

Regional Perspectives in Dermatology - Asia

Aseem Sharma, MD

Director and Chief Dermatologist, Skin Saga Centre for Dermatology, Mumbai, India

As the Regional Director for Asia in the Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration (WDC), I am honored to represent a continent of unparalleled diversity - culturally, ethnically, and geographically. Asia, the largest and most populous continent, faces unique dermatological challenges, from climate-induced skin conditions to region-specific diseases. The WDC is dedicated to addressing these issues through collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity.

WDC's mission is to ensure high-quality dermatological care for all. This is particularly significant in Asia, home to a wide spectrum of skin types and needs. From pigmentation disorders common in South Asia to rising cases of atopic dermatitis and psoriasis in East Asia, we focus on evidence-based, region-specific solutions. Cross-border collaborations harmonize practices and ensure equitable resource distribution.

Education is a cornerstone of WDC's efforts. With Asia's vast population and advancing healthcare systems, we train dermatologists to address the needs of both urban and rural populations. Our programs focus on advanced treatments like dermoscopy and biologics, as well as practical approaches to common conditions such as acne, vitiligo, and eczema. We also emphasize cultural competency, tailoring care to patients' unique contexts.

Collaboration drives WDC's success in Asia. We support research on region-specific issues such as pollution-related skin damage and the dermatological impacts of climate change. Partnerships with universities, healthcare institutions, and organizations like the Asian Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AADV) foster innovative, localized solutions. Sharing clinical best practices ensures knowledge benefits all.

Asia's dermatology community thrives at WDC's international congresses. These platforms foster global connections while addressing local challenges. Recent gatherings have explored advances in biologics, energy-based devices, and integrative dermatology. By bridging academia and clinical practice, we enhance patient care.

Advocacy is central to our mission. Skin diseases are often overlooked in global health agendas, and WDC works to change that. We engage policymakers and organizations to improve funding, accessibility, and awareness. In Asia, we combat stigma associated with visible skin conditions, improving mental health and quality of life.

Looking ahead, WDC is exploring digital solutions to expand dermatological care. Teledermatology and mobile health apps extend expert consultations to underserved areas. We also plan to address environmental and lifestyle factors affecting skin health, ensuring our approach remains relevant.

The Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration is more than an organization - it is a movement redefining dermatological care. By uniting dermatologists, researchers, and policymakers across Asia, we aim to bridge gaps, break barriers, and elevate the standard of care across this extraordinary continent.