tation are implanted into the uterus to establish pregnancy, as is routinely done as part of *in vitro* fertilization protocol, thus excluding the recurrence of the disease in the family. Thus, couples with a child previously affected with a severe form of EB can now initiate the next pregnancy knowing that there are ways to find out the EB genotype of the fetus at the early stages of pregnancy through DNA-based prenatal testing or even before the pregnancy is established by applying PGD.

Future perspective

Identification of the underlying molecular defects in EB is a prerequisite for development of successful therapies in the future. In particular, developing gene therapy approaches requires precise knowledge of the mutations in the affected genes and their consequences at the mRNA and protein levels (1). Although successful application of gene therapy for the treatment of EB may still be several years away, rapid development of new technologies or promising breakthroughs may well lead to durable gene therapy for these devastating skin diseases in the future.

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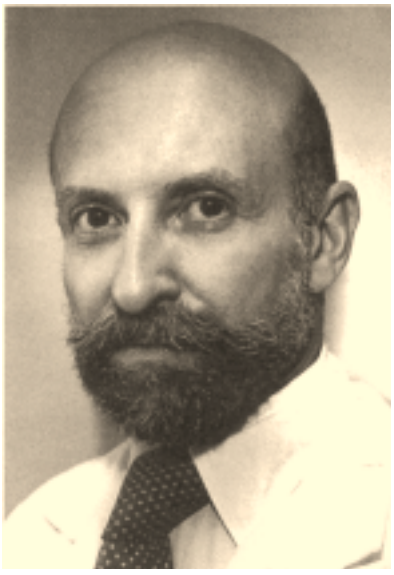

Professor Alvin E. Friedman-Kien held a Glaxo-Smith-Kline lecture at the SSDV's 100th anniversary meeting.

Future Challenges in Venereology with Emphasis on Viral STD's

by Professor Alvin E. Friedman-Kien, NYO, School of Medicine, New York

Professor Eric Sandström introduced Professor Friedman-Kien as one of the few doctors who understood, as early as twenty years ago, that there was a new disease among gay men in New York, the one now known as HIV-AIDS. Professor Friedman-Kien gave us a kaleidoscopic view of dermatology and HIV during the past two decades, presenting and showing pictures of all of the opportunistic infections and AIDS-related skin manifestations which have now become very uncommon in the western world. He also showed us pictures of the first HIV patients when the disease was still unknown. In June 1981, dermatologists from New York and San Francisco had seen young gay men with Kaposis sarcoma and sent out an alert about this new disease. The disease's spread and present situation around the world were also discussed. The professor's closing remark to us dermatologists was, "Keep your eyes open for immunodeficencies."

Jan Eklind, Resident
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