Assembly of Delegates Elects New Leadership

During the 20th World Congress of Dermatology in Paris, July 1–5, 2002, the Assembly of Delegates of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) named six new members to serve on the management Board (the International Committee of Dermatology.)

The election process began with requests to the Member and Affiliate Member Societies of the ILDS to submit nominations. From the 48 names received, the ILDS leadership group proposed 14 individuals as candidates based on geographic distribution, gender, international activities, reputation and experience. Additional considerations included international reputation, personal experience in congress matters, and scientific achievement.

At the first meeting of the Assembly of Delegates on July 2, brief biographical information about each of the 14 candidates was distributed to Delegates. During the July 4 Assembly of Delegates votes were cast via paper ballots which were counted by members of the leadership group with randomly selected observers overseeing the count.

Based on the results of the ballotting,

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Message from the ILDS President

Dermatology is moving rapidly forward in the new Millennium. There are many challenges ahead of us and the Board of the League, by taking a global view of dermatology, is examining its role in this time of change.

Of course, the first and critical area we are examining is to see how we can improve our interaction with you, our member societies. After all, we are elected to represent our member national and international societies. We shall be increasing our contact with you in different ways over the coming years, seeking your views on our directions and what you think is important.

Other areas we are looking at in detail include our work in developing countries through the International

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“Message from the ILDS President”

Foundation for Dermatology; our DermLink grants provided to member societies in developing countries to assist in a small way with items of equipment or small travel grants; our relationship with the World Health Organization and other major international medical organizations where dermatology needs to be represented and have a powerful voice; and the World Congress of Dermatology, which was such an outstanding success in Paris and is obviously popular amongst our membership.

An exciting challenge for the League was brought up at the Assembly of Delegates meeting in Paris. Dermatologists in many countries are feeling that the boundaries of dermatology are being encroached upon. This is not only by government and other regulators, but even from within the medical profession itself, as other disciplines start to claim the role for management of so many conditions which have traditionally come under dermatology. We plan to look very closely at this area. If possible, we would like to develop and define what is reasonably represented as the boundaries of dermatology/dermatovenereology.

If we can find a definition which is acceptable, and compatible with the views of our member societies, the imprimatur of the ILDS may well then be available for individual groups in their own country to use this definition with the power of the League behind it to say that this is what is accepted internationally as the areas of our discipline. It is rather like the World Health Organization or the United Nations saying that there are certain basic and agreed on principles which individual countries will accept as they have the imprimatur of internationally recognized organizations.

But this is only part of our work. There are enormous challenges in the five years ahead of us. We have a very active, enthusiastic and capable Board of the League and its subsidiaries, such as the International Foundation for Dermatology. We are not being unrealistic in believing that we are going to save the world in the next five years. However, we certainly are taking up the challenge to work on behalf of our member societies to create change that will make a difference in the long term.

Robin Marks
ILDS President

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“Assembly of Delegates . . .”

Doctors Francisco Camacho-Martinez (Spain), Roderick Hay (U.K.), Robin Marks (Australia), Marcia Ramos-e-Silva (Brazil), Jean-Hilaire Saurat (Switzerland), and Wolfram Sterry (Germany), were elected to serve on the Management Board of the ILDS. (Specifics regarding the vote are available on the ILDS website, www.ilds.org.)

Two additional Board members were named as the result of the Assembly’s selection of Buenos Aires as the site of the 21st World Congress of Dermatology in 2007 (see related story on page 4.) The President of the 21st congress, Ricardo Galimberti, and the Secretary General, Adrian-Martin Pierini, will serve as ex-officio members of the Board.

Robin Marks (Australia) was subsequently named as the ILDS President. Continuing on the Board are Georg Stingl (Austria), named as the Secretary-General, and Ana Kaminsky (Argentina), who will serve as Treasurer of both the ILDS and the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD). Continuing committee members include Benvenuto Giannotti (Italy), Andreas Katsambas (Greece), David McLean (Canada), Kristian Thstrup-Pedersen (Denmark), and as ex-officio members, Stephen I. Katz (U.S.A.), Takeji Nishikawa (Japan), Jean-Paul Ortonne and Jean Revuz (France).

21st World Congress of Dermatology
October 1-5, 2007
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Revised ILDS Bylaws Approved by Delegates

The Assembly of Delegates, in session in Paris on July 2, approved a number of revisions to the ILDS Bylaws. The major change will shorten the interval between World Congresses of Dermatology to four years after the 2007 congress, providing dermatologists worldwide the opportunity for more frequent updating of the advances in dermatology. This will also shorten the terms of service on the ILDS Board (International Committee of Dermatology), which is tied to the frequency of the congress.

The revised Bylaws will soon be available on the ILDS website (www.ilds.org) and can also be obtained from the ILDS Office (mtgmgr@gte.net).

20th World Congress Reports Record Attendance

The 20th World Congress in Paris, July 1-5, 2002, was a great success with a record number of almost 12,000 dermatologists in attendance. Including spouses and technical exhibitors the count was closer to 18,000. Over 100 different countries were represented; France, USA, Germany, Italy, Brazil, UK, Japan, Spain, Indonesia, Mexico, Switzerland and Canada had the highest number of attending dermatologists. Nearly 200 scholarships and waived registration fees were awarded.

Nineteen parallel sessions took place each day and 2400 scientific posters were displayed in two different sessions. Attendance in the meeting rooms demonstrated that the scientific program was very efficient in satisfying registrants’ curiosity and thirst for knowledge. More than 6,000 square meters of commercial exhibit space were available and the aisles were crowded with visitors to the displays.

Clearly the congress met the goals of the Board of the ILDS (the International Committee of Dermatology) and the French Society of Dermatology.

Actions from the July 2002 Meetings of the ILDS Board

The management Board of the ILDS, meeting during the 20th World Congress of Dermatology in Paris, took the following actions:

- Agreed to recommend to the Assembly of Delegates that there be no increase in ILDS membership fees.

- Approved the policy of maintaining ILDS Cash Reserves at the total amount budgeted for expenditure over the five-year operating cycle period.

- Named five recipients of Certificates of Appreciation for 2002. (See story on page 4.)

- Appointed an ad hoc committee to look ways to use electronic communication to improve and increase Member Society interaction with the ILDS.

- Directed that a new ad hoc committee on membership continue the review of requirements for membership in the ILDS.

- Appointed an ad hoc committee to review in detail the process of nomination, selection and election to membership on the Board of the ILDS.

- Directed the Awards Committee to look at improving the process of nomination and selection for awards, involving more participation with Member Societies in the process.

- Agreed to initiate an enquiry into boundaries of dermatology/dermatovenerology that might be of value to Member Societies in maintaining the base and role of dermatology within a changing medical, social and political environment that is occurring throughout the world.

- Confirmed Rod Hay as the Chair of the International Foundation for Dermatology, and David McLean as Secretary-General. (See page 6.)
Six Recognized for Contributions to Dermatology

The ILDS Board annually recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to worldwide dermatology by presenting Certificates of Appreciation to outstanding dermatologists who have been active internationally in the areas of science, prevention, treatment, epidemiology, or public awareness on behalf of the specialty. And once every five years the committee’s highest medal, the ILDS Distinguished Service Award, is given at the time of the World Congress of Dermatology.

As those who were present at the elegant Opening Ceremony in Paris know, the medal was given to Alfred W. Kopf (US), past Chairman of the IFD. Al has put his soul and his life’s effort for the last 15 years into making the Regional Dermatology Training Center (RDTC) a reality. Because of his passion he has been able to raise large sums of money from friends, colleagues, organizations, from his own family and from his own bank account. He has also very actively participated in the establishment and management of the RDTC over these past many years. The ILDS is honored to provide this award and recognition to Alfred Kopf.

Receiving Certificates of Appreciation this year are Barbara Leppard (UK), for her valuable work on behalf of the IFD; Lourdes Tamayo (Mexico), for her relevant role in pediatric dermatology in Ibero-Latino-American countries; Jean Civatte (France), for his contribution to international academic dermatology; John Stratigos (Greece), for his promotion of viable links within international dermatology; and James Ertle (USA), for his dedication to dermatology in developing countries.

Buenos Aires to Host 21st World Congress of Dermatology

Delegates to the July 2 Assembly of Delegates in Paris selected Buenos Aires as the site of the 21st World Congress of Dermatology, October 1-5, 2007. (Note the change from the late-September dates announced earlier.)

In their presentation to the Assembly, Ricardo Galimberti, who will serve as the Congress President, and Adrian-Martin Pierini, Secretary General, reported that Buenos Aires is well prepared to welcome the congress, with a world-class congress center, a wide variety of hotels, and a spectacular setting in the cultural capital of Latin America. It would be the first WCD to be held in South America and the second ever in Latin America, in the Southern Hemisphere and in a Spanish-speaking country.

As plans develop, information will be made available on the congress website: www.dermato2007.com.ar.

Early Alert: Member societies and all related dermatological organizations are urged to avoid October 1-5, 2007, when scheduling future annual meetings and other educational events.

Please Share this Newsletter with your Society Members.

Keeping Societies advised of ILDS happenings has always been a challenge – and informing the individual dermatologists who are members of each society would be quite impossible without your help. We urge you to copy any or all of the information contained in this newsletter and share it with your membership. We will very much appreciate your assistance in this endeavor.
2002 DermLink Awards Announced

The goal of the ILDS DermLink program is to help member societies and non-profit departments of dermatology in developing countries that are in need of resources. Upon application from an ILDS Member or Affiliate Member Society and approval by the ILDS Board, up to $3,000 US per project is made available for purchase of teaching materials or equipment, or to fund a short-term training or travel grant for an individual Society member in a developing country. Since its inception in 1999, the program has awarded 21 grants.

Awards for 2002 include a five-year subscription to the AAD Journal for the Dermatology Society-Jerusalem Center, submitted by the Pan Arab League of Dermatologists; data projector and accompanying books for the educational programs of the Algerian Society of Dermatology; a short-term training grant for Helena Vidaurre-de la Cruz, submitted by the International Society of Pediatric Dermatology; multimedia slide projector for the educational programs of the Association of Bangkok Alumni of Dermatology-Pakistan; digital photography/microscopy system for the Department of Dermatology, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, submitted by the Philippine Dermatological Society; and a digital projector and document camera for the educational programs of the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine.

Application forms for the 2003 DermLink program will be available from the ILDS Administrative Office in February 2003.

Membership Dues for 2003-2007

In October, Member and Affiliate Member Societies will receive invoices for membership dues for the five-year membership period. The invoice will specify the amount due and where to send payment, which may be made in one lump payment or in separate transfers over a two-year period. Details will be provided on the invoice. Please feel free to contact the ILDS Administrative Office (mtgmgr@gte.net) with any questions you may have at this time.

Excuse the Interruption...

If you have tried to view the ILDS or IFD websites lately, you may not have been able to access one or the other—and if you did find them, you may have noticed they contained out-of-date information. We are in the process of moving to another web host and making other changes to improve the information contained in these sites (www.ilds.org; www.ifd.org). It is hoped that by the time you read this, the new, improved, sites will be up and running.

Your patience (and suggestions) are appreciated!

Society Secretaries, Please Note:

As we begin a new five-year membership period it is important for the ILDS to receive details about your Society. If you are the Secretary of your Society you will find enclosed with this newsletter a form on which to provide the information that we need. Your answers will help us to maintain timely communications with you and your Society Officers and will assure that accurate data is included on the ILDS website.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Hay Named to Lead Foundation

At the World Congress of Dermatology, Paris, Terence Ryan ended his term of office as Chairman of the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) Board and Rod Hay (UK) was appointed in his place. David McLean (Canada) was named as Secretary. The new IFD Board, consisting of the management Board of the ILDS and co-opted members, was formed.

In addition, the IFD will convene a small group of dermatologists or public health physicians with an active interest in tropical dermatological public health in order to develop the future research program of the IFD. One of their first objectives will be to compare dermatological needs in different parts of the developing world and the resources used for management of skin disease in order to understand how the experience of the Regional Dermatological Training Centre in Moshi, Tanzania, can be used for the benefit of dermatology elsewhere.

The first priority of the new IFD board will be to strengthen the RDTC in Tanzania and ensure that the centre is adequately resourced. Much progress has already been made and assuring scholarship funding for students will be a key priority. We hope to seek funding from potential donors for a commitment to fund one scholarship a year over a five year period. This entails an annual outlay of $7,000 that is used to support a student away from his or her home country. Approximately 20 scholarships are required each year and this funding would provide a key element of stability within which to develop the RDTC.

In addition to the important work in Tanzania the IFD, through the work of Doctors Mahe and Faye, has initiated a pilot program of public health interventions in common skin diseases from pyoderma to scabies in Mali. This work is well under way and should provide important information on the way forward for the control of some of the commonest of skin diseases. Links with our dermatological nursing colleagues through joint input to the project on the elimination of lymphatic filariasis continue to grow.

Finally it is important that we recognize the outstanding contribution that Terence Ryan has made to the International Foundation and his tireless energy and enthusiasm will be difficult to match. Many thanks are also due to Ramon Ruiz Maldonado as outgoing secretary.

As always the team in Moshi has provided a truly excellent program and are to be congratulated for their enormous contribution and their support. Our warmest thanks also go to Barbara Leppard who has now returned to the UK, to her old University Southampton. Her skills as a teacher and supporter in the RDTC will be sadly missed, but we hope that she will still participate in the work of the group.

The new address for correspondence about the IFD will be:

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