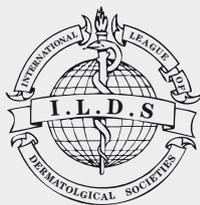


# Newsletter N° 20

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## Letter from the new Secretary-General of the International League of Dermatological Societies, Yoshiaki Miyachi

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure and honour to serve all of you as the new Secretary-General of the ILDS for the next coming 4 years, which will make me very busy, but also very excited. Having worked as a Board member for the past four years, I know what I am expected to do for the ILDS.

At this opportunity, let me briefly introduce myself. I am now living in Kyoto, the most beautiful and historical city of Japan, which used to be the capital for more than 1000 years (794–1868). My first name Yoshiaki means a 'good big tree' in Japanese. My father named me after the Scripture 'Make a tree good and its fruit will be good' (Matthew 12:33), so please call me 'Yoshi' which means 'Good!'

We are now facing lots of important issues to be solved by the new ILDS Board and my job is to help the ILDS witness the fruitful outcome

through the international collaboration of member societies. After the great success of the 22nd WCD in Seoul, we will do our very best to ensure a truly innovative WCD 2015 in Vancouver. If we make the tree of the ILDS good, I believe, its fruit for the 23rd WCD will also be good. Other long pending issues challenging the ILDS to tackle include ICD11, RDTC, Moshi as well as the Hats On For Healthy Skin campaign, strengthening subspecialties, global guidelines and so on.

My dream as the new Secretary-General is to expand our dermatological world even more powerfully and broadly, leading the ILDS to a truly global organization recognized by all of the dermatologists in the world irrespective of geography, culture, language or economy. For this purpose, we need to welcome more and more new member societies from all over the world. As an Asian and a non-native speaker of English who has some difficulty in following discussions in any kind of English-speaking meetings, I will do my best to help the ILDS organize its issues more simply and visibly so that even members whose mother tongue is not English can understand what's going on. By doing so, I believe we will be able to harmonize our scope by bridging the existing gaps.

As my father wished me to be a 'big good tree,' I would like to help the ILDS develop into a truly big good tree in this continuously globalizing world. So please join our projects today and support our efforts to make both dermatologists and patients happy and healthy.

Yoshiaki Miyachi

## International Foundation for Dermatology: Vacancy for Medical Director

### Medical Director (unremunerated)

#### The International Foundation for Dermatology

This is a voluntary (unpaid) post suitable for an individual with a medical degree and appropriate postgraduate training, which has met criteria for specialist accreditation in dermatology. The individual will have broad experience of dermatology in a developing country environment. The purpose of this post is to oversee the daily activities of the International Foundation for Dermatology and to lead the strategic planning cycle each year.

The director will be responsible to the Chairman of the Foundation and to the Board of the International League of Dermatological Societies. The successful applicant will work closely with the Chairman in delivering the programme of work. Specific roles include the joint work with the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Moshi Tanzania and other projects which at present include joint work with the Dermatologia Comunitaria Programme in Mexico, The Francophone programme in Mali, with the support of the task groups of the IFD, and liaising, where necessary, with WHO as well as the organisation of the Derm-link programme.

Further details available from the Chairman (rod-erick.hay@ifd.org). Expressions of interest should be lodged with the ILDS/IFD office by the 14th October 2011.



## In Memoriam Dr Edith Nkechi Nnoruka



It is with great sadness that we recently learned of the sudden, untimely death of Professor Edith Nkechi Nnoruka, a member of the Dermatology Topic Advisory Group of the World Health Organization International Classification of Diseases Revision Project.

Dr Nnoruka was Senior Lecturer in Dermatology at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria. She had wide interests in clinical dermatology, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. She served as head of her department for some five years. She was involved with a range of national committees in Nigeria including the WHO African Program on Onchocerciasis Control and Chairman on Review of Dermatologic Preparations and medications for the Essential Drugs List for Hospitals in Nigeria. She also chaired the Advisory Committee of the Vitiligo Support Group of Nigeria.

We were delighted to recruit her as representative of the Sub-Saharan Region to the ICD-11 Dermatology Topic Advisory Group. The Group has been involved in the very important task of producing a completely new and expanded skin disease classification for the next revision of the International Classification of Diseases. She joined the Group in 2009 and was able to attend the first meeting of the Group in Berlin in October 2009. She had taken on the role of coordinating the classification of disorders of skin pigmentation and had made a firm start on this when she was struck down by a catastrophic cerebral haemorrhage in early 2010.

As a Group we wish to honour the contribution she made to the ICD Project.

*Robert Chalmers*  
Co-Chairman  
Dermatology Topic Advisory Group  
ICD Revision Project

## Letter from Vancouver

We would like again to thank the ILDS members for selecting Vancouver, Canada as the next location for the World Congress of Dermatology in 2015. All of Canadian dermatology is thrilled with this milestone opportunity of showcasing our country to our international dermatologic colleagues.

We are certain that the WCD 2015 in Vancouver will be able to offer everyone exactly what they want in terms of interactive lectures, state of the art exhibition hall, and e-posters. We will make every effort to make it a complete and fun educational experience.

We plan to embrace new technology allowing participants full access to the program via tablets, smart phones, and electronic social media.

This week we just went on a detailed tour of the convention site mapping out where many of the conference activities will take place. The center is phenomenal in terms of its modern design,

technology and massive space. The setting is one of the most beautiful for any convention center as it is nestled between mountains and the ocean.

We are in the process of negotiating the best possible rooms and meeting spaces at the best affordable prices for our colleagues. Almost all hotels are within walking distance to the downtown convention center. We will be in a position to reveal the exact dates shortly once all the contracts with the convention center and hotels have been finalized.

We look forward to welcoming the world to one of the friendliest countries on the planet.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Shapiro*  
President of WCD 2015

*Harvey Lui*  
Secretary General  
of WCD 2015

## International Awards for Social Responsibility in Dermatology

### Organized by L'Oreal and Galderma Awarded at the 22nd World Congress of Dermatology

There were 55 applications for these Awards and the winners were:

- Africa: Global care of chronic dermatological diseases in Morocco – *Dr Hakima Benchiki*
- Asia Pacific: Community Skin Health Program in Philippines – *Dr Lonabel A. Encarnacion*

- Europe: The School of Atopy in Italy – *Dr Carlo Gelmetti*
- North America: Melanoma surveillance in underserved hispanic communities – *Dr Claudia Hernandez*
- South and Central America: Dermacamp – *Dr Samuel Henrique Mandelbaum*

The Judging Committee consisted of:

*Prof. Hee-Chul Eun*  
*Prof. Andreas Katsambas*  
*Dr. David Pariser*  
*Prof. Marcia Ramos-e-Silva*  
*Prof. Kisseem Tchangai-Walla*

## ILDS Certificate of Appreciation Awards



*Prof. Dr. Wolfram Sterry, ILDS President congratulating Prof. Gerd Plewig after the presentation of his ILDS Certificate of Appreciation at the opening celebrations of the German Dermatological Society, March 2011.*



The Board of the Tunisian Society of Dermatology with *Prof. Mohamed Ridha Kamoun* in the centre having been presented with his ILDS Certificate of Appreciation earlier this year in March.



Professor Karvonen with *Professor Annamari Ranki* at the presentation of *Professor Ranki's* ILDS Certificate of Appreciation at the annual meeting of the Finnish Society of Dermatology and Venereology, 2011.



*Dr. Robert Chalmers* being congratulated on receiving his ILDS Certificate of Appreciation from *Professor Roderick Hay* at the British Association of Dermatologists' Annual General Meeting in 2011.

## International Foundation of Dermatology (IFD)

### New projects

Skin diseases comprise some of the commonest conditions seen in different geographic regions; they may also be the first indicators of serious underlying illness such as HIV/AIDS or neglected tropical disease including onchocerciasis, filariasis and leprosy. In field surveys estimating the prevalence of skin disease within communities skin problems have been recorded in between 23–82% of individuals, the higher levels being seen in resource poor countries. The current diagnostic gold standard for most skin disease is 'the diagnosis of a trained observer', usually a dermatologist or a health worker who has undergone formal and accredited training in this field. Diagnosis is based on conventional taught clinical skills – taking a clinical history and physical examination. Clinical diagnosis is supported, where possible or appropriate, by laboratory based diagnostic methods mainly histopathology (particularly of use in skin tumours) and microbiological studies for bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites. In work carried out in resource poor environments application of these criteria is difficult and in many areas impossible usually because there are no dermatologists or access to laboratory investigations. Previously studies have indicated how diagnostic accuracy diminishes significantly in health care workers (HCWs) without specific training in the recognition of skin disease and unfamiliarity both with diagnosis and treatment results in severely reduced quality of care with a high level of treatment failure.

These sobering thoughts have provoked a new initiative in which the IFD is involved in partnership with the World Health Organisation's Department of HIV/AIDS. Given the reliance for diagnostic capacity in skin disease on the availability of specifically trained individuals and the absence of such individuals in many parts of the world, coupled with a high consultation rate for patients with skin problems a diagnostic algorithm is being developed to strengthen diagnostic accuracy. Its use will be aimed at the health care worker who is in daily contact with patients with HIV/AIDS who all have a high frequency of skin diseases. This will, in turn, help the medical team to identify the most suitable treatment. Algorithms have been used previously both to diagnose common skin diseases in poor countries, such as Mali and Fiji, or to strengthen specific diagnoses, examples of the latter include atopic dermatitis and lymphatic filariasis. Current skin algorithms, though, do not answer the needs of individuals who manage skin disease in regions with a high level of HIV/AIDS as the range of illnesses differs and their presentation is often atypical. The new algorithm will be designed to capture these spe-

cific features into a diagnostic scheme for health care workers without formal dermatological training. The algorithm therefore represents a consensus view of a group of experienced dermatologists with expertise in tropical dermatology. However in order to further develop its use and to ensure that it meets standards of reproducibility it will be validated through comparison between health care workers, who are likely to be using this scheme under conditions where there is no other form of diagnostic support, and trained dermatologists, the current gold standard. The validity of the language used will also be established through back translation. This work should be ready for field testing early in 2012 in Kenya and Uganda.

From busy rural or urban clinics to more specific issue the building of a dermatological ward for the management of patients with skin disease at the Regional Dermatology Training centre (RDTC) for the region around Moshi Tanzania is now proceeding fast.

In many parts of the world the use of dermatological 'in-patient beds' is declining whereas in regions where specialist dermatologists have to

cover a wide geographic area, hospitalising patients may be the most cost effective means of management. Currently in the RDTC bed occupancy runs at over 100% and most of those under care have potentially life threatening dermatoses such as toxic epidermal necrolysis or disseminated Kaposi's sarcoma (HIV related). In this context provision of these beds and nursing cover provides a huge bonus for health care. The building is now in its final phase of construction with tasks such as the internal plastering and the electric points in hand at present. The development of the ward has been made possible by the enormous generosity of the Stiefel family and through their help it will provide a regional unit to be proud of.

*RJHay, Chairman*



The Ward early phase, June 2010 – the foundations and ground floor in place



The roofed buildings of the male and female wards, July 2011

## Life After the ILDS

### Ps, There is Life After the ILDS Robin Marks

At the World Congress of Dermatology in Seoul in May this year, Professor Robin Marks finished his time on the Board of the ILDS after 19 years service.

He was initially appointed to the Board in 1992 (called The International Committee of Dermatology at that time) as an ex-officio member in his capacity as the President of the 19th World Congress of Dermatology to be held in Sydney in 1997. Following that Congress he remained on the Board for another ex-officio term of four years during which he was appointed Treasurer of the ILDS and IFD.

In 2002, at the World Congress of Dermatology in Paris, he was elected by the Assembly of Delegates to a full position on the Board. The Board then elected him as the President of the ILDS, a position that he held until Professor Jean-Hilaire Saurat was elected as the next President in Buenos Aires in 2007.

During Professor Marks' term as President, he and the Board created major changes in the structure and function of the ILDS, lifting its position substantially to become the truly global body representing dermatology that it is today.

Marks completed his final four year term on the Board as immediate Past-President. But is that the end of the story? Is there life after the ILDS? He answers that question with a definite – YES.

Academic life continues as ever with his attachment to the University of Melbourne and his position of Director of Skin Cancer Services at the Skin & Cancer Foundation of Victoria. He runs a busy part-time private practice out in the country, 100kms from Melbourne, where he and his wife, Margaret, have beautiful property with a large garden.

And as he scales back his academic life, as all wise people do at a time when they are still active and on top of things, it is that country life and practice that will assume a greater part of his life. At their country home the Marks have an outstanding and varied garden, including not only decorative plants and trees, but also fruit trees, vegetables, an olive oil grove and a small vineyard. Marks has been making wine there for the last 10 years, but says he is still not satisfied with his riesling. 'Next year will be the best yet' he says, which is the classical comment of all gardeners and vigneron.

This year he completed a new studio, as drawing and painting has been an obsession of his for years. He now has no excuse for putting off this consuming passion, another reason for winding back his academic life.

So, to all aspiring dermatologists who want to make a contribution to global dermatology, he says support the ILDS and IFD in one way or another. 'It has been an extremely privileged and satisfying part of my life', he says. But he says also that 'life is a matter of balance' and it is the life after the ILDS that he is now achieving that is also very special and has been enhanced by having been fortunate enough to be part of the 'ILDS team'.



Professor Marks in the garden in front of the lake and small reflection pool



Professor Marks sketching on the verandah of his new studio