ISD Member Brings Skin Care Essentials to Haiti

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2013, we will not only hold our International Congress of Dermatology (ICD) in New Delhi, India (December 4-7, 2013), we also hold elections for our next leadership team of officers, vice presidents and directors. Over the past four years, the ISD has moved toward a more participatory society with programs, regional meetings and congresses and scholarships in between the ICD years.

Our mission is to promote and encourage scientific investigation and to facilitate mutual acquaintance and collaboration between persons of different nationalities and various fields of dermatology. Our open concept of collaboration extends beyond geographical, political and even economic borders.

Nowhere is this more important than in our leadership. Last year, a Nominating Committee was appointed to begin the process of seeking recommendations for the ISD Executive Committee, Vice Presidents and Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee includes Dr. Suzanne Olbricht as chair with Dr. Martin Black (United Kingdom), Dr. Jorge Ocampo Candiani (Mexico), Dr. Preya Kullavanijaya (Thailand) and Dr. Percy Naidu (South Africa). The committee was instructed to make the call for nominations process more open to the membership.

As a result, all members are invited to submit recommendations of members who they believe would provide the type of leadership that will help us fulfill our mission. The application process is open and on the ISD web site at www.intsocderm.org. If you would like to encourage a member to submit their name to the Nominating Committee, ask them to go to the web site and submit an application. Then you can support their application by submitting a letter of support. Applications are due April 1, 2013.

The following positions are open (a term is from one International Congress of Dermatology to the next):

Officers:
President (1 term)
Executive Vice President (1 term)
Secretary-General (up to 2 terms)
Associate Secretary-General (1 term)
Treasurer General (up to 2 terms)
Archivist-Historian (up to 2 terms)

Vice Presidents (10 total for 1 term)
Directors (25 total, eligible for re-election)

I would also encourage you to introduce your colleagues to the International Society of Dermatology. While good leadership is important, each new member ensures that our vision of a borderless community of scientists and clinicians is possible.

Sincerely,

Francisco “Pancho” Kerdel, MD
ISD President
Everywhere you look, ISD members are accomplishing great things. Congratulations to all for helping fulfill the mission of ISD!

**ISD Connections** Associate Editor
*Maria Juliet E. Macarayo* (Philippines) was elected Secretary of the Philippine Dermatological Society (2013-2014).

**Dr. Vincent Cipollaro** (USA) will be awarded the 2012 International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) Certificate of Appreciation on Friday, March 1, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. ILDS President Dr. Wolfram Sterry will present the award.

**ISD Connections** Editor *Aisha Sethi* (USA) is being awarded the “Members Making a Difference” award this year at the AAD annual awards luncheon at the Academy’s 71st Annual Meeting for her work helping flood victims in Pakistan.

To share your news with us, please email your suggestions to info@intsocderm.org.
An interview with James O. Ertle, M.D., Assistant Professor of Dermatology, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

A long-standing member of the ISD Board of Directors since 2003 and a former Vice President of the Society, Dr. James Ertle is no stranger to volunteer work. Travelling to the Regional Dermatology Training Center in Moshi, Tanzania, Dr. Ertle helped Dr. Terence Ryan and his wife with the outreach program to contact Albinos and abused women in the area. Recently, he has been involved in a community outreach program in Haiti where he brings his medical expertise and commitment to community service to people who need it most.

Can you describe your work in Haiti and how you got interested in this type of volunteer work?

In 2002, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) under President Ray Cornelison initiated a program called “Skin Care in Developing Countries.” After a consensus meeting in Washington, D.C., it was decided to start a project in Haiti. ISD members Dr. Rod Hay and Dr. Robin Mark made the connection for me to physicians from the CDC involved with a Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) education project that were looking for dermatologists, so Dr. Jim Nordlund and I went with the CDC physicians to be introduced to Leogane, Haiti. We began going twice yearly for one week stays from January 2003 until the earthquake in 2010. Early in the program, we were joined by Dr. Alix Charles, a dermatology resident at Rush Medical School where I teach, who learned to speak Creole from his parents growing up in Evanston, Illinois.

What type of skin disease education tools did you develop?

The basic idea was to establish an ongoing teaching program in Haiti. We brought a laminated card series developed by us with the AAD depicting the 16 most common skin diseases with photos and treatment guides in French.

We developed power point presentations based on the laminated card diseases and gave talks to Haitian physicians, medical students, nurses and nursing students. We also developed, through the AAD, compact discs of Common Skin Diseases, which are to be given to medical students.

What types of skin problems did you encounter in Haiti most frequently?

The skin diseases encountered in Haiti were largely similar to what we see in the United States, but always in a seemingly more advanced or even neglected stage. Patients would often walk hours to see us.

Leprosy and LF with elephantiasis were also seen. We collaborated with the CDC physicians to control skin infection leading to elephantiasis in LF patients in a separate clinic in Leogane.

We visited orphanages where we routinely screened children for scabies, tinea and other skin diseases. We then wrote checks so the nuns could purchase Griseofulvin and other medicines. Malnutrition and Kwashiorkor were sadly quite common. An example of a successful effort happened when we gave talks to nursing students in Leogane on scabies and tineas. Then they went with us to an orphanage and helped us screen children. By the end of the afternoon, they were competent and confident in their knowledge of these common skin diseases in Haiti.

For the most part, do the people in this area of Haiti have access to any other dermatologic medical care other than the care you provided?

There are no dermatologists in Leogane, but there were two who came from Port-au-Prince at times and we saw patients with them. These dermatologists were most thankful for our input and especially our therapeutic insight. In general, the public is underserved with dermatological care.

Nuns from Montreal operated a small, neat and clean hospital in Leogane for mostly leprosy patients called Cardinal Leger Hospital where we also saw patients and gave lectures.

What are the greatest challenges you face in providing dermatologic care to this population?

One of the biggest obstacles to care was finding affordable medicine for patients. We recruited a pharmacist, Diane Lamarre, president of the Canadian Chapter of Pharmacists Without Borders, to set up a compounding pharmacy at Cardinal Legar Hospital for simple, affordable dermatological medicines. She made several trips with us and also gave talks to medical students and nurses.

What impact did the earthquake have on the medical care for the people of Leogane?

Of course, everything crashed after the earthquake. Leogane was the epicenter and the regional Hospital Ste. Croix was destroyed. The nuns have since rebuilt a small leprosy clinic.

Will you visit this location again in the near future?

We have not been back since the earthquake but plan on going back this year. We are connecting with Partners in Health out of Boston who have built a new hospital in Mirebelaise.

“The Haitian people are a very warm and loving yet stoical people. They suffer many hardships with grace and dignity.” – Dr. James Ertle
How could people who read this interview help your program in Haiti?

ISD members who are French speaking and interested in our teaching program in Haiti would be most welcome. Early in our efforts, we asked AAD members to send us microscopes, which we hand carried to Leogane for a new nursing school there. We may need such an effort once again and would welcome donations from ISD members as well.
ISD Sister Society Meeting at EADV 2012 Boasts Impressive Lineup of Speakers

The ISD Sister Society meeting developed around the theme of “Society and Culture in Dermatology” at the EADV 2012 in Prague was a great success. The session opened with welcome addresses by Dr. Keyvan Nouri (US) and Dr. Shyam Verma (India), co-organizers of the session. Dr. Verma and Dr. Nouri are to be highly commended and recognized for organizing a meeting with such a diverse array of speakers and topics relevant to the practice of dermatology in different cultures.

The meeting’s first two talks addressed the cultural stigmata associated with dermatologic manifestations of HIV by Dr. Carrie Kovarik (US) and those in patients with vitiligo by Dr. Torello Lotti (Italy). Thereafter, Dr. Nouri discussed different cultural hair care practices and hair removal methods currently used, and his second lecture addressed the historic cultural aspects of tattoos over the past few centuries and current modern tattoo removal methods.

Dr. Shyam Verma (India) gave a detailed and interesting review of different cultural practices in India and the skin conditions that may follow (for example, planar warts after the practice of “threading”). Dr. Narasimha Rao (India) addressed the historic stigma associated with leprosy and the current state of the disease in India. This was followed by a talk from another Indian colleague that addressed issues with dermatological drug dispensing in India presented by Dr. Shyamanta Barua (India).

Dr. Carmen Maria Salavastru from Romania presented information regarding the most common dermatocosmetic patient requests in her native country. Dr. Aisha Sethi (US) presented regarding imported dermatoses that American dermatologists should watch for with regards to immigrant population patterns in the country.

Each of the talks covered various issues of importance regarding global dermatology and the cultural stigma associated with skin disease. It also provided information on how cultural and societal values and practices intersect with the physician/patient relationship in the treatment of the skin including the challenges of migrant populations, stigmatization of skin disease and cultural practices affecting the skin. Congratulations and many thanks to Dr. Shyam Verma and Dr. Keyvan Nouri for a successful ISD Sister Society Meeting!
Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you that we are moving toward the final leg of organizing the combined XI International Congress of Dermatology and DERMACON 2014 in New Delhi, India, December 4-7, 2013. What a dynamic and festive meeting this will be!

Plans are already in place to make sure this meeting delivers the highest quality scientific program, as well as an abundance of social and cultural opportunities in our exciting host country. We hope you can take advantage of all India has to offer.

The congress website www.icddelhi2013 is up and running and is a great resource as you plan your trip. Here, you will find valuable information on the program, registration deadlines, travel and accommodations, tour information and regular updates on the meeting.

If you are planning to attend the congress, be sure to register early to take advantage of early bird registration. You can register for the meeting and submit an abstract at the conference website (www.icddelhi2013). For those interested in ISD scholarships, apply early by submitting an application at the ISD website (www.intsocderm.com).

Over the past few months, we have had productive visits with ISD Secretary-General Dr. Evangeline Handog and ISD Treasurer Dr. George Reizner, where we discussed the progress of the XI ICD in great detail. Both Dr. Handog and Dr. Reizner have offered invaluable assistance to us as we plan this memorable event. Dr. George Reizner also had firsthand experience attending DERMACON 2013 at Ahmedabad and participating in our organizing committee meetings and discussions with the new team of IADVL office bearers.

I also invite all international societies to consider holding meetings at our conference on December 4, 2013. We shall provide tea and coffee and lunch daily, and two dinners for all registered delegates.

I encourage you to come with your spouse, children and friends and experience our warm hospitality and culture. Visit Delhi, India, and Taj Mahal at Agra where the vibrant culture, dresses, food and people will make a lasting impression. You can dine at one of the best hotels and visit theatres and galleries for art and culture. At Delhi Hat, you can see all traditional products including dresses and handicrafts from all over India. You can go to the pink city of Jaipur, Ajanata Ellora caves, Goa, and religious places like Hardwar and Varanasi.

Forget elephants and snake charmers and visit new India with malls, subways and flourishing fashion and software industry. Enjoy yourself and have international scientific feast at the same time.

A dermatology conference in India is more than a conference; it is an experience that you must come to see for yourself.

Looking forward to welcoming you!

Vinod K Sharma, MD, FAMS
Congress President, XI ICD
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