

PRESS RELEASE

(Brussels, 29/10/05) Dermatologists say Stop to underestimation of Psoriasis

The European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology emphasises on the high impact for quality of life.

29 October is World Psoriasis Day.

„The European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) supports the goals of the global consortium of patient associations from all over the world,” underlines EADV President Professor Johannes Ring, Munich. „The World Health Organization needs to take urgent actions to recognize psoriasis as a disease which imperatively deserves international attention. EADV urges the WHO to include psoriasis on its list of serious diseases.”

All over the world some 125 million people – up to 3% of the world's population – suffer from psoriasis, a serious skin disease that can cause debilitating discomfort and distress.

Approximately 23% of these people – that are 28 million – proceed to develop painful psoriatic arthritis.

„Psoriasis is not a cosmetic condition, but a debilitating disease that deserves attention. Quality of Life (QoL) research shows that people with psoriasis have almost the same reduction in QoL as people with diseases such as cancer, diabetes or depression. Psoriasis can even lead some patients to consider suicide as the only alternative they have,” underlines Professor Ring.

„For decades psoriasis has been a barren field in terms of new, innovative approaches to health management. It has been frustrating for physicians and of course for their patients,” he explains.

Patients with Psoriasis try to hide their skin. Nowadays, dermatologists can help efficiently with various new methods: year after year they perform millions of various treatments successfully and thus lower the burden of this chronicle disease.

„Dermatology is on the cusp of a new era. In the last few years, immunologic and microbiologic scientific research has detected much better diagnostic methods and treatment of psoriasis.” states Professor Ring. "That is the chance we have expected for so many years, to stop miss- or underperformed care for a million of people.”

“But these new ways are more expensive than ever”, Professor Ring explains. „Nobody of our suffering chronicle patients should be excluded to get the help they need only because of economic reasons. It will be an enormous approach to the health care systems worldwide for the following years – apparently with a high benefit for the whole society.”

Background info

The World Psoriasis Day is an annual day specially dedicated to people with psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis. Conceived by patients for patients, the World Psoriasis Day is a truly global event that aims at giving an international voice to the 125 million people with psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis around the world.

For a number of years various patient groups discussed the idea of having an annual day specially dedicated to people with psoriasis. In 2004 members and non-members of psoriasis associations around the world launched the World Psoriasis Day to raise awareness of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Thus the event in 2005 is the second World Psoriasis Day in history.

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) coordinates the event. The IFPA is an international organization whose membership is made up of psoriasis organizations from countries around the world. IFPA members meet regularly to collaborate and to discuss important issues affecting the world's psoriasis community. For further details, please visit the World Psoriasis Day website at www.worldpsoriasisday.com