Professor of Dermatology at Mayo Medical School. In this interview, Dr. el-Azhary shares her goals for the Journal and how she hopes her appointment will inspire others from the Middle East and beyond to reach for the stars.

What made you pursue your medical degree in the United States and was it a hard decision for you to leave Egypt?

It was my dream to get a scholarship to do my PhD in the United States, and I was fortunate enough to get one. I picked up my suitcase and arrived in Minneapolis with \$135 in my pocket in late October at a time when the cold Minnesota winter was setting in. I remember my Egyptian-made shoes melted with the first snowfall! My medical training at Baylor College of Medicine came after I completed my PhD at the University of Minnesota.

Your appointment as editor-in-chief of the *IJD* marks an important milestone for the Journal, as it is the first time in *ISD* history that a woman of Middle Eastern heritage has been appointed to this top position. What brought you to editing, and how do you feel about being a trailblazer for woman with the *IJD*?

It is indeed a great honor for me to be selected the editor-in-chief of the *IJD*. Although there are women editors of other journals, I feel the *IJD* is special as our community is the world. And I consider myself a woman of the world. I believe that one of my roles is to promote the global advancement of women and hopefully be a role model for all women, to help them aspire and reach beyond their imagination. They can do anything if they put their minds to it.

As far as my interest in editing, this came up after years of writing papers, reviewing for journals, and, more specifically, after being an associate editor for the *IJD* for 10 years. I realized that peer review is the very heart of the process for establishing quality and honesty in scientific publications. The main role of the editor-in-chief is to ensure authenticity and originality in publication so that we can continue to serve our colleagues all over the world.

Serving as editor of the *IJD* is a major time commitment. How do you plan to juggle your time between the Journal and your other professional commitments?

After six months on the job, I can honestly say that I know most of the intricate workings of the Journal. The rest is enjoyment. To read about new ideas in dermatology, select great articles,

help my colleagues reach their goals, and see the end result of your labor makes this job so rewarding for me.

What are your goals for the *IJD* in the coming years? Will *ISD* members notice any immediate changes to the Journal that you plan to implement?

We have already implemented some new ideas for the Journal. For example, we added a new section on the editorial board called “Residents in training” to teach residents how to review and critique a scientific paper. We are active on a new *IJD* Facebook page where authors, dermatologists and others can discuss published articles. We are also active on Twitter, and we hope people will join us in both social media venues. We may also be in App format soon, so our community can take the journal wherever they go.

How do you envision the evolution of technology further shaping the Journal in the future?

We have quite a few challenges ahead of us. Online only articles and open access journals are potentially great opportunities for both authors and readers but may not always suit our international community, specifically in areas of the world where internet access may not be always available or where the costs of participation cannot be shouldered by potential authors.

Are there opportunities for *ISD* members to get involved with the Journal, either as an author or reviewer of manuscripts?

Of course! Many of our editorial board are members of the Society and some are members of the *ISD* executive board. Many of our reviewers are members of the *ISD*. We welcome anyone from the *ISD* that wishes to do reviews. *ISD* members can submit manuscripts to the Journal, since the manuscripts are peer reviewed just like any other submitted manuscript.

The *IJD* has grown tremendously over the past 13 years under the leadership of your predecessor, Dr. Lawrence Gibson. What were his words of advice to this task as you were transitioning to become the new editor-in-chief of the Journal?

Yes, indeed. He has done a great job with the Journal and is truly some big shoes to fill! His main advice is to use my gut instinct and make the Journal mine. Let it reflect our goals of both the pursuit of excellence and inclusiveness in promoting all countries.

Save the Dates!

April 18-22, 2017

XII International Congress of Dermatology
Sheraton Hotel & Convention Center

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Contact: icdbue2017@anajuan.com

For more information: <http://icdbue2017.com.ar/>

November 8-14, 2021

XIII International Congress of Dermatology

Melbourne Convention Center
Melbourne, Australia

ISD Submission Deadlines
ISD Mentoring Grant Application – Deadline:
October 15, 2014
Maria Duran Fellowship – Deadline:
January 15, 2015

Staying Connected



ISD members now have a new forum to stay connected with their colleagues around the world. This shall be a regular feature of the *ISD Connection* gathering members' comments and observations relating to dermatology or the ISD. Submissions in all languages are encouraged, as long as an English translation is also provided.

Here, **Prof. Nejb Doss** (Tunisia) shares his thoughts on why becoming an ISD member is so valuable to him and fellow dermatologists. Thank you to Dr. Doss for providing the *ISD Connection's* first Arabic translation for our Arabic-speaking members!

إن الإنخراط في الجمعية الدولية للأمراض الجلدية يمكنك من عديد الإمتيازات:

1 - رسوم تسجيل تفضلية في المؤتمرات المنظمة من طرف الجمعية

2 - إمكانية التكوين و التدريب في مراكز علمية مشهود لها

3 - توفير منح للمشاركة في المؤتمرات الطبية

4 - الإطلاع على آخر البحوث العلمية من خلال المجلة الشهرية للجمعية

للإلتحاق بالجمعية يرجى التسجيل من خلال البوابة :

www.intsocderm.org أو الإتصال بـ: info@intsocderm.org

مع أمل اللقاء بكم

الأستاذ نجيب الدوس

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF DERMATOLOGY

Joining the International Society of Dermatology offers you many opportunities such as:

1. Special registration fees for congresses organized by the ISD.
2. Training and formation in famous centers all over the world (Mentorship).
3. Scholarships for young dermatologists to make their participation in the ISD Congresses easier.
4. And to be updated in the scientific field via the *International Journal of Dermatology*.

You can join the ISD via the website: www.intsocderm.org or contact: info@intsocderm.org

Looking forward to meeting you!

Prof. Nejb Doss



Prof. Nejb Doss

Care to Share?

If you would like to contribute a message for future issues of the newsletter, kindly send your submission to *ISD Connection* Managing Editor Karen Sideris at kmssgs@msn.com. Be sure to include your full name (not just a nickname, please), your country or region of the world, and a small photo to include if space permits. Let's all do our part to stay connected!

2014/2015 Meetings Calendar

October 2014

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

**ISD Sister Society Symposium
EADV Annual Meeting**

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Friday, October 17 – Saturday, October 18, 2014

**1st International Conference in Photodermatology and Skin Cancer
Georgian Association of Photodermatology & Skin Cancer**

Tbilisi, Georgia

www.photoderm.org

Wednesday, October 29 – Friday, October 31, 2014

**International Congress of Dermatology, Cosmetic and Laser
Center for Research & Training in Skin Diseases & Leprosy
Tehran University of Medical Sciences**

Tehran, Iran

<http://crtSDL.tums.ac.ir>

November 2014

Tuesday, November 4 –

Friday, November 7, 2014

4th Continental Congress of Dermatology & 37th Annual Convention of the Philippine Dermatological Society

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

Mandaluyong City, Philippines

www.ccd2014.com

March 2015

Monday, March 23, 2015

ISD Reception at the AAD

San Francisco, CA USA

June 2015

Monday, June 8, 2015

**ISD Sister Society Meeting
23rd World Congress of Dermatology (ILDS)**

Vancouver, BC Canada

July/August 2015

Tuesday, July 28 –

Saturday, August 1, 2015

4th International Summer Academy of Dermatology*

Munich, Germany

<http://www.isa2015.com>

*ISD Exhibit Only

Young Dermatologist Finds Inspiration in ISD Mentorship Opportunity

After passing his dermatology board examination in July 2013, ISD mentorship awardee Dr. Emmerson Vista (Philippines) knew he wanted to pursue advanced training in his chosen subspecialty of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and HIV. For career advice, he turned to one of his mentors at the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM), Dr. Evangeline Handog (Philippines), to help him find a mentor in this specialty area.

She recommended Dr. Thomas Ruzicka (Germany), who is the director of one of the biggest dermatological institutions in Europe and known for his world-renowned contributions in the field of dermatology. Dr. Vista did not hesitate to accept the opportunity to train under Dr. Ruzicka in March 2014 at the Ludwig Maximilians University Hospital in Munich, as part of the International Society of Dermatology's (ISD) Mentorship Program.

Despite his busy schedule, Prof. Ruzicka generously took the time to acquaint Dr. Vista with the hospital's structure and system and introduced him to some of the institution's fascinating state-of-the-art equipment. A highlight of Dr. Vista's month-long mentorship was accompanying Prof. Ruzicka to his morning rounds, where he observed the diagnosis and management of various dermatologic conditions. After the rounds, he would go straight to the STD unit of the outpatient department to see cases including HIV-related dermatological conditions, genital warts, syphilis and gonorrhea.

"I would like to recognize and thank the International Society of Dermatology for continually providing opportunities to young dermatologists who are seeking mentorship learning experiences abroad. My mentorship stint in Munich was undeniably an experience which I will forever cherish."

– Dr. Emmerson Vista

Attending the Mittag Visite (afternoon rounds) also provided a venue for Dr. Vista to discuss unique and perplexing cases he saw in the Philippines and also served as a forum to allow

him to participate in clinical discussions with his peers. The knowledge learned and the experiences encountered under Dr. Ruzicka's mentorship – particularly with rare and unusual dermatologic STD cases – have equipped Dr. Vista with the knowledge and confidence to face future challenges in this field of specialization.

While grateful to all the wonderful people he met during his mentorship, Dr. Vista appreciates how his new contemporaries (whom he now considers as friends) incessantly helped him overcome the language barrier and made his experience even more worthwhile. He commends this institution not only for integrating the most advanced technologies, but for nurturing a staff to deliver excellent service and care to its patients. Dr. Vista found its elaborate but astounding system inspiring and worthy of being adapted at his own institution.

He shares his deepest gratitude to Prof. Ruzicka, Dr. Evangeline Handog, and the ISD for this great, career-changing experience. Dr. Vista is currently practicing in his hometown in Noveletta, Cavite, and at the same time working as an active consultant at St. Luke's Medical Center Global City. He also serves as a resource speaker in various symposiums on STDs.



Dr. Emmerson Vista (left) with mentor Prof. Thomas Ruzicka (right)

ISD Members Encouraged to Post Their Photos on ISD Facebook Page



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International Society of Dermatology

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