



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY  
ACADEMIE EUROPEENNE DE DERMATOLOGIE ET DE VENEREOLOGIE  
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**Press Release**  
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**Skin disease patients often do not receive adequate medical support**  
EADV warns: skin cancer, allergies and sexually transmitted diseases increasing

The demographic development and the worldwide mobility confront dermatology with new challenges. Allergies, skin cancer, venous leg ulcers and sexually transmitted skin diseases continue to increase in Europe. At the same time the consultation rates grow, as EADV President Professor Johannes Ring, Munich, has underlined at a reception of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV). Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission as well as Brussels correspondents of European mass media participated in this event.

Currently, Europe-wide epidemiological studies regarding the prevalence of many skin diseases are rare, as the EADV President pointed out. "There are however indications", Professor Ring reported, "of a large hidden iceberg of unmet dermatological need." The invitation to this reception refers to a survey of youths in London where 22.5% had a skin disease that could benefit from medical care, yet only 6% of youths with moderate to severe skin diseases did consult medical services during the last six months. Mara Maccarone, Rome, supported Professor Ring: The President of the Association for the Defense of the Psoriasis Patients (ADIPSO), herself heavily affected by Psoriasisarthritis, referred to the significant disturbances in the quality of life, which accompany chronic skin diseases. The Italian patient representative demanded to all European parliamentarians to inform better about skin diseases.

The EADV Board emphasised the core academy work at this reception in Brussels: Professor Andreas Katsambas, Athens, explained the concept of "Melanoma Monday", where all European skin physicians and dermatological clinics are demanded by the EADV to offer a cost free skin cancer screening. The Melanoma Monday 2006 will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> May.

EADV President Elect, Professor Alberto Giannetti, Modena, underlined the high commitment of the EADV when it comes to supporting poor countries - particularly in Africa - and the medical education of young physicians in dermatological indications. EADV Secretary General Professor Joseph L. Pace, Malta, pointed out the current problems with HIV and AIDS. 14.000 humans get infected with AIDS every day, in Europe approximately 1.6 million people are affected, and in 2005 nearly 62.000 HIV patients died. Dr. Françoise Poot, Brussels, showed how to improve the Europe-wide dialogue of dermatologists by describing the EADV Fostering Dermatology program.

As a representative of the Belgian dermatologists Professor Michel de la Brassinne, Liège, stated his pleasure that the EADV is opening its house in Brussels for meetings with the European institutions and media.

After its foundation 19 years ago, the EADV now unites approximately 2500 dermatologists with Belgium, Greece, Italy, Great Britain, Spain, France and Germany being at top positions. Since the mid 90's especially the number of the dermatologists from Eastern Europe has significantly risen. For approximately 50 main topics the EADV created Task Forces to intensify the Europe wide medical education and exchange.

Professor Johannes Ring  
EADV President

Dr. Klaus Fritz  
Chairman Media & PR Committee

**EADV Press Contact:**

Mrs. Stefanie Blum  
EADV Administrative Office  
38, Avenue General de Gaulle  
1050 Brussels - Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 650 00 90  
Fax: +32 2 650 00 98  
e-mail: [stefanie@eadv.org](mailto:stefanie@eadv.org)