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The WDC Journal is the official, peer-reviewed publication of the Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration (WDC). It aims to foster global cooperation in dermatology by providing a platform for the latest research, innovative practices, and advancements in the field of dermatology. We believe that collaboration among dermatologists worldwide is key to improving patient outcomes and advancing skin health. The journal covers diverse topics, from dermatopathology and skin cancer research to dermoscopy, community dermatology, and more

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Aims and Scope of the WDC Journal

Torello Lotti MD, PhD, FRCP (Edinburgh)

Editor in Chief WDC Journal

The Italian Society of Dermatology and Venereology

The oldest National Society of Dermatology and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the world is the Italian Society of Dermatology and Venereology, founded in 1885 and officially established in Rome on June 23, 1886 under the Presidency of Casimiro Manassei.

A truly historical event occurred 20 years earlier. In 1866, Giovanni Battista Soresina founded the *Giornale Italiano di Malattie Veneree e della Pelle* and in 1886 the Scientific Society.

When I was elected President of the Italian Society of Dermatology (2009-2011), I was simultaneously appointed Editor-in-Chief of the oldest Journal of Dermatology and Venereology in the world, founded in 1866 (Fig.1).

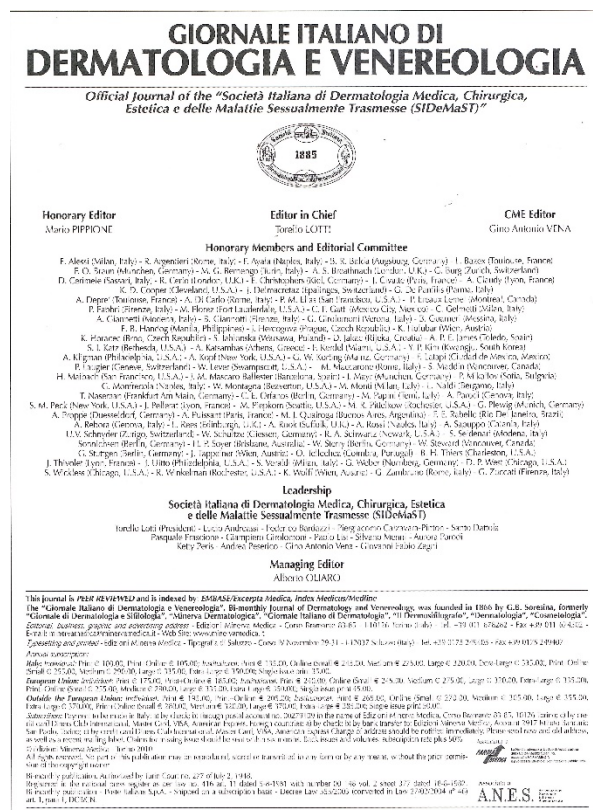


Fig. 1. *The Giornale Italiano di Malattie Veneree e della Pelle was founded in 1866, while the Italian Society of Dermatology was founded in 1886. The President of the Society and Editor in Chief 2009-2011 is Torello Lotti. This is the first Journal of Dermatology any Venereology in the World.*

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At that time, I realized that the Identity of the vision and mission of our National Scientific Society could not be fully realized without its official organ: its journal, voice, and identity card.

In Italy the Italian Journal of Venereology and Dermatology preceded the foundation of the Italian Society of Dermatology and Venereology by 20 years (1866-1886).

The foundation of the world's oldest National Society of Dermatology and Venereology did not happen by chance. It was a culmination of scientific and cultural progress, rooted in a strong tradition of medical scholarship and collaboration.

Historia Magistra Vitae

The EADV - European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology

On October 3, 1987 the EADV was founded in Luxembourg by visionary European Leaders. The first EADV Congress was held in Florence, Italy, in 1989.

I had the privilege to serve as Secretary of this memorable and controversial Congress. At the time, the Dermatological Leadership of the European German-speaking European countries (Germany, Austria, and Switzerland) refused to participate in the First Congress of the EADV.

The reason was straightforward: the Dermatology Leaders of the German-speaking countries had declined to sign the founding document of the EADV. This uncomfortable situation lasted for a very long time.

In 1992 something changed the history of the EADV. The Academy decided to establish its own official organ: the Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (JEADV). I was honored to be elected as the Founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief (1992-2002), and Derek Freedman Founding Editor and Venereology Editor of the JEADV during the same period (Fig.2).



Fig. 2. 1992 - The Foundation of the JEADV - on the left Derek Freedman, Venereology Editor and on the right Torello Lotti, Editor-in-Chief 1992-2002

The flourishing of the JEADV heralded the growth of the EADV.

In 2002 the EADV history totally changed. The unrivaled Dermatology Leader of the German-speaking countries, Otto Braun Falco, wrote a personal letter of congratulations to the eEditor-in-Chief of the JEADV (Fig.3) accepting the position of Honorary Editor of the JEADV.

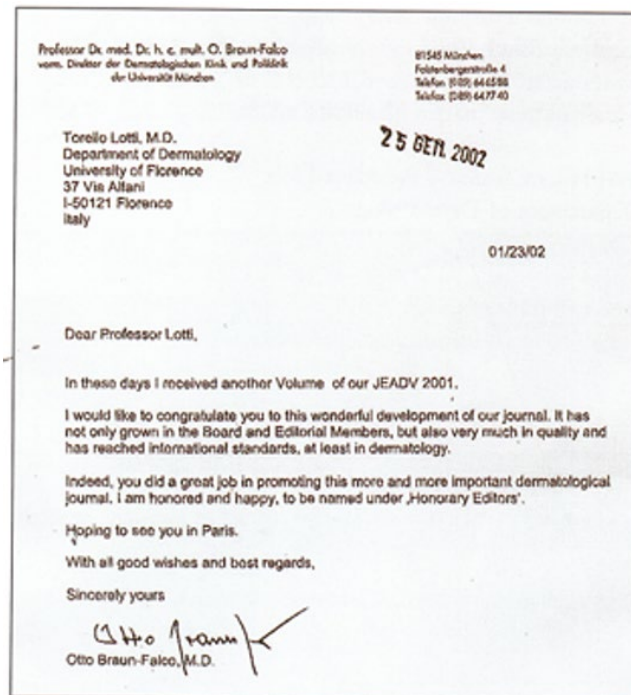


Fig.3. The Historical letter dealing with the history of the EADV written by Otto Braun Falco to Torello Lotti in 2002.

The President of the Society and Editor-in-Chief 2009-2011 is Torello Lotti. This is the first Journal of Dermatology any Venereology in the World. With the changes of the EADV Bylaws, the German-speaking dermatology community officially entered the EADV organization bringing enormous growth to the Academy.

The ISD - International Society of Dermatology

In 1959 the Italian dermatologist Aldo Castellani, with the support of Frederick Reiss, founded the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) in New York. The Society found its Identity in 1963, with the foundation of the Official Journal: *The Journal of the International Society of Dermatology: Tropical, Geographical, and Ecological*.

I was elected as Secretary General of the ISD from 1999 to 2009 and as President of the ISD from 2009 to 2011.

During my term, something of historical relevance happened: Robin Marks, the President of the ILSD (International League of Dermatological Societies) published in the ISD Journal precious Editorials for the World United Dermatology. This didn't happen by chance.

Historia Magistra Vitae

Sometimes the personal academic life is entangled with the history of Dermatology, National and International. This happened to me.

Historia Magistra Vitae

The Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration has found its UNIQUE Identity, vision and mission with its Official Organ, our WDC Journal.

Hereunder you will find the multifaceted nature of the WDC and its vision and mission established by the Founding President of the WDC Ibrahima Traoré.

Let me express my admiration for the Leadership of the WDC and my gratitude for the privilege of being appointed Founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the WDC Journal. My primary responsibility will be to take advantage from the history of the three World Leading Dermatology Societies and to contribute to bring at the highest academic level the WDC.

The Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration is a New Entity completely different from any existing academic associations, scientific societies, and organized groups within our discipline.

Ibrahima Traoré deserves the merit of the envision and of the leadership of the WDC.

In this inaugural Editorial of our official journal, you'll find what makes the WDC distinct, knowledgeable, and unique.

The AI is already settled in our Editorial and Communication integrated algorithm, making our world scientific cooperation fully inclusive and truly international.

Join us and never forget: “*Historia Magistra Vitae*”.

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Vision and Mission of the Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration (WDC)

Ibrahima Traoré

President, Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration

*SPIN National Representative in Guinea, Guinea World Skin Day President, Clinique Dermatologique,
Republic of Guinea*

The **Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration (WDC)** was established with a bold mission to address the ever-growing needs in **global dermatology**. Our aim is to bridge the gaps in **dermatology education, research, and clinical care** across the world, with a specific focus on **underserved regions**. By uniting dermatologists, researchers, and educators from diverse backgrounds, the WDC fosters an environment where **knowledge exchange** and **collaborative research** can flourish.

At the core of our vision is the belief that **dermatology is a global field** that transcends geographic, cultural, and economic boundaries. We aim to create a platform where **dermatology professionals** from all over the world can come together to share resources, research findings, and best practices to improve patient care. Through **collaborative partnerships**, we seek to ensure that **dermatology care** is accessible to all, with a special focus on the most **vulnerable populations**.

Our mission extends beyond healthcare provision—it is also about **empowering the next generation of dermatologists**. Through **innovative educational programs**, including virtual workshops, training sessions, and congresses, the WDC provides opportunities for **global networking, skill-building, and leadership development**. By working alongside renowned experts and leveraging the latest advancements in dermatology, we aim to prepare professionals to face the complex challenges of today's dermatological needs. The **WDC Journal** plays a key role in achieving these goals. By publishing research, clinical case studies, and educational content, the journal provides a vital platform for **advancing dermatology research**, making knowledge accessible worldwide, and driving **innovation in the field**. Through the **open-access model**, our publications ensure that high-quality dermatology content is available to healthcare providers, researchers, and students across the globe, especially in regions with limited access to professional journals.

As we look to the future, the WDC will continue to drive initiatives that push the boundaries of dermatology practice. Through **global collaboration**, we will identify and address critical dermatological issues, contribute to **global health initiatives**, and work towards making **dermatological treatments and education accessible to all**, regardless of socio-economic background.

By uniting the global dermatology community, the WDC strives to create lasting impact, advance scientific knowledge, and ensure the **global health of skin** for generations to come.

Interdisciplinary Policy of JWDC

Mohammad Jafferany, MD, FAPA, MCPS (Derm.)

Central Michigan University, United States

Interdisciplinary collaboration in healthcare is crucial for improving patient outcomes, streamlining clinical processes, and fostering innovative medical practices. The JWCD will focus on the interdisciplinary policies between various dermatology specialties, highlighting the significance of coordination, communication, and collective decision-making across different domains of expertise. Interdisciplinary approaches not only enhance the quality of care provided but also contribute to the professional development of healthcare providers through shared learning and mutual respect.

In modern healthcare systems, patients often present with complex conditions that require the expertise of multiple specialists. Conditions such as cancer, skin diseases, mental health conditions, cardiovascular diseases, chronic kidney disease, and neurological disorders are multifaceted and demand contributions from various specialties to manage treatment holistically. The traditional, siloed model of healthcare delivery is increasingly seen as insufficient for addressing the evolving needs of patients. The focus has shifted toward integrated care models that encourage communication and cooperation between multiple specialties and collaborative models.

For example, the treatment of a patient with trichotillomania often involves dermatologists, psychiatrists, and psychologists, and, in some cases, social workers and primary care physicians. Effective interdisciplinary collaboration is thus essential for delivering comprehensive care. Clear communication structures, mutual respect and understanding roles, shared decision making, leadership and governance, training, and education in the form of workshops, seminar and symposia are some of the main elements in interdisciplinary policy. There are certain challenges to implementing interdisciplinary policies such as cultural and hierarchical barriers, resource constraints, differences in training and perspectives and logistical challenges. Integrating mental health specialists, such as psychologists or psychiatrists, into dermatology and primary care teams has been shown to improve outcomes for patients with chronic psychocutaneous conditions like depression and suicidal ideations associated with psoriasis, self-inflicted dermatoses, trichotillomania, and other body focused repetitive behavior disorders. Dermatologists can collaborate with mental health professionals to address both the dermatological and psychological aspects of the disease, ensuring more holistic patient care.

The interdisciplinary policy across different medical subspecialties including dermatology is an essential component of modern healthcare systems. While challenges in coordination, resources, and communication exist, the benefits of integrated care models far outweigh the difficulties. Enhanced patient outcomes improved professional development, and more efficient use of healthcare resources are just some of the rewards of successful interdisciplinary practices.

Future research should continue to explore best practices, tools, and strategies for enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration, with a focus on patient-centered care, team dynamics, and policy development. Ultimately, a robust interdisciplinary framework has the potential to significantly enhance the quality of healthcare and the

Exosome Therapy in Future of Dermatology

Prof. Roxanna Sadoughifar

University of Rome G. Marconi, Italy

Exosome therapy in dermatology is an emerging field that harnesses the potential of nano-sized extracellular vesicles known as exosomes, which are secreted by various cell types and contain a rich array of bioactive molecules, including proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids. These vesicles play a crucial role in intercellular communication and have demonstrated significant therapeutic effects in skin health, wound healing, anti-inflammatory responses, and cosmetic applications (1, 2).

The increasing interest in exosome therapy is underscored by its ability to address a wide range of dermatological conditions, making it a notable topic within both medical and cosmetic dermatology. The therapeutic efficacy of exosomes is primarily attributed to their roles in promoting wound healing, enhancing skin regeneration, and regulating inflammation. For instance, exosomes derived from mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) have been shown to accelerate wound healing by stimulating dermal fibroblast activity and reducing scar formation (3, 4).

Additionally, their anti-inflammatory properties hold promise for treating conditions such as atopic dermatitis and acne, where exosomes can mitigate inflammatory responses and improve patient outcomes (4).

This versatility positions exosome therapy as a potential game-changer in dermatological practices. Despite its promising applications, exosome therapy is not without controversy. Key concerns include regulatory challenges surrounding the standardization, purity, and safety of exosome products, as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has yet to approve these therapies for clinical use (5, 6).

Variability in manufacturing processes and the lack of long-term safety data also pose significant hurdles to widespread adoption. As research continues to evolve, these issues must be addressed to fully unlock the therapeutic potential of exosomes in dermatology. Looking ahead, the future of exosome therapy in dermatology appears bright, with ongoing clinical trials and research aimed at optimizing treatment protocols and establishing the safety and efficacy of exosome-based therapies (3, 7). By combining innovative applications in wound healing, anti-aging, and hair restoration, exosome therapy has the potential to revolutionize approaches to skin health and aesthetics, paving the way for novel solutions in the field of dermatology (1).

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experience of both patients and healthcare providers alike. JWDC is being launched to overcome these challenges and spread dermatology education without borders, all around the world.

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Advanced Aesthetic Surgery and Anti-aging: Establishing International Consensus Guidelines in the JWDC

Patrick Treacy

Ailesbury Clinic, Dublin, Ireland

The field of advanced aesthetic surgery and anti-aging medicine has witnessed significant evolution over the past few decades. With rapid advancements in technology, diverse cultural practices, and varied patient expectations, there is an increasing need for unified international consensus guidelines to standardize practices and ensure safety, efficacy, and ethical standards in these specialties. The Worldwide Dermatology Collaboration (JWDC) stands at the forefront of addressing this challenge by fostering a global platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation.

The Need for Consensus Guidelines

The rise in demand for aesthetic procedures and anti-aging interventions has led to a proliferation of diverse practices across the globe. While this diversity reflects cultural preferences and advancements, it also presents challenges. Variations in techniques, materials, and post-operative care standards can result in inconsistent outcomes and safety concerns. Moreover, with the globalization of medical tourism, patients increasingly seek procedures outside their home countries, often encountering differing protocols and regulations.

International consensus guidelines provide a framework to address these disparities. By defining best practices, setting evidence-based standards, and promoting ethical principles, such guidelines ensure uniformity in care delivery. They also serve as a valuable resource for practitioners, offering clarity on evolving technologies and methods while emphasizing patient safety and satisfaction.

Key Focus Areas for Consensus Development:

1. Safety and Efficacy Standards

The foremost priority is to ensure patient safety while achieving optimal outcomes. Consensus guidelines must emphasize thorough pre-operative evaluations, standardized surgical techniques, and the safe use of injectables and devices. Evidence-based recommendations will help practitioners adopt the most effective interventions, minimizing complications and maximizing results.

2. Cultural Sensitivity in Aesthetic Practices

Aesthetic ideals vary widely across regions, influenced by cultural, ethnic, and personal factors. Guidelines must reflect this diversity, encouraging practitioners to adapt treatments to align with individual patient expectations while respecting cultural norms.

3. Integration of Technology and Innovation

The incorporation of cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and regenerative medicine, is revolutionizing aesthetic surgery and anti-aging treatments. Guidelines must address the ethical and practical aspects of integrating these innovations, ensuring practitioners remain updated on advancements while prioritizing patient-centric care.

4. Education and Training

Consensus guidelines should advocate for ongoing education and standardized training programs for practitioners. This includes certifications, workshops, and mentorship opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge, ultimately improving patient outcomes globally.

5. Ethical Considerations and Sustainability

The aesthetic and anti-aging industry must prioritize ethical practices, including informed consent, realistic patient expectations, and responsible marketing. Additionally, sustainability should be a guiding principle, encouraging eco-friendly practices in product usage and procedural approaches.

The Role of the JWDC

The JWDC is uniquely positioned to spearhead the creation of these consensus guidelines. By leveraging its global network of dermatologists, surgeons, and industry experts, the JWDC can foster collaboration and ensure inclusivity in the guideline development process. This multidisciplinary approach will result in comprehensive recommendations that reflect the diverse expertise and experiences of practitioners worldwide.

Conclusion

Establishing international consensus guidelines for advanced aesthetic surgery and anti-aging is a vital step toward harmonizing practices and enhancing the quality of care worldwide. The JWDC's leadership in this initiative underscores its commitment to advancing the field, promoting ethical standards, and fostering global collaboration. By setting these guidelines, the JWDC will not only elevate the practice of aesthetic medicine but also build a foundation of trust and excellence that benefits practitioners and patients alike.

Empowering Global Dermatology Education in the JWDC

Awatef Kelati

Dermatology Department, University Hospital Cheikh Khalifa, and the University Hospital Mohammed VI. Faculty of Medicine, Mohammed VI University of Health and Sciences, Casablanca, Morocco

The focus on education in health sciences has significantly increased over time. Skin conditions are now identified as the fourth leading cause of nonfatal disease burden globally (1). Dermatologists play a crucial role in global health, as skin conditions are frequently the first visible signs of serious illnesses, including HIV, neglected tropical diseases; and more recently, COVID-19 (2, 3).

There is a considerable disparity in the level and pace of dermatology education worldwide (4). While education in developed countries (such as Europe and the USA) is considered to be flourishing, education in regions like North Africa, Latin America, and Asia is generally viewed as good. However, in countries, particularly in Africa, dermatology education faces significant challenges, and considerable efforts are needed to address these issues.

An interesting publication by Mosam et al (5) examines various dermatology training programs across Africa, categorizing them by region and country. They found a significant shortage of dermatologists relative to the continent's population. In West Africa, a unified curriculum is in place, which is followed by some English-speaking and most French-speaking nations. Countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Tunisia have their own national dermatology curricula. However, thirty countries do not offer opportunities for dermatology specialization. The article suggests developing curricula tailored to local and ethnic skin types, created through continent-wide collaboration, to better address Africa's dermatological needs.

On the other hand, some educational initiatives were performed in teaching basic dermatology to medical students in developing countries, like Ethiopia as it was reported by Revankar et al. Interestingly, students who took the online course achieved notably higher scores on the final exam compared to historical results when similar content was taught in a traditional in-person format (6).

Other recent studies published have examined various ways in which traditional medical education can be enhanced through methods like teledermatology. The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant opportunities to expand the educational outreach of dermatologists globally, with some of the most important benefits likely to be seen in education. Indeed, improving access to high-quality dermatology education is a key priority for the global dermatology community and represents one of the most effective and efficient strategies to tackle ongoing challenges in the field (7).

Besides, one of the most efficient way to evaluate educational methods is giving feedback as it was discussed in an interesting publication of feedback and education in Dermatology Residency. Feedback is a two-way

process, with individuals at all levels providing and receiving feedback to collectively improve the field of dermatology (8).

In order to improve access to high-quality dermatological education across all regions, and to address disparities between developed and developing countries, the Worldwide Dermatology collaboration took this initiative and is currently working on many educational projects of basic dermatology for countries in need, and also cutting-edge sessions and workshops in specific topics for dermatologists all over the world.

This collaboration aims to enhance knowledge sharing, standardize practices, and foster research that can benefit communities globally, ensuring that advances in dermatology are accessible to all.

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Global Partnerships in Dermatology

Jorge Leonardo Mayorga Garibaldi

CEO diagnostic and research unit in medical microbiology and infectious diseases, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; Secretary of the Mexican Association of Medical Mycology A.C; Director of international relations and partnerships WDC; Professor of dermatological mycology at the Ibero-Latin American College of Dermatology CILAD

Why is global collaboration and research networks important in dermatology?

It is an easy question to answer, but complex to understand, since we do not all have the same vision, the same culture, the same religion, or the same access to health services.

The main focus of our society is to bring skin health to all corners of the planet, but not only that, it is to implement awareness campaigns among the local population about skin care, to train doctors, paramedics, nurses, etc. through our regional directors. on the correct use of the dermatoscope, knowing the basic lesions in dermatology and knowing how to use the diagnostic tools appropriate to the area, (and with this I want to make it very clear, the work of the dermatologist will not be replaced, simply simple but practical techniques will be taught to better diagnose and approach patients in regions where accessibility to specialized health services is very complex), likewise, it is essential to have the support of educational institutions (Universities and/or Institutes), to generate knowledge through research. To achieve all this, the coordinated work of doctors, laboratory staff and researchers is important. For this, it is necessary to rely on virtual tools that allow us to stay in touch. Examples of these are: telederm, Zoom, GOOGLE classroom, Microsoft Teams, which, in addition to what has already been described, will be very helpful to hold monthly sessions where we present difficult-to-approach clinical cases, thereby generating positive feedback based on the expertise of our collaborators, which allows us all to learn from the problems of each region of our planet.

In conclusion; generating collaboration and research networks in dermatology will allow us to provide all those involved, both doctors and patients, with key knowledge so that skin health is not a privilege but a universal right that everyone can have access to.

It is not just about fraternizing with each other, it is about constant learning and training, it is about knowing what the other is missing and vice versa in order to help each other and thus, be able to better serve those who need it most.

Global Collaboration in Dermatology Research

Noureddine Litaïem

Department of Dermatology, Charles Nicolle Hospital, Tunis, Tunisia

The field of dermatology has experienced a remarkable evolution in recent years, driven by advancements in technology, a deeper understanding of skin biology, and a growing global awareness of skin health. Central to this progress is the increasing collaboration among dermatologists, researchers, and institutions worldwide.

Skin diseases affect people of all ages, races, and ethnicities, and their prevalence varies across different regions. Global collaboration in dermatology research is essential for several reasons: by pooling resources and expertise, researchers can identify and address the unique dermatological challenges faced by different populations, such as those in low- and middle-income countries. Certain cutaneous imaging techniques, for instance, require adaptation to various skin types. Dermoscopy, as an inexpensive and useful tool in clinical practice, can be employed both in routine care and for assessing the outcomes of specific procedures in clinical trials. However, there is a need to adapt the interpretation of dermoscopic signs across different skin types, hence the utility of international consensus involving practitioners from around the world (1).

Collaborative efforts can expedite the discovery of novel treatments and therapies for a wide range of skin conditions. Researchers can learn from each other's experiences, adopt successful strategies, and avoid duplicative efforts. The diversity of perspectives and approaches brought together through global collaboration can stimulate innovative research ideas. A prime example is the discovery of the role of the IL36RN gene mutation. This breakthrough emerged from a multinational study, initiated by the observation of familial forms of pustular psoriasis in southern Tunisia (2). Subsequent genetic analyses, conducted in France, identified the underlying genetic defect. This collaborative effort has revolutionized the management of pustular psoriasis, leading to the development of targeted biological therapies that have demonstrated superior efficacy compared to existing therapies (3).

Despite the many benefits of global collaboration, several challenges must be addressed. Variations in regulatory requirements across countries can complicate the design and conduct of multinational clinical trials. The sharing of sensitive patient data raises ethical and legal concerns that must be carefully addressed.

The future of global collaboration in dermatology research is promising. Emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, have the potential to revolutionize the field by enabling the development of more personalized and effective treatments (4). Additionally, the increasing availability of genomic data and the growing recognition of the skin microbiome will open up new avenues for research.

Global collaboration is essential for advancing the field of dermatology and improving the lives of people worldwide. By fostering international partnerships, researchers can accelerate scientific discovery, address global health disparities, and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

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Prioritizing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Sweta Rambhia

Consultant Dermatologist, Venerologist, Cosmetologist and Dermatologist; Medical Director at Just Care Dental and Skin Clinic Member IADVL, IASTD, ACSI, Mumbai, India

In recent years, the fields of medicine and dermatology have recognized the critical need to address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as foundational principles for advancing healthcare. Dermatology, as a specialty deeply rooted in the study of skin health and disease, is uniquely positioned to integrate these principles, given the inherent diversity in human skin types, cultural practices, and socioeconomic contexts that influence dermatologic care. Our journal is dedicated to fostering DEI by serving as a transformative platform to drive equitable advancements in research, education, and clinical practice.

Expanding Research Horizons

We actively promote research that explores skin diseases across diverse populations. Historically, dermatologic research has been disproportionately centered on lighter skin tones, leaving significant gaps in understanding conditions in darker skin types. This lack of representation has perpetuated disparities in diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes. By prioritizing studies on underrepresented populations, our journal encourages research on the unique presentations and management of dermatologic conditions in diverse ethnic groups.

We emphasize intersectionality, recognizing that factors such as gender, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic location intersect with race and ethnicity to influence skin health. For example, research on the compounded effects of racial bias and socioeconomic disadvantage in access to dermatologic care can inform policy and advocacy efforts to reduce these barriers.

Inclusive Educational Content

We believe medical education is a cornerstone of advancing DEI, and our journal wishes to play a pivotal role in reshaping educational paradigms. By publishing comprehensive visual atlases, case studies, and clinical guidelines that include diverse skin tones, our journal intends to help equip practitioners and trainees with the tools needed to provide culturally competent care. In doing so, we ensure that future dermatologists are prepared to serve patients from all backgrounds effectively.

Additionally, our journal offers a platform for voices from underrepresented groups in dermatology, including authors, reviewers, and editorial board members. Highlighting the contributions of diverse professionals not only enriches the academic discourse but also inspires upcoming generations to pursue careers in dermatology.

Advocacy and Policy Influence

Our journal extends its impact beyond academia by engaging in advocacy efforts to influence health policies. By publishing evidence-based articles on disparities in dermatologic care, our journal can contribute to the development of policies aimed at reducing inequities. For instance, studies that highlight the lack of access to

dermatologic services in rural or underserved areas can advocate for targeted resource allocation and training programs.

Moreover, our journal serves as a repository for best practices in DEI, showcasing successful initiatives implemented by institutions worldwide. Sharing these models, we encourage replication and adaptation, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

Building Community and Accountability

Through our dermatology journal we intend to foster a sense of community among stakeholders committed to these values. By encouraging collaboration among researchers, clinicians, educators, and patients, our journal aims to cultivate a collective effort toward equity in dermatology. We believe in establishing transparent metrics to evaluate progress in DEI initiatives and publishing periodic reports.

Conclusion

Our journal with a central focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion represents an essential step toward addressing historical inequities and improving skin health outcomes for all populations. We believe that broadening the scope of research, enriching educational content, influencing policy, and fostering community, our journal can be a catalyst for systemic change in the field. Ultimately, integrating DEI principles into the core mission of our journal reflects a commitment to justice and enhances the quality and relevance of dermatologic care worldwide.

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.



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publishinghouse@worldhealthacademy.eu