



## Progress Report 2015-16

### INTRODUCTION

The International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) was created in 1987 as an arm of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS). Its principal mission is to improve dermatology care in underserved areas of the developing world.

Our aim is to improve the care of patients with skin and sexually transmitted disease who do not have access to specialist skills. For the most part this work is carried out through training health workers appropriately for the local environment. In addition, we carry out needs assessments and develop, and evaluate, treatment regimens and protocols for more general use in resource poor regions.

### REGIONAL DERMATOLOGY TRAINING CENTRE

The Regional Dermatology Training Centre or RDTC, in Moshi Tanzania was created in partnership with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and the Good Samaritan Foundation. Over the past 20 years **the RDTC has graduated some 250 senior clinical officers in dermato-venereology** who have returned to provide dermatology care and expertise in 15 African Countries. It has also expanded its activities to include **a residents' programme that has now trained 19 Consultant Dermato-venereology specialists in 7 African countries.**

The principle objective of the Centre is the care of skin disease seen in locality together with training leaders of health care at front line level, usually senior clinical officers or nurses, through a two year University based Diploma course; a second training scheme (M. Med) provides for a four year specialist training in dermatovenereology for junior doctors which is now a training pathway recognised for specialist accreditation by 7 African countries. The students have also performed health service research projects as part of their training and these provide a unique insight into prevalence, need and demand for health care at community level.

#### Highlights:

- Development of the RDTC's first five year strategic plan which was presented in July 2015 and ratified at the Board Meeting in January 2016.
- Appointment of a new principal who is a graduate of the programme contributing to the sustainability of the programme going forwards. The outgoing principal supported the training of the new principal.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Continuing Medical Education (CME) Meeting (2016) entitled, 'Turning Challenges into Opportunities'.



### **RDTC 21<sup>st</sup> Continuing Medical Education (CME) Meeting**

At this 21st annual CME there were 250 participants including 90 past ADDV graduates. 30 countries were represented (16 African countries). 42 speakers inspired us with varied and wide ranging talks covering leprosy, community dermatology and the challenges of managing dermatoses in mobile populations.

The next meeting is January 11-13th 2017.

Further information: [www.rdtc.or.tz](http://www.rdtc.or.tz)

## **ALBINISM**

Persons With Albinism (PWA) in the tropics die prematurely from skin cancer. The IFD has been involved with the RDTC Project to care for those with Albinism since 1992. This programme is now known as Comprehensive Care Programme for Persons with Albinism and involves sun protection with a local sun screen production unit, skin cancer prevention, eye care and visual correction, skin cancer management as well as income generating training activities. For four years, ILDS has also been working as an interested party in a strategic advice capacity with an NGO working in this area called Standing Voice.

### **Highlights:**

- **PWA** - IFD led the PWA Working Group Meeting in Tanzania in January 2015 which brought together clinicians and NGOs working on the clinical aspects of care of PWA's to share activities.
- **PWA** - Planning started for the development of a manual (start-up) kit to establish quality services for PWA including eye care, skin cancer prevention and treatment and sun protection.
- **Standing Voice** - A key achievement for Standing Voice in 2015 has been the development of Kilimanjaro Sun or 'Kilisun', a Tanzanian sunscreen made specifically for people with albinism. The availability of specific sunscreen for people with albinism is crucial to the work of Persons With Albinism. This is now produced onsite in the RDTC grounds and provided to Standing Voice who distribute it. Ministry of Health interest and commitment to Quality Assessment has been achieved. **2,000 patients have been involved with and in the supply of 'Kilisun'** out of an estimated national population of 20,000 people with albinism.
- **Standing Voice** - 'Kilisun' working with Standing Voice have been doing capacity building work across Tanzania with staff from the RDTC as trainers. **Standing Voice now reach seven different areas in Tanzania with 7,000 patients in regular treatment.** The patient and family group, the Tanzanian Albino Society, has been involved with this work.
- **Standing Voice** is now branching out into other African countries with the RDTC model and in August 2015, this initiative expanded to Kenya and Mali. In August 2015, building on the success of the workshop the year before Healthy Skin, Fiji hosted the first Albinism Awareness Event. This progress was made possible in part due to the efforts of joint proposal between IFD, Health Skin Fiji and a GSK Pulse Volunteer Janet Brown who assisted Dr Margot Whitfield to put on this wonderful event. [www.healthyskinfiji.com.au](http://www.healthyskinfiji.com.au)



- **International Albinism Awareness Day** was held on 13 June 2015 at the World Congress of Dermatology (WCD). A press conference to sensitize the audience was held early on in the WCD and IFD participated in a press conference and presentation on the final day.
- **Mexico** - Training has expanded to include Persons with Albinism in the remote Chiapas area.
- **Cambodia** - The teaching resource is being expanded to Cambodia in South East Asia.

### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

IFD has continued to work with WHO on a number of issues including neglected tropical diseases, non communicable diseases, ageing and essential medicines.

#### Highlights:

- A new WHO report, '*Investing to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases*', urges governments to increase investment to tackle these diseases of poverty. IFD represents dermatology at the launch in London (19 February 2015, The Royal Society, London and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). Scabies, Podoconiosis and skin signs of neglected tropical disease kept on the WHO agenda.
- The IFD is working actively with the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases to raise the importance of the recognition of the skin manifestations of neglected tropical diseases. A position statement is expected to be published from this group during 2016.

Further information: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

### FOOTWORK: THE INTERNATIONAL PODOCONIOSIS INITIATIVE



IFD is represented by Claire Fuller on the Steering Committee of Footwork, a non governmental organisation that supports the prevention and treatment of podoconiosis. **Podoconiosis** is a form of **elephantiasis** or swelling of the lower leg triggered by prolonged exposure to irritant minerals in red clay soils. There is no infectious or contagious agent: no parasite, no bacterium, no virus is involved. It was classified as a Neglected Tropical Disease by the **World Health Organization** in 2011.

#### Highlights:

- Podoconiosis was recognised as one of eight priority diseases by the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia.

Further information: [www.podo.org](http://www.podo.org)



## INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE CONTROL OF SCABIES



The International Alliance for the Control of Scabies (IACS) is a global network committed to the control of human scabies and the promotion of health and wellbeing of all those living in affected communities. It was set up in 2012. IFD was a founder member and continues to be an active participant.

Further information: [www.controlscabies.org](http://www.controlscabies.org)

### 2015 IACS Meeting Attendees in Philadelphia

#### Highlights:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> IACS Global Meeting was held in October 2015 in Philadelphia.
- At the ILDS World Congress of Dermatology in June 2015 a meeting was held to raise awareness of scabies with dermatologists. The meeting was attended by 30 dermatologists from 10 different countries. There was an article about the event in the World Congress of Dermatology daily newspaper.

## AFRICAN SOCIETY OF DERMATOVENEREOLOGY

The objective of the African Society of Dermatovenereology is to bring together dermatologist across Africa. The ILDS hope that this group will enable the development of increased representation of dermatologists from Africa in ILDS' work particularly from countries where there are currently not enough dermatologists to form a national society.

Their first Scientific meeting is to be held 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in Abuja Nigeria in association with the Nigerian Association of Dermatologists

#### Highlights:

- Formed at the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Dermatology in June 2015 in Vancouver, Canada.
- The constitution is in French and English and they will also work in Portuguese.
- First meeting will be held in July 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria.

## GRANTS PROGRAMMES

IFD provides grants for work in underdeveloped regions of the world. One programme is Dermlink which is a grant programme for ILDS member societies which enables them to apply for grants to run projects or purchase pieces of equipment for resource poor settings. The programme has had numerous successful outcomes.



**Highlights:**

- **Dermlink** – Three grants were awarded in 2015: one to Chile for some teaching equipment; one to the Philippines for a training project including a survey on HIV and the third for a community-based project in Lebanon.
- **Dermlink** – a former Dermlink recipient, Dr Rie Yotsu, Department of Dermatology, National Center for Global Health and Medicine Leprosy Research Center (Japan) supported Buruli Ulcer epidemiology and intervention in the Cote D’Ivoire and went on to be chosen to participate in a WHO technical advisory group for Buruli Ulcer.
- **Dermlink** – a former Dermlink recipient, Helmut Beltraminelli has developed capacity for dermatopathology in Africa through the training of several dermatopathologists through a recognised international qualification. He ran the second pan-African Dermatopath course in 2015 and participants went up to 50 and included participants from West Africa.
- **Mexico** – IFD continued to support a project which provides outreach dermatology training around the rural districts in the mountains outside Acapulco. Training clinics were run every six months in 2015. Their work was presented at the American Academy of Dermatology Meeting in February 2015 in the United States of America.
- **Mali** – IFD has supported work to coordinate the development of a Francophone dermatology training course. Some one day training courses were held with community health workers. A report has been published on this work Professor Ousmane Faye hopes is working with Senegal, Togo, Burkina Faso, Guinea to develop a more generic tropical dermatology programme for community health care workers. Next faculty meeting is anticipated in July 2016.
- **Cambodia** – IFD provided support for the establishment of a two year training programme undertaken in collaboration with Phnom Penh University. Having run for several years this has now been developed into a specialist training programme. Talks are underway to enable the training to be completed in South East Asia rather than in Europe.
- **Patagonia** – IFD has supported community training programmes.

**COMMUNITY DERMATOLOGY JOURNAL**



IFD produces the Community Dermatology Journal as a CME resource and distributes it free of charge to many people around the world. The Community Dermatology Journal contains articles on the management of skin disease and is intended principally for use in resource-poor regions.

**Highlights:**

- Two editions published.
- 10,000 copies distributed.
- Subscribers in 178 countries covering all world regions.

Further information: [www.ifd.org/activities/community-dermatology-journals](http://www.ifd.org/activities/community-dermatology-journals)