Digital dermatology: enabling more personalised care

The times when dermatologists examined patients by physical examination only are nearly gone.

In the era of digital dermatology, dermoscopy is widely used in clinical practice, while digital photographic documentation has become routine for the management of patients at high risk of developing melanoma and other types of skin cancer.

Electronic medical records, online databases, e-tools and practice management apps are only a few examples of the vast variety of applications of innovative technology in clinical care and education. In addition, smartphones are able to capture images, access dermatology textbooks and online databases, and bring together dermatologists from all over the world with the click of a button. Robotics offer total body skin lesion mapping, and applications are available to store and process images, offer virtual consultations, and even provide possible diagnosis. In a rapidly evolving digital world, is there room for the human factor?

AI: the physicians’ view

Advances in artificial intelligence are also fascinating. In machine learning, a deep convolutional neural network (CNN) is capable of learning from images and teaching itself further to improve its performance. CNNs, trained from images, have been shown to achieve performances better than most dermatologists and on a par with expert board-certified dermatologists in the classification of skin cancer versus benign skin lesions.

What do dermatologists think about augmented or artificial intelligence? Some embrace and welcome the new technologies, while others face them with scepticism. The former view them as a challenging opportunity to learn new skills and even improve themselves in order to critically appraise the digital outcome. The latter are concerned...
by the “intrusion” of technology in the patient-physician relationship and the potential replacement of physician judgment in the decision-making process when it comes to diagnostic or therapeutic considerations.

**AI: the patients’ view**

And how do patients react? As they too have to accept the new digital reality in their life, they have become increasingly more open to the concept of digital dermatology and have accepted it as part of the process of interacting with their dermatologist. A variety of eHealth-related tools that improve patient care or treatment adherence (digital diaries, symptom trackers, screening tools), provide accurate information (websites, webinars) and/or connect patients have been quite popular and help fill the gaps where access to expert medical care is inadequate.

**Trust comes through human interaction**

So, will dermatologists be overshadowed by digital technology in the diagnosis of skin diseases? I, like many of you, do not think so. Even though images (clinical or dermoscopical) are an essential part of dermatologic diagnosis, they form only one part of the decision-making equation. The patient’s history and personality, his/her lifestyle habits and practices are the cornerstone to a correct diagnosis. This information may often become available only through a profound physician-patient relationship that is founded on trust and confidence - a relationship that allows the patient to reveal the causes of his ailment and provide the physician with the insight for the correct diagnosis and choice of treatment.

Being physicians and taking care of patients is not only about knowledge or experience, but it is also about using fundamentally human traits such as intuition, compassion and sound judgment.

Digital dermatology offers many solutions while posing new questions that remain to be answered. I like to consider digital technologies as an additional equipment of choice that may facilitate physician diagnosis, save time in clinical practice and standardise high diagnostic accuracy, so that we may ultimately provide better services for our patients.

**Personalisation of care**

Incorporating the enormous possibilities of digital technology will help us become better and more complete physicians, relieving us from the small, trivial tasks that take up our time and helping us provide holistic and personalised care.

By recognising it as a useful tool and by integrating it in our everyday practice, we can ensure that the future of our specialty remains promising and exciting!

*Alexander J Stratigos MD*

EADV President-Elect (2018-2020)
This 70th issue of EADV News, which you have in your “electronic hands”, features different aspects of electronic and digital communication, which are already influencing modern dermatology and venereology.

It also covers a wider range of other social interactions which can manifest in multiple intangible ways, such as paralanguage (voice quality, pace, pitch, volume, rhythm, and intonation), body language, posture, eye contact, facial expression including smile, and gestures, but also in material ones, such as the application of cosmetic products, hairstyle and clothing. Many of these forms are influenced by social acceptance and can lead to pressure on us, dermatologists and venereologists, to carry out medical modifications. Therefore, our specialty actively participates in social interaction, not only at the scientific level of information exchange but also at the wider community level.

Non-verbal communication can be studied based on the location or context of communication and the physical characteristics of the interlocutors and their behaviours in the course of the interaction. Certain postures, including slouching, towering, hunching shoulders forward and arm-crossing, can indicate a person's feelings and attitudes. Posture is socialised and geographical, meaning that an individual learns different ways to carry themselves in different contexts in different societies and parts of the world.

Gestures are movements with one's hands, arms, or face that communicate a particular message. Facial gestures, or facial expressions, are a particularly communicative form of gesture and are difficult to manipulate, making them extremely efficient and honest.

Non-verbal communication can have serious consequences, even if the public understands that the message they are receiving is being conveyed unintentionally. Our students, patients and colleagues tend to trust us also depending on our manner of verbal and non-verbal communication. Everything about ourselves, whether under our control or not, communicates information to our audience. This becomes more difficult if direct contact is substituted by electronic communication, which will surely develop new, additional standards of social communication.

Researchers at Columbia University were surprised to find that popularity is not correlated with physical attractiveness, athleticism, intelligence or humour, but to certain brain patterns. The authors suggest that popular people are popular because they enjoy trying to understand what people around them are thinking and feeling and express an enhanced social empathy. By taking care of others' needs, anyone can become more socially attuned.

It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that we learn how to decode the non-verbal communication of our patients. Modern digital communication should, therefore, continue to include the visual exchange between the patient and the physician in order to enable more personalised care.

Christos C Zouboulis MD PhD
Editor
New access to an exclusive collection of key online journals only available at
www.eadv.org/resources-centre/library

EADV members
now have access to groundbreaking clinical research and novel insights in just one click.

DERMATOLOGY & VENEREOLOGY
● Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology
● JAMA Dermatology + JAMA Internal Medicine
● Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD)
● Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID)
● British Journal of Dermatology (BJD)
● Clinical & Experimental Dermatology (CED)
● Contact Dermatitis
● Acta Dermato-Venereologica
● Experimental Dermatology
● Photodermatology, Photoimmunology & Photomedicine
● Australasian Journal of Dermatology (AJD)

ALLERGY
● Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JACI)
● Allergy

TEXTBOOK
● Rook’s textbook

GENERAL
● New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)

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www.eadv.org/be-member
Tattooing has become increasingly popular in recent decades. Unfortunately, about 20% of those who have had a tattoo regret their decision and many of them want to get rid of it. 1,2

The EADV Media & PR Committee started a public awareness campaign in 2014 with press releases during the congresses and with information on the EADV website. In 2016, a first video cartoon was launched addressing the younger generation and focusing on the risks of tattooing.3

A new video cartoon has now been prepared which illustrates the pitfalls of unprofessional tattoo removal.

People who regret a tattoo will often look for a “do it yourself” solution and be tempted to use products that are advertised on the internet with misleading information. These chemical methods often contain caustic ingredients which can lead to burns and disfigurement. 4 Others will choose more invasive methods such as dermabrasion and surgery, all potentially leading to scarring. 5

Appropriate laser treatment

The current standard of care for tattoo removal is a specific treatment with appropriate lasers. 6 Some tattooists offer laser treatment but in many European countries this procedure is not allowed by non-doctors; moreover, good knowledge of the devices and the skin condition is required. Unprofessional treatment can result in side effects including textural and pigmentary changes. 6,8

Patient selection and counselling is important to avoid disappointment because the treatment is painful, tedious, expensive and not always successful. 6-9 Laser tattoo removal should be done by an experienced professional. Even in the best hands a perfect outcome cannot be guaranteed. 6

Swen Malte John (DE), Chairperson
Mihael Skerlev (HR)
Media & PR Committee

References


Update from the Media & PR Committee

Want to get rid of your tattoo?
Seek professional advice!
It all started three years ago, when I moved to London to continue with my training in dermatology. There I met my mentor, Dr Anthony Bewley, and joined his team in the Psychodermatology Clinic at the Royal London Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust. I was about to start working in an innovative clinic, with an international reputation in Psychodermatology, which was extremely interesting but also quite challenging.

Psychodermatology is an emerging subspecialty of dermatology, which champions the clinical and academic assessment and management of:

1. patients with primary psychiatric disease presenting to dermatologists, such as body dysmorphic disorder, delusional infestation and dermatitis artefacta
2. patients with primary dermatological diseases, such as alopecia, acne, psoriasis, atopic eczema, who develop secondary psychiatric issues, due to their skin condition.

Although reports about the interaction between the skin, brain and the soul have existed since the era of Hippocrates and Aristotle, it is only in the last two decades that there has been a growing interest in psychodermatology. It is a common observation that there has been a significant rise in the number of patients with psychocutaneous diseases (above). This prevalence will, according to research, increase in the future, and evidence suggests that managing patients with psychocutaneous disease in multidisciplinary specialist psychodermatology clinics is both clinically optimal and cost-effective.

Lack of guidance

Colleagues frequently ask, “How do you manage a patient with delusional infestation?”, or “What’s the best way to engage a patient with dermatitis artefacta?”. It was then that we spotted the lack of relevant guidance for this special category of patients. So, we decided to develop an evidence-based practical guide to the approach and the management of patients with psychocutaneous disease. We submitted our proposal to EADV’s Project Proposal Review Committee (PPRC) in 2016, and we were very honoured and proud to get the approval for our project.

Tool to help choose effective and safe therapies

The purpose of the guideline is to provide dermatologists, psychiatrists, psychologists and general practitioners with an evidence-based tool for choosing an efficacious and safe therapy for patients with psychocutaneous diseases.

The guideline consists of two parts:

a) practice guidelines and recommendations to professionals concerning their approach and practice, and

b) treatment guidelines, which will provide specific recommendations about treatments to be offered to psychodermatological patients.

The management of patients with psychodermatological disease requires a multidisciplinary team, including dermatologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, pain specialists and a wide range of other healthcare professionals. The project is progressing successfully with the close collaboration between specialists in their fields from Psychodermatology UK and the European Society for Dermatology and Psychiatry. Our final results will be the subject of a dedicated publication in the JEADV. We hope that the use of these evidence-based recommendations in clinical practice will contribute to an improvement in patient care and we will be able to see happy and satisfied patients.

Maria-Angeliki Gkini MD MSc PhD
Clinical Research Fellow in Dermatology
Royal London Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust, London, UK
Applications for EADV Project Proposal closing on 30 April 2019

The EADV supports excellence in research through its dedicated Project Proposal programme.

More information:

www.eadv.org/project-proposals/submit
The Hidradenitis Suppurativa/Acne Inversa course in Wroclaw on 6-8 February 2019 was a wonderful experience, in which we not only learnt in-depth information about this disease from experts in this field but also had the chance to meet residents and specialists from all over the world.

The course contents covered a variety of topics: Prof Christos Zouboulis enthusiastically informed us of the latest discoveries in the pathophysiology of Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS). Prof Gregor Jemec discussed epidemiology and clinical manifestations, whilst Prof Jacek Szepietowski emphasised the psychosocial burden of this disease, that is of great importance for patients and might be overlooked by doctors. We were also lucky to have the opportunity to see many patients with this disease who were brave and kind enough to let us learn from them.

Another outstanding feature of the course was to actively partake in research evaluating the reliability of different scoring systems for clinical staging of HS. Likewise, aside from theoretical information regarding up-to-date treatment modalities, we were able to assist in live practical surgical and laser procedures led by Prof Zouboulis and Prof Łukasz Matusiak.

A traditional part of EADV courses are the participants’ presentations, which gave us all the possibility to present difficult cases that we encounter in our daily practice and get feedback to improve patient care.

But it wasn’t all hard work! Our schedule included a lovely dinner hosted in Wroclaw’s city centre where we tasted traditional Polish food and had the opportunity to get to know each other in a more relaxed environment.

Wroclaw conference

Moving on from the HS course, we were given the opportunity to attend the HS conference, organised by the European Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation, which followed immediately afterwards. Participants benefited from world-class lectures delivered by leaders in HS. The intimate nature of the conference allowed for a more personal feel, giving attendees the possibility of networking with colleagues from Europe and beyond. The discussion ranged from immunology to management of the disease. The radiology session was particularly interesting. Experts on the subject delivered both theoretical and practical sessions. Trainees were able to scan patients using ultrasound, identifying lesions which would otherwise not be visible to naked eye examination. Truly a practice-changing experience!

The outstanding clinical agenda was complemented by a superb social programme including an opening ceremony at the beautiful Wroclaw Opera House as well as dinner at the Wroclaw Afrykarium.

We would like to thank Prof Zouboulis, Prof Matusiak, Prof Jemec and Prof Szepietowski and his team for their interesting and thorough presentations, their willingness to help us and the ability to inspire us to learn more about this debilitating disease.

Also, a very special thank-you to Marc Somja and EADV for the flawless organisation of the course and to Wroclaw Medical University for hosting us.

On a final note, we encourage all residents to sign up for EADV courses and summer schools, because the experience is well worth it.

Dillon Mintoff MD
Department of Dermatology, Sir Paul Boffa Hospital, Floriana, Malta

Florencia Quadrana MD
Department of Dermatology, Hospital General de Agudos Dr Cosme Argerich, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ana-Maria Ionescu MD
1st Clinic of Dermatology, Colentina Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

Dr Ana-Maria Ionescu (left), Dr Florencia Quadrana and Dr Dillon Mintoff
Applications for EADV Research Fellowships closing on 30 April 2019

The EADV Research Fellowship is a novel scholarship funded by EADV. It aims to support the research training of European junior and resident Dermatologists-Venereologists or junior scientists.

More information:
www.eadv.org/research-fellowships
The EADV Nurse Association Working Group (NAWG) recently participated in the European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) meeting in Brussels. The objective of this conference was to clarify the role of specialist nurses and to discuss their contribution and position in a rapidly changing healthcare landscape in Europe: “Keeping people healthy is keeping the economy healthy”.

ESNO conference highlights

Conference topics included the need for standardisation of the profile and the competences of specialist nurses, education, and leadership and interprofessional teamwork. We got a brilliant presentation on “(R)evolution in technology” and how it is making nursing easier. The lack of a common training framework and of an EQF-based European recognition of qualifications which is needed for the free movement of specialist nurses in Europe was also a subject of intensive debate.

The diversity of nursing practice in Europe was illustrated by several presenters. In some countries nurses can act as independent prescribers in primary care settings and also in specialised units. Specialist nurses have a core role in management and patient care and make sure that “care is more than cure”. In other countries the legal structure is still failing.

The meeting was a great opportunity for networking and to share ideas with nurses, policy-makers and healthcare practitioners engaged in the management of health issues and nursing care. Annette Kennedy, President of the International Nursing Council, gave an inspiring presentation reminding nurses to take pride in what they do and to share their stories.

2020: Year of the Nurse and Midwife

About 20 million nurses are working worldwide. They are not only saving lives but making a difference to the lives of many. To celebrate the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale, WHO decided to make 2020 the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

EADV recognises the role of nurses in dermatology practice and explores the possibilities to enhance the involvement of nurses in the Academy. NAWG is launching a first “nurse day” on 12 October 2019 during the next EADV congress in Madrid and is planning an EADV School course for nurses in 2020, in collaboration with the British Dermatology Nursing Group.

Inform your nurses and invite them to join us for these events!

Christa De Cuyper MD
EADV NAWG Chair
The European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) is honoured to host for the first time a NURSE DAY during its annual congress.

We understand the importance of interdisciplinary engagement of allied healthcare professionals and we are dedicated to advancing highly qualified patient care, education and research. The EADV Nurse Day is a full-day programme built on two major topics: hand dermatitis and wound healing, presented by a mixed faculty of renowned dermatologists and nurse specialists. The designed morning lectures and the interactive sessions in the afternoon provide a valuable learning opportunity, encourage synergies and recognize the key role of Nurses in the management and approach to patient care and treatments.

### NURSE DAY PROGRAMME

**Morning lectures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30-09.00</td>
<td>Hand dermatitis: clinical aspect and differential diagnosis</td>
<td>Esther Serra Baldrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00-09.30</td>
<td>Occupational hand dermatitis in healthcare workers</td>
<td>Swen Malte John</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.30-10.00</td>
<td>Occupational hand dermatitis in industrial setting. Diagnostic patch testing: how to select the test series according to the profession?</td>
<td>Thomas Rustemeyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00-10.15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15-10.45</td>
<td>The role of the nurse specialist in wound healing</td>
<td>Corinne Scicluna Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45-11.15</td>
<td>Atypical wounds and pyoderma: a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge</td>
<td>Valentina Dini</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15-11.45</td>
<td>Incontinence associated dermatitis and moisture associated skin damage</td>
<td>Dimitri Beeckman</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45-12.15</td>
<td>Biologics in a nutshell (What nurses should know about biologics in dermatology)</td>
<td>Dagmar Simon</td>
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**Afternoon interactive rotating sessions**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-15.15</td>
<td>A) Hand dermatitis: prevention and management. The teaching role of nurse specialist</td>
<td>KathrinThormann</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B) How to choose an adequate wound dressing: take (your) TIME for it!</td>
<td>Hilde Beele and Steven Smet</td>
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<td>15.15-16.30</td>
<td>8) Skin protection for health professionals: glove choice and usage</td>
<td>Anna Buse</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9) Hand dermatitis: prevention and management. The teaching role of nurse specialist</td>
<td>KathrinThormann</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A) How to choose an adequate wound dressing: take (your) TIME for it!</td>
<td>Hilde Beele and Steven Smet</td>
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A special reduced fee of EUR 100 is offered to all Nurses and is valid to attend all sessions of the 28th EADV Congress.

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to Madrid, also known as El Foro, or The Forum, an alias wholly appropriate for the location of the 2019 EADV Congress from 9-13 October 2019.

This is an EADV congress with many firsts:

• The first EADV congress after record-breaking Paris 2018 with almost 13,000 participants. You will have the opportunity to listen to and exchange with more than 700 star speakers and engage with 150 stimulating sessions about the most up-to-date research and developments in Dermatology and Venereology. Our speakers and audience represent more than 70 countries worldwide.

• The first EADV congress with Controversy Sessions. These will take place in the Expert Forum tracks covering a range of topics from topical corticosteroids, to biologics in skin disease, drugs in acne, inflammatory diseases, long-term antibiotics and many others. Different opinions are new things to learn, we should be stimulated by the healthy debate that will be sparked.

• The first EADV congress taking place in southern Europe since Lisbon 2011, giving us the opportunity to enjoy and feel the warmth of vibrant Madrid, the city of life.

After your busy days in scientific sessions, take a moment in the evenings to feel the energy surging through the streets of the capital of Spain. As quoted by Ernest Hemingway, “Don Ernesto”, who fell in love with Madrid in as early as 1923, “Nobody goes to bed in Madrid until they have killed the night.”

Enjoy a walk through the tightly packed streets to the Plaza Mayor, or a quick visit before closing time to one of the many famous museums, a leisurely bite in Museo Chicote or dine in Restaurante Botin, following the steps of the author of “Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises” over a glass of tinto de verano.

For sure it will be an unmissable event! So, I look forward to seeing you in Madrid!

Carle Paul MD PhD
EADV President (2018-2020)

Video highlights

REGISTRATION
24 July 2019
Mid-rate registration deadline
Visit the Congress website to register and for regular updates.
JEADV – the best place to publish your research articles

The Academy’s flagship publication, the Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (JEADV), is one of the leading and fastest growing international journals in its field.
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JEADV is home to: Articles of general and practical interest in the field of dermatology and venerology; Clinical and basic science topics; Research with practical implications; Original articles; Review and practice articles; Short reports; Letters to the Editor; Book reviews

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- Clear and informative Author Guidelines
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- Free access to over 7,000 EADV members

Quality
- Ranked 7th out of 64 dermatology journals
- Home for top European clinical guidelines
- First-rate Editorial Board

Impact
- Impact Factor 4.287
- Full-text accesses grew by 24% in 2017
- Open Access options can lead to higher readership, increased citations and greater impact of your research
We are honoured to have the chance to reach out to you through this EADV News item. In 2016 we founded DermExpert, a new secured peer-peer online application designed to share clinical expertise among dermatologists worldwide.

Our mission was to develop a new web application, for dermatologists and by dermatologists, that enables us to easily search, find and contact dermatology peers in order to share clinical expertise. Unlike any other knowledge-sharing application, DermExpert has been designed as safe, efficient and convenient for busy medical specialists like ourselves that are juggling consultations during a working day at the outpatient clinic.

Sharing clinical expertise is currently a hot topic

Historically, sharing knowledge between medical peers has always played an essential role in improving healthcare. Established channels through which medical expertise is exchanged include publication in medical books or journals and presentations at (inter)national medical society meetings. However, there is a significant time delay of 1-2 years between writing a scientific medical report and subsequent presentation at a conference or publication in a medical journal. As a result, most medical specialists have found faster channels to share their knowledge through electronic communication tools, such as email and phone-based messaging services. However, all doctors agree on the positive effects of making ‘information exchange between healthcare providers’ more secure, more efficient, more accessible and faster.

Sharing medical expertise in order to get the most up-to-date answers to complex clinical dermatology questions in an efficient and secure way would definitively be of value for both clinicians and patients suffering from challenging skin diseases. However, it remains problematic to find the right dermatology colleague that can provide you with the most up-to-date answer for complex clinical cases.

Wouldn’t it be great if a dermatologist from Poland, say, could get a quick answer to a challenging clinical question from a world-renowned dermatology expert from Spain? Statistics show that around 75% of medical specialists are already exchanging health information electronically with other medical departments while being worried about the safety of sharing patient-related information through non-secured email and messaging services.

DermExpert: “Knowledge is most useful when liberated and shared”
Every dermatologist is a skin expert with their own area of expertise

We believe that every dermatologist is a skin expert with their own area of expertise.

After concluding that no digital communication application is yet available to search and find the right dermatologist, we decided to develop DermExpert. This platform is exclusively available to and for dermatologists and dermatology residents.

DermExpert enables users to:

- **Search by** topic or name to find and contact the right DermExpert
- **Share your** case through a standardised form and attach pictures if needed
- **Export the** DermExpert answer in pdf and attach it to the patient’s file.

It would be great if dermatologists in Europe could benefit from this new online service. Together with a user-friendly interface, a specially designed rating system and access to ‘frequently asked questions’ including the experts’ answers, we are convinced that DermExpert will substantially improve your daily clinical practice.

The ability to search, find and reach the right dermatology expert to get the most up-to-date answers has never been as safe, efficient and convenient for us busy dermatologists.

Register [here](#) and join us on our mission. Sharing is caring!
Teledermatology – for anyone, anywhere

Background

Teledermatology is not a new phenomenon. It has been around since the conception of the internet when you could start sending photos via email and view them on a computer screen. However, the real revolution started with the arrival of high-resolution cameras in smartphones and user-friendly app software.

My doctoral student Alexander Börve started working on the idea of mobile teledermatology when he got hold of his first Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) called Handspring Visor that had a slot for adding a camera to the device. The evolution of the camera in cell phones (2001), the release of the iPhone (2008) and a payment system in the app store (2010) finally made it possible for anyone to ask a dermatologist about any skin condition from anywhere in the world with responses within 24 hours.

An idea was born

First Derm started out as a research project called iDoc24 in 2008. Alexander Börve contacted me that year to start conducting scientific research on the feasibility of using mobile phone cameras for teledermatology. Over the years, we carried out several studies together showing that teledermatology and teledermoscopy using a smartphone could be used as a very effective and simple triage platform for any skin disease between peers. But, it could also be used by the general public. Börve took this latter concept and made a business out of it.

First Derm’s mission is to act as a mobile online dermatologist for anyone, anywhere. The service comes with a small fee for users but allows people with difficult access to specialised healthcare the possibility to anonymously consult with board-certified dermatologists through just a few clicks (Figure 1). All First Derm dermatologists are vetted prior to joining the team and we carry out random audit assessments regularly on the platform. Customer feedback helps the dermatologists with follow-up questions and senior dermatologists in the team to handle second opinions when needed.

Teledermatology for anyone, anywhere

As Senior Advisor for Börve’s company, I have seen the company grow and the app improve greatly since its beginning. I have also had the chance to introduce many talented international dermatologists to the service who are now working continuously to guarantee the best possible triage decisions for First Derm’s customers. Obviously, assessments

Figure 1. Screenshots of the First Derm app.

A The user is instructed on how to take a clinical image of their skin condition.
B The user provides clinical data to help the dermatologist with their assessment.
C Within hours, the dermatologist’s assessment and feedback is sent to the customer.
for Dermatology. Until now, most AI algorithms have focused on analysing dermoscopy images. At First Derm, we are however focusing on AI for recognising common skin diseases using only clinical images taken by the general public. The algorithm is still under development, but tests have shown great potential. Technology companies such as Tencent, Google, Amazon, PingAn and Apple are working on this type of AI too. So, we can definitely confirm that the future is near.

John Paoli MD PhD
Senior Advisor at First Derm

Artificial intelligence
A rapidly expanding field is artificial intelligence (AI), which is well-suited through this type of app should not be considered diagnostic, but most cases are quite straightforward and can be managed with simple advice and over-the-counter products that are greatly appreciated. All conditions requiring specialised attention and unclear cases are, of course, advised to seek care at an appropriate level. First Derm has stayed the course and developed an effective holistic teledermatology platform and has now helped over 30,000 users from 160 countries in 6 languages. The platform is used by the NHS in the UK and the Swedish health authority.

Teledermatology has been slow to catch on in New Zealand (population 4.9 million), despite a dire shortage of specialist dermatologists in the public sector. In contrast, teledermatology is routine for Waikato District Health Board’s (DHB) dermatologists. Our story began in 1995 with interactive teledermatology via video-conferencing. One thousand consultations later, we abandoned video (more or less) because although it was useful and the patients liked it, it didn’t save time or money, and waiting lists climbed.

MoleMap
After I’d experienced the pros and cons of email consultations, my efforts to establish store-and-forward teledermatology were initially frustrated by regulations and indifference. Meanwhile, MoleMap New Zealand launched as a nationwide private teledermoscopy and skin-mapping service in 1997. I have consulted for them for 15 years, viewing hundreds of cases each month — and thousands of clinical and dermatoscopic images.

By 2010, Waikato DHB’s Dermatology service had established a public-private partnership with MoleMap. Our referring GPs have sent more than 6,500 patients with skin lesions of concern for imaging at our three Virtual Lesion clinics resulting in the diagnosis of confirmed melanoma/melanoma in situ in 350 people (and treatment of numerous keratinocyte cancers) with an unquantified reduction in unnecessary excisions of benign lesions in primary care.

Collegium Telemedicus network
Already volunteering for the Swinfen Charitable Trust and Médecins Sans Frontières’ telemedicine service.
I launched a Collegium Telemedicus network for Waikato general practitioners (GPs) in 2013. Within a year, New Zealand Teledermatology was receiving more than 100 referrals each month. We offered training in image capture and skin cancer diagnosis. However, this arrangement was informal and independent of GP or hospital electronic medical records (EMR). It’s still in use for 20–25 out-of-region referrals per month as fee-for-service.

Since early 2016, all non-acute referrals are received electronically. Referrers can be given advice within a day or two, as an alternative to waiting 120 days for a scarce face-to-face appointment. We now require referrers to attach images to specific teledermoscopy and general dermatology templates. We ask consent to use the images for teaching, publication, audit, and research. The quality is mostly adequate for diagnosis and management advice. Referrals are saved to the EMR.

In January 2019, we allocated only 35% of 393 referrals to outpatients. Our dermatologists’ timetables include e-triage (assuming an average of 10 consultations per hour), and one half-day is allocated as a teaching clinic to train dermatology registrars and medical students in e-dermatology. Using the British Association of Dermatologist’s Quality Standards in Teledermatology, we have confirmed that the templates have improved the quality of referrals and we are providing a useful service. We are about to launch more formal Non-Contact First Specialist Assessments instead of ‘declining’ referrals (with advice). We’re also adding an acute referral pathway (for an immediate response or face-to-face assessment) to reduce disruptive telephone calls.

Amanda Oakley CNZM*
Adjunct Associate Professor
Department of Medicine, University of Auckland
Dermatologist, Department of Dermatology
Waikato Hospital, Hamilton, New Zealand

* Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (for services to dermatology)

References
The Erasmus University Medical Center (Rotterdam, Netherlands) is among the largest Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS) centres in Europe. It performs approximately 1,700 MMS procedures annually and has a formal training programme for MMS.

Prof Tamar Nijsten and his faculty are offering a six-month EADV-sponsored MMS fellowship to a highly motivated dermatologist in 2020.

In contrast to the US and Australia, the availability of MMS in Europe is very limited. We want to expand the number of European Mohs surgeons and offer the best possible care for our skin cancer patients.

Benefits

• 6-months’ certified training with top MMS surgeons from the Department of Dermatology, Erasmus MC Rotterdam, Netherlands. The start date in 2020 will be discussed between the awardee and Erasmus MC.

• €15,000 funding to cover travel and accommodation costs

Selection criteria

• EADV Specialist Members

• Sufficient surgical knowledge and skills

• The awardee will have the possibility to put MMS into practice after finishing the fellowship either by opening a Mohs unit or by contributing to an existing unit in an academic hospital-based department of dermatology within Europe.

Applications

Please submit your CV, a motivational letter and a recommendation letter from your Head of Department (confirming your knowledge in surgery and confirming you will be able to practise MMS upon returning to your country) to jennifer@eadv.org. The position will close once the ideal candidate has been selected. Please note that only selected candidates will be contacted.

Tamar Nijsten MD PhD
Chair, Department of Dermatology
Erasmus University Medical Center
Rotterdam, Netherlands
Supporting young dermatologists

Being a research fellow at the University clinic in Sofia, I first learned about the activities of EADV, and especially the Honours and Awards Committee, from its then chair in 2010, Prof Nikolai Tsankov who was also mentoring my studies and education in dermatology. I was inspired by the multinational diversity and the scientific life of the Academy. For me, providing scholarships and awards is one of the major activities of the Academy and is also described in its constitution. That is why I find the work of our committee so important. I joined the committee in 2011, under the chairmanship of Prof Christos Zouboulis, and served for four years as a co-opted junior member. During that time I learned a lot from the team of specialists and got acquainted with the procedures and evaluation systems of the committee which have been evolving in the past eight years. Under the auspices of Prof Zouboulis the EADV Scholarship Alumni club and the award for the Alumni Lecturer of the Year were created. Since 2015 I have been a full member of the committee. Over the years the number of applicants and scholarship winners has grown, increasing the amount of work for the committee which is currently chaired by Dr Michael Boffa (Malta). We now have hundreds of successful applicants from all over the world. During these years the project to award honorary pins (gold/silver/bronze) was accomplished and now long-standing EADV members have also been commemorated.

The work of the EADV Honours and Awards Committee has helped me to build self-confidence, to take part in the decision-making process and not least to meet young peers from abroad and create new friendships.

Razvigor Darlenski MD
Member, Honours and Awards Committee

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What led to your specific interest in the BSPD congress?
I have always been interested in paediatric dermatology and the British Society of Paediatric Dermatology Congress provided the perfect opportunity for me to focus more on the most interesting aspects in this field.

What is the significance of the grant you received in your practice/research?
The grant gave me the possibility to attend such a highly-respected meeting, that will definitely improve my work related to paediatric dermatology. The conference was very well organised with so many interesting topics that allowed me to have a better understanding of the skin conditions in children. I was impressed by the complexity of the clinical cases and by the activity of the doctors in the hospital. Inspired by what I learned from this experience, I found the motivation to study more about paediatric dermatology.

What are your favourite memories of the Congress?
I had the chance to meet many remarkable paediatric dermatologists and young doctors from the UK, who shared valuable examples from their professional experiences and their passion in managing rare and difficult cases. As a result, these interactions helped me improve my clinical knowledge and my communication skills with children and their parents.

Mihaela Balaban (Romania)
Four award winners share their experiences

Pawel Pietkiewicz (Poland)

What led to your specific interest in the BSPD congress?

In my practice as a consultant I see many children with skin problems – some are easy, some demanding and rare. Until 2019 there have been no specific meetings on paediatric dermatology in Poland. It is most convenient to learn from people who deal specially with young patients, who can share their experience and approach to diagnostics.

What is the significance of the grant you received in your practice/research?

The 2018 British Society for Paediatric Dermatology Annual Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland let me have more insight into the UK healthcare system in paediatric dermatology and, thanks to the clinical part, was also a chance to see many rare genetic syndromes I had previously only read about. It was well organised and rich in practical knowledge.

What are your favourite memories of the Congress?

I will long remember the excellent presentations and clinical part as well as the superb social event with Scottish dances (ceilidh) at Òran Mór, a restaurant located in a former church. It was a remarkable experience to network with British colleagues, who were enthusiastic and friendly.

It is a great honour to be the awardee of the British Society for Paediatric Dermatology Grant. I can truly praise the BSPD Annual Meeting as one of the best professional meetings I have ever attended.

Dr Linda Tognetti (Italy)

What led to your specific interest in “Les Journées Dermatologiques de Paris”?

I have always thought it is a very well-organised and thought-provoking congress with many practical sessions and high-quality speakers.

What is the significance of the grant you received in your practice/research?

I have been collaborating for two years with a French research group and other francophone colleagues. The congress offers the opportunity to discuss together our common research projects.

What are your favourite memories of the Congress?

I really enjoyed the session I attended as a speaker with my French friends and colleagues (Prof Cambazard and Prof Perrot): "Testez vos connaissances et votre imagination sur nos plus beaux cas cliniques franco-italiens de l’année 2018" It was also very stimulating for us and the audience. I also appreciated the sessions on paediatric dermatology and infectious disease in clinical practice.

Linda Tognetti (Italy)

Dr Isabela Sarbu (Romania)

What led to your specific interest in “Les Journées Dermatologiques de Paris”?

I was both very honoured and happy to receive the French Society of Dermatology Grant this year. “Les Journées Dermatologiques de Paris” is a very well-known and appreciated congress which has attracted several French-speaking dermatology residents and specialists from my country over the years. The great reputation of the congress, together with the very rich programme consisting of practical and theoretical sessions on subjects covering all areas of dermatology – not forgetting the perfect setting, the wonderful city of Paris, captured my interest.

What is the significance of the grant you received in your practice/research?

The grant received from EADV not only facilitated my attendance at the congress, but also allowed me to participate in the theoretical and practical workshops, which I believe helped me improve my medical skills.

What are your favourite memories of the Congress?

I have a lot of great memories from the congress, but I especially enjoyed the surgery workshop, which was presented by a very dedicated group of professionals, and the International Session, where apart from learning about the Moroccan and Portuguese Societies of Dermatology, I had the opportunity to meet old acquaintances and make new ones.

Isabela Sarbu (Romania)
Before I introduce our bid proposal, I would like to share with you one thing about 2023. You’re going to have a great time in Beijing!

The history of Beijing dates back more than five thousand years, which has left Beijing with a huge number of cultural and historical sites of interests. Along with the iconic imagery of the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall, the city offers an endless mixture of entertainment. With economic success, the new Beijing has developed into a dynamic modern metropolis with five millennia of cultural treasures woven into the urban tapestry.

Today, Beijing is becoming increasingly appealing for organising international congresses. Numerous international conferences are held in Beijing each year. The China National Convention Center (CNCC) is China’s largest and newest international conference venue with more than 50 meeting rooms, a great exhibition hall and luxury banqueting hall. A wide range of hotels and rooms near to the CNCC will be available for our delegates and guests.

In addition, the Chinese Society of Dermatology is very experienced in holding international conferences, such as the International Congress of Dermatology, among others. Moreover, Beijing is one of the safest cities in the world. We want to make sure everyone feels safe and comfortable while they enjoy their time at WCD 2023.

Seven hundred years ago, amazed by his incredible descriptions of a faraway land of great beauty, people asked Marco Polo whether his stories about China were true. He answered: ‘What I have told you was not even half of what I saw.’ What we have shown you here today is only a fraction what of Beijing has to offer.

We strongly believe Beijing will be a very suitable and welcoming host city for the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology. You can read more about our bid here.

Qianjin Lu MD PhD
Professor of Dermatology, Central South University
President, Chinese Society of Dermatology
President, Beijing Bid Committee
Dubai is a world-renowned centre of business and commerce, a vibrant city in the United Arab Emirates, a member of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) states and the gateway to the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia markets and in proximity to Europe and the Far East. Being international and cosmopolitan, the city offers an infinite variety of things to see and do in a unique fusion of Middle Eastern and Western heritage and culture.

Many international societies, such as the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and others, have held symposia at our annual dermatology meeting, DubaiDerma, that showcases and highlights speakers and science from their part of the world. We believe that this enriches our field and we value this contribution and hope to sustain it.

The city has many attributes that make it the most ideal location for the World Congress of Dermatology:

1. **Strategic location and accessibility**
   Strategically located at the crossroads of three continents – Europe, Asia and Africa - Dubai International Airport currently serves 130 airlines flying to over 220 destinations. You can fly non-stop to Dubai from over 200 cities, with more than 80% of the major international cities being less than 8 hours away.

2. **Abundance and variety of hotel options**
   With over 70,000 guest rooms, Dubai offers a wide variety of accommodation options with various price points from 3, 4 and 5-star properties, coupled with an additional 15,000 serviced apartment units. People with any type of budget can easily find the accommodation that meets their needs.

3. **Modern convention venue**
   The Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre (DICEC), centrally located in Dubai, offers over 1,000,000 sq ft of exhibiting and meeting space with new state-of-the-art facilities.

4. **Strong infrastructure network**
   Dubai Metro links the Dubai International Airport to major business centres, hotels, DICEC and shopping malls, while taxis are easily accessible throughout the city. The infrastructure is so efficient and modern that you won’t find yourself stuck in traffic.

5. **Unique excursions and cultural sites**
   From indoor ski slopes to pristine beaches and large aquariums, Dubai offers thrilling activities in the desert and the Gulf. Heritage and cultural sites will transport congress delegates to traditional Arabian roots conducive for a spectacular pre- and post-congress attractions and activities.

6. **Safety**
   Rated as one of the safest cities in the world by many information and security outlets, Dubai offers a crime-free environment. The city is made up of over 140 nationalities. You will never feel far away from home when you are here.

Dubai has always kept up with advancing technologies in the field of dermatology to meet the constantly evolving needs and demands of the community. The city provides all dermatology colleagues worldwide with a vibrant platform to update their dermatology knowledge, explore new advances and foster closer ties.

We hope that we are given the honour of hosting the World Congress of Dermatology in 2023: an international event that is made for a city that connects people.

You can read more about our bid here.

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**Ibrahim Galadari MD FRCP**
Professor of Dermatology, United Arab Emirates University
Secretary General, GCC League of Dermatology
President, Dubai Bid Committee

**Nawaf Al-Mutairi MD**
Consultant Dermatologist
Chief, Dermatology Services, Kuwait
The Mexican Academy of Dermatology, the Mexican Society of Dermatology and the Mexican Society of Dermatological and Oncological Surgery have put forward a bid to host the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Dermatologists from all over Mexico hope to have the opportunity to welcome the international dermatological community with open arms, introduce them to the richness of our culture, and provide them with a top-level scientific programme.

We have chosen Guadalajara for several good reasons. On the one hand, for its ease of access with direct flights from major cities across the globe, its outstanding infrastructure, its state-of-the-art venue “Expo Guadalajara”; its excellent value for money and the great professionalism of all local stakeholders in the meetings industry. On the other hand, for the city’s spectacular scenery, the local culture and gastronomy, as well as its people and warm hospitality we Mexicans are well known for that will certainly be a draw to delegates and their families.

Guadalajara is one of Mexico’s leading destinations for hosting international congresses and it is considered one of the best destinations in Latin America for hosting major events, due to its connectivity, and its Convention Center, Expo Guadalajara, a modern and technologically advanced venue and the second-largest in Latin America. The city has a large hotel infrastructure with over 25,000 rooms, catering to all budgets, including many within a 15-minute walk to the Convention Center.

Delegates will enjoy Guadalajara’s beautiful architectural icons, cultural wealth, and fabulous cuisine. As the birthplace of the main Mexican symbols: the Mariachi, the charería, and of course, tequila, there is much to experience outside the meeting.

For those of us who represent the ILDS community in Mexico, it would be a great honour to welcome you to our country. Our bid committee, a joint effort of all three Mexican member societies, is representative of the whole country and we all share two passions: our strong commitment to the specialty of dermatology and our great enthusiasm to deliver a WCD that even surpasses the outcome of so many past successful conferences held over more than a century.

You can read more about our bid [here](#).

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**Jorge Ocampo Candiani**

MD  
Professor and Head of Dermatology Department, Autonomous University of Nuevo León  
President, Guadalajara Bid Committee  

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**CANDIDATE CITY TO HOST THE 25TH WORLD CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY**  
Guadalajara, Mexico, 2023
The Brazilian Society of Dermatology is proud to announce Rio de Janeiro, the heart of Latin America, as a candidate city to host WCD 2023.

Rio combines natural beauty with a unique culture. With rhythms that heighten our dreams as well as breathtaking landscapes, the city has a high-energy atmosphere and endless possibilities.

It is easy to understand why, with so many attractions for congress attendees, we want to host WCD 2023. We have experience in planning and hosting a wide range of major events. With over 221,000 hotel beds, Rio has excelled at hosting both the World Cup and the Olympic Games.

Known for its welcoming nature – about a third of the tourists in our city come from abroad – Rio is one of the most sought-after destinations in the world, boasting an excellent infrastructure that welcomes congress participants and their companions.

Over 150 major events of various kinds are expected to take place in Rio in 2019. With a renewed cosmopolitan and innovative atmosphere, our ‘Marvellous City’ also possesses a relaxing coastal city mood.

Rio de Janeiro can be reached easily by plane, as there are direct flights from more than 80 countries. Twenty-five international and national airlines link Rio de Janeiro to the entire world. No visa is needed for many nationalities as Europeans and other Latin Americans, and recently also Americans, Australians, Canadians and Japanese were included in this list.

Dermatology in Brazil:

1. Brazil is a global leader in dermatology, having the fourth largest society in the world, with over 9,000 members

2. At least ten popular dermatology events will be held in Rio in 2019, including our most important meeting, the annual Brazilian Congress of Dermatology, which brings together national and international experts

3. In 2019, the Brazilian Society of Dermatology (SBD) completed 107 years since its founding. It is the third oldest medical society in our country, recognised by the Federal Council of Medicine and the Brazilian Medical Association

4. SBD has 24 Regional Offices in 26 states and accredits the Dermatology Departments that provide care in 89 University Hospitals

5. And last, but not least: Brazil has never hosted a WCD.

You can read more about our bid [here](#).
We are honoured to present our vision and plans, and the reasons why Singapore is the ideal city to host the 25th World Congress of Dermatology (WCD) in 2023. We have chosen as the congress theme “Dermatology Beyond Borders”. This encapsulates our desire for clinicians, researchers, industry and other partners to work towards extending the boundaries of dermatology.

The conference will aim to enhance co-operation and collaboration across geographic, political and economic borders, in order to strengthen our specialty and improve skin health for everyone. It will be underpinned by “Science, Advanced Care, and Celebrating Communities”.

The host organisation is the Dermatological Society of Singapore, a long-standing member of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS). It is supported by the National Skin Centre, renowned globally for its clinical excellence and training programmes, and the Skin Research Institute of Singapore, fast becoming a global player in skin biology research.

The WCD has yet to be held in South and South East Asia, a rapidly advancing region with a population of over 2.3 billion people. Our bid has the support of all the national dermatology societies in South-East Asia, as well as those of many other nations. We will work towards including programmes that will feature dermatology from South and South East Asia, a region with over 20,000 dermatologists.

Singapore is a vibrant city-state situated in the centre of the Indo-Pacific. It is a global centre of travel, finance, commerce and science. It is a melting pot of several Eastern and Western cultures, with an ethnically diverse population of 5.6 million people living in racial and religious harmony that is a model for the world. Travelling to and entering Singapore is hassle-free with extensive and convenient air connections. Over 80% of nationalities do not require a visa. For the minority who do, visa-processing time takes 1-3 working days.

The Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre would be the venue. It is situated in the Marina Bay area and historical centre of the city. Access to the centre is quick and inexpensive. A large range of hotels with thousands of rooms are within walking distance to the conference centre.

Singapore is a democratic and secular country. The Internet is freely accessible and open, and connectivity speeds are amongst the highest in the world. We are recognised for our world-leading standards of governance, transparency, efficiency, public security and personal safety. English is spoken fluently everywhere. Visitor attractions are plentiful and include superb museums, modern architectural wonders, historical districts, beautiful verdant parks and nature walks, exciting shopping, cultural performances and recreational activities.

Our food culture is world-famous, drawing from its multicultural roots, rich local cuisine and international influences. Beyond being an enriching experience for delegates, we will commit a portion of the surplus from WCD 2023 to further develop regional dermatology and tomorrow’s global dermatology leaders.

We are confident that WCD in Singapore would be an incredible and unforgettable congress and a huge boost for global dermatology. You can read our full bid here.

Roy Chan MBBS MRCP (UK), FRCP Dip Derm Dip Ven (Lond), FAMS (Dermatology) Senior Consultant and Medical Adviser, National Skin Centre President, Singapore Bid Committee

Yen Loo Lim MBBS, MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), FAMS (Dermatology) Senior Consultant, National Skin Centre President, Dermatological Society of Singapore Secretary-General, Singapore Bid Committee

EADV 2018 Paris Singapore-WCD 2023 reception at Le Meridien Etoile Paris on 14 September 2018
Thank you to all who came to our networking reception on Saturday, 2 March at the 2019 American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting. The classic Blue Bar Lounge at the Henley Park Hotel in Washington DC provided a vibrant setting for us to hand over our 2023 World Congress of Dermatology Sydney bid document to Dr Harvey Liu, President of the International League of Dermatological Societies. This was a milestone for the Australasian College of Dermatologists and BESydney which have worked with us on this important submission.

Australia has a new generation of dermatologists who characterise our national diversity. The College’s membership now comprises many nationalities, ranging from 25 to over 75 years old, working in both rural and metropolitan areas of our vast country. The traditional white male demographic now only represents 5% of members; in fact, 80% of all trainees are female. This mix within College reflects the diversity of our country, where multiple nationalities live and work side by side.

Our new generation of dermatologists draw strength from their respective backgrounds, approaches and experiences. Practising in a country as geographically varied as Australia, means they are also given the opportunity to research, diagnose and treat the full breadth of dermatological conditions.

Holding the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology in Sydney would provide a unique opportunity for dermatologists and trainees from every nation. In-person and online formats will be used to create a much bigger global audience, increase participation and add a greater range of perspectives to key discussions. Delegates will find it easy to make new connections and forge valuable new partnerships through abundant networking opportunities.

In March the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology bid team attended Dubai Derma in the lead-up to our final networking function at the Milan World Congress of Dermatology in June 2019. With such an illustrious suit of competitors for the event, the outcome of the bid will be nothing short of exciting. The Australasian College remains committed to making sure we can deliver the best World Congress of Dermatology ever, if we are successful in our bid.

H Peter Soyer MD FACD FAHMS
Director, Dermatology Research Centre
University of Queensland
President, Sydney Bid Committee

Stephen Schumack OAM MBBS FACD FAICD
Associate Professor
School of Medicine, Dermatology
University of Sydney
Secretary General, Sydney Bid Committee

Australian bid ambassador Prof Prasad Kumarasinghe, ILDS President Dr Harvey Lui and Australian bid Secretary General Assoc Prof Stephen Schumack
Technology facilitates our daily lives. Medicine has always been a spearhead for technology development, which has increased exponentially the number of successful interventions and positive treatment results while opening the door to new techniques.

While technologies were increasing the quality of work for many specialists in different fields, there was one sector which historically was left behind: Education, and with it, continuing professional development.

At EADV, we are experienced in providing continuing professional development through live courses organised by specialists. However, there is a demand for education coming from the community which cannot be covered only with live courses. To meet this need, and take a step forward in our educational services, a new service will be launched in the Spring: EADV e-learning.

EADV e-learning will offer different learning solutions and materials across subspecialties and techniques in the dermatology and venereology field, from the convenience of our homes or workplaces. The brand-new EADV e-learning platform will kick off with a series of EADV webinars and different online courses; users will be able to use the same log-in details as for other EADV services.

EADV webinars
A webinar - an online seminar where an expert presents a topic and participants get the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session - allows users to meet experts online, bridging the gap between face-to-face courses and private study, and facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge in order to improve professional practices.

EADV Webinar attendees will be able to enter the webinars using their computer, but also their portable devices. Distance will no longer be a barrier to seminar attendance. Details of the first topics and registration can be found in the “e-learning” section in the Education tab on the EADV website. Registration is required as there is a limited number of available places.

Self-pace learning: EADV online courses
The new EADV platform offers users a distance-learning platform to follow courses or training online whenever suits them – during work breaks, while commuting, or at home.

We will shortly be launching a range of courses of varying lengths and topics, most of which will be eligible for credits through UEMS.

Our live courses remain an essential part of our educational resources. In the future we will adopt blended learning in some of the courses, allowing users to access part of the content online and giving them more time for hands-on activities during live courses.

Sharing is caring
EADV has always worked to share best practices among professionals. This new platform that we are starting aims to become a space where professionals can share with the rest of the community their practices, experience, and advice. We also encourage our users to provide their opinions and to generate content that we believe will also be interesting to other participants.

We hope to see you online in the EADV e-learning community, in our courses or webinars. Good learning to all!

Victor J Perez-Rubio
EADV Senior e-Learning Coordinator
I left London on a cold January morning to head towards Brussels where I was due to attend the Body Modification EADV School course. I was initially greeted by beautiful snow and hot chocolate on arrival. The course was brilliantly organised by Dr Christa De Cuypers and Prof Evelien Verhaeghe from Belgium. For the three-day duration of the course they would be our teachers, leaders and cheerleaders. Their passion and enthusiasm for dermatology was infectious. I found the course fascinating and a great opportunity, especially as the topic was new to me and certainly not taught in our training in the UK.

We started with body art and specifically concentrating on tattoos, safety of ink and tattoo complications. Currently, over a quarter of the EU population have a tattoo and learning all about the implications of contact dermatitis, infections and tattoo removal was very useful.

Our second day began with a session led by Prof Wolfgang Baumler, who is a world expert on tattoos and laser. The session integrated laser theory with a practical approach, which was very useful not only for use in tattoo removal but also treatment of tattoo complications.

Scar remodelling

One of the most fascinating sessions was on the medical indications of tattooing and scar correction followed by hands-on dermography. Dr Brigitte Drost was outstanding; her work in Amsterdam on scar remodelling in patients after cancer therapy was fantastic. The results she obtains were impressive, demonstrating the use of steroid injections, tattooing and laser together in improving patients’ grafts and scars following cancer surgery. I was so amazed by her results that I will arrange to see her in the Netherlands to learn more about the techniques used.

As part of the course each of the 20 selected participants, who came from all over Europe, brought a case to present and we really learned so much from each other. My case presentation was on Mycobacterium Chelonae infection after tattoo insertion.

In the evenings we wandered around and enjoyed the city of Brussels and had a fantastic course dinner where we got to know each other better, spoke about how training differed in different countries and how we managed our workloads. I learned more about German, Italian, Latvian and Turkish dermatology training which was a great opportunity to share experiences. All made more fun and enjoyable with a well-deserved Belgian beer!

I would like to thank EADV and especially the course organisers for a wonderful opportunity. It opened my mind and eyes to a different aspect of skin modification and I met some amazing people in the process whom I hope to stay in touch with in the future.

Stela Ziaj MBBS MRCP
Cardiff, UK

“ I was so amazed by the results of Dr Brigitte Drost on scar remodelling in patients after cancer therapy that I will arrange to see her in the Netherlands to learn more about the techniques used.”
History

The Hungarian Dermatological Society (HDS) was founded in 1928. The first President was Lajos Nékám, an outstanding personality in the world of dermatology, whose scientific work was internationally acknowledged.

In recognition of the Society’s intensive and complex scientific activity, the 9th World Congress of Dermatology and Venerology in 1935 was organised in Hungary. During that congress in Budapest the dermatology experts gathered there decided to officially form the International League of Dermatological Societies.

HDS has played an important role in the establishment of Hungarian venereological screening, management and the follow-up network, which, in part, is still in force.

HDS today

HDS now has approximately 500 active members, and the number has been increasing. The main goal of our Society is to improve dermato-venereological and cosmetological medical attendance and education, as well as to broaden members’ scientific knowledge and to spread the discipline’s latest results. Furthermore, to educate the patients and the nation in an understandable way about healthy skin and various skin diseases.

HDS organises two main congresses for its members every year. At the end of each year all our members gather for our major Annual Conference where we not only share the latest developments in dermatology, but also educate the next generation of dermatologists by passing on our knowledge and experience in...
this field. On these annual occasions we also present our Honorary Membership Award and the Nékám Plaque. Some of our Nékám awardees have been Prof Jablonska, Prof Braun-Falco, Prof Ruzicka, Prof Black, Prof Stingl, Prof Katz, Prof Nishikawa, Prof Rocken, Prof Gollnick, Prof Stâhle and Prof Zouboulis. Our other big congress is in mid-summer, the Cosmetologic and Aesthetic Congress. HDS also arranges two courses every year dedicated to our residents to educate and give them up-to-date information about dermatology.

**Co-operation with EADV**

HDS became an EADV-affiliated Society in 2002. Shortly after, in May 2004, HDS organised the 2nd EADV Spring Symposium, in Budapest. Ever since, the Society has been significantly supporting its members’ EADV membership fees. Recently we helped 56 of our members by sponsoring their membership cost. Our Society also established a grant to finance our members’ participation in the annual EADV congresses. We have provided the applicants with nearly 16,000 EUR in total each year in recent years. Through this scholarship we also encourage them to take an active part in the EADV congresses by preparing abstracts and presenting their clinical and scientific achievements.

HDS members regularly play important roles arranging international courses with EADV. The Acne, Rosacea course is organised by Prof Éva Remenyik and Dr Dániel Töröcsik from the Department of Dermatology, University of Debrecen Faculty of Medicine, Debrecen. The Advanced Paediatric Dermatology Course is organised by Prof Zsuzsanna Szalai from Heim Pál National Paediatric Institute in Budapest.

The beneficial connection between EADV and HDS helps our members to be part of the European Dermatology Network. We believe in and support an even closer co-operation between EADV and our national society in the future.

**Andrea Szegedi MD PhD DSc**

Full Professor, Head of Division of Dermatological Allergology
Department of Dermatology
University of Debrecen Faculty of Medicine, Hungary

EADV Board Member representing Hungary
President of the Hungarian Dermatological Society

Prof Andrea Szegedi

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*Participants of the Acne, Rosacea EADV Course in Budapest in 2018.*

*Faculty (front row from left to right): Prof Christos Zouboulis (Director of the Departments of Dermatology, Venereology, Allergology and Immunology, Dessau Medical Center, Germany), Prof Lajos Kemény (Director of the Department of Dermatology and Allergology, University of Szeged, Hungary), Prof Éva Remenyik (Director of Department of Dermatology, University of Debrecen Faculty of Medicine, Hungary), Prof Andrea Szegedi (President of the Hungarian Dermatological Society, Head of Division of Dermatological Allergology Department of Dermatology, University of Debrecen), Dr Dániel Töröcsik (Department of Dermatology University of Debrecen) and Dr Eszter Baláds (Secretary General of HDS, Department of Dermatology and Allergology, University of Szeged)*
For most dermatologists, death is not around on a daily basis. But for Marcel Jonkman, who dedicated his life to the research and treatment of Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), or blistering disease, death was an all too familiar visitor.

Prof Jonkman had fought for over thirty years to relieve the pain of his patients with EB, many of them children, when he was diagnosed with metastasised pancreatic cancer in August of 2018. “I knew it was a lost cause,” he said. However, he also knew that it did not have to be an ugly thing. It could be beautiful. “Not every death is a good one,” he said, “but it can be.”

He decided to undergo only palliative care, only treating his symptoms to alleviate the fatigue and pain caused by the cancer. “I try to seize the day,” he said in October 2018. “I choose to follow the way of the water, to move with it.”

Marcel Jonkman studied, lived and worked in Groningen, the Netherlands practically his whole life, and managed to build an impressive career as an EB specialist. He looked for—and found—one of the causes of EB, had founded a world-renowned diagnostic centre at the UMCG in Groningen, and made leaps towards the development of a drug to treat the disease.

Already in 1995 he discovered that a shortage of the BP180 protein caused a type of blister disease, and that this must be due to a gene mutation. Shortly after, he met a patient who had one healthy patch of skin among all the blisters and discovered that this gene sometimes mutates back, like a natural form of gene therapy. And even though the healthy patch never grew larger than six centimetres, it proved a breakthrough.

Prof Jonkman supervised 26 theses, six with honours, always trying to use his scarce funding for the very best ideas that would bring him closer to a cure for EB. By the end of his life, he was involved with a project that may eventually lead to the solution he was hoping for. Using a mouse as a model organism, his research group found that the diseased RNA can be ‘fooled’ using an oligonucleotide: a short RNA molecule. When the RNA reads the genetic information the defect is ‘skipped’, after which the missing information is supplemented by that natural gene correction that he found earlier.

Unfortunately, their procedure wasn’t effective enough to reach all the skin cells. So he came up with Skinlander, a molecule that can insert the information into the skin cell. His group was recently given a grant to come up with proof of concept in the next two years.

He has not lived to see the results of this promising research. “Now that death is so close the only thing that’s left is love. I’m enjoying my retirement. It’s just a shame it’s so short,” he said.

He died on 14 January 2019, at the age of 61, with his loving family close by. He will be greatly missed.

Christien Boomsma PhD
University of Groningen, Netherlands
Calendar of Events

> 2019

24th World Congress of Dermatology
10–15 June 2019 – Milan, Italy
Continue reading

18th ESDaP Congress – "The skin patient – a multidisciplinary challenge"
20–22 June 2019 – Giessen, Germany
Continue reading

20th World Congress of the International Society of Cryosurgery
4–5 September 2019 – Haifa, Israel
Continue reading

28th EADV Congress
9–13 October 2019 – Madrid, Spain
Continue reading

EADV Nails Masterclass
10 November 2019 – Mumbai, India

> 2020

16th EADV Symposium
29 April–2 May 2020 – Porto Portugal

29th EADV Congress
23–27 September 2020 – Vienna, Austria

> 2021

30th EADV Congress
13–17 October 2021 – Berlin, Germany

> 2022

31st EADV Congress
7–11 September 2022 – Milan, Italy