

Global Dermatology

Now – what is behind this ambitious title? The International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) is! Over 120 national and international societies are affiliated as members, including all Nordic societies, and its main purpose is to organize World Congresses of Dermatology.

The Mission Statement of the ILDS is: Encouraging the worldwide advancement of dermatological science, education and care.

The ILDS board – the International Committee of Dermatology (ICD) – had its most recent board meeting in Buenos Aires, during a site-visit for the upcoming World Congress of Dermatology, 2007, October 1-5. Start thinking about attending (www.wcd2007.org)!

Here is a brief update on the news from the discussions in Buenos Aires.

1. A new system for electing new members to the ICD board is going to be suggested to the general assembly of ILDS. This will ensure

that 2/3 of the seats on the board actually represent one of the regions of the world: Europe, US and Canada, Latin-America, The Middle-East and Africa, and the Pacific Rim. The next ILDS assembly will be in London, Oct 2005, during the EADV meeting. It is important that the Nordic ILDS representatives take part in this assembly.

2. Permanent ILDS office in London within the physical facilities of the British Association of Dermatologists.
3. Develop Policy Manuals for Bidders and for Contractors of future WCD.
4. There are presently two bidders for the 2011WCD: Rome and Seoul.

Some comments may be added to the summary above:

The new election system will give a more “representative” distribution of ICD board members. At the moment the ICD board consists of ten Europeans, three Argentineans, two from the US, and one each from Australia, Canada and Japan, respectively. The board acknowledges that this does not optimally represent global dermatology. Therefore, the new suggestion is to have ten members from the five regions as mentioned above and

five seats for free election.

The permanent office in London has been created because the organizational work on ILDS is increasing – especially of the International Foundation of Dermatology (IFD), which was created in 1987 (see next article on IFD). In the UK “Charity funds” are not taxed. It also creates the option of a more active participation of the organization of future world congresses. This is partly to secure the financial surroundings of a WCD, which are highly complex.

I urge all Nordic ILDS delegates to participate in the General Assembly in London, in October 2005. You will be informed about the exact location and time together with the new proposals from the ILDS President Robin Marks.

October 17, 2004

Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen

International Foundation of Dermatology (IFD)

This sub-committee of ILDS has very important functions, which should live up to our Mission Statement of advancing dermatological care worldwide.

It was initiated following the Berlin World Congress and is now 15 years old. Most efforts have been concentrated on the Regional Dermatology Training Centre, (RDTC) Moshe, Tanzania (Forum Nord Derm Ven 2001; 6 (2): 31-34), where the ICD board had a board meeting.

Approximately 125 young “dermatology assistants” have now completed their 2-year training at the centre, and have returned to their individual African countries to try to improve “skin health” in their region. The British Association of Dermatology has agreed to fund an evaluation of the whole project in order to judge

what impact the work has left. This evaluation will be conducted by a Tanzanian medical doctor.

A summary of the present status:

Dr. John Masenga is going to assume the administrative responsibilities of the centre, while Dr. Henning Grossmann will continue his work together with the rest of the staff. The Tanzanian government is increasingly supporting the centre with money for further staff (secretaries, nurses etc).

The Herzog Foundation of the US will donate USD 600,000 to the Endowment Fund, provided the ILDS gives further support so that the Endowment Fund reaches 1 million US dollars. The surplus of the fund will then be strictly reserved for RDTC activities. This is a very significant contribution, and many thanks go to Peter Bentley, the representative

of the Herzog Foundation. It was decided in Buenos Aires that the additional money to reach the million dollar level will be donated from part of the surplus coming from the WCD in Paris 2002, where 1 million US dollars was donated to the ILDS. This very significant amount allows for continuance of the RDTC and for newer smaller projects in Mali (conducted already), in Mexico and in China.

It should be known that Nordic input to the RDTC centre is more than welcome. There are several ways: If a Nordic dermatologist could spend a year or six months as teacher and collaborator at the centre, this would be most appreciated (salary has to come from external funds). No doubt a 1-year stay would be the most interesting, both regarding dermatological and sexually transmitted diseases. Accommodation can be provided free of charge. Direct economic support is

always welcome, too.

Visits to the centre can also be arranged, such as a visit by a small group of Nordic dermatologists. All expenses would have to be paid by the visitors, but accommodation may be provided to a limited extent. The visitors could participate as external examiners during the exams and give lectures during their visit. Such visits have to be arranged well in time, as they are also time-consuming for the local faculty.

Thus, the IFD is alive and well!

October 17, 2004

Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen

XXIst World Congress of Dermatology in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 1-5, 2007 (www.dermato2007.org)

The International Committee of Dermatology (ICD) had besides its board meeting a site-visit in Buenos Aires on October 1-3, 2004 for seeing the convention centre facilities of the coming world congress.



From left to right: Drs Francisco Camacho-Martinez, David McLean, Andreas Katsambas, Wolfram Sterry, Benvenuto Giannotti from the ICD board and Drs. Fernando Stengel and Adrian-Martin Pierini from the local organizing committee.



The Argentinean team, who will run the WCD 2007 from left to right: Ms Dolores Sojo, Congress Manager; Adrian-Martin Pierini, Secretary General; Ana Kaminsky, ICD Treasurer; Ricardo Galimberti, President; Fernando Stengel, Chairman of the Scientific Board; Carlos Fernando Gatti, Chairman of the Latin American Advisory Board; Edgardo Chouela, Chairman of the Board of Logistics; Ms Ana Juan, CEO; Ana Juan Congressos, Ms Paula Paladini, Manager Convention Centre; and Juan Pablo Menegheti, Manager, Expobaires.

The centre is huge and able to serve more than 15,000 participants. It is an old area in Buenos Aires used by the farmers to exhibit their production of cattle and horses. The total area of the convention centre is 91,000 m², including open spaces, and it is all on ground level. The exhibition area is 13,700 m², the 20 session rooms seat from 250 up to 3,000 and cover 8,820 m², and the 6,200 m² poster area can contain 2,500 posters. Besides all this, there will be many facility rooms.

In summary: The Argentinean organizers are very dedicated with a “win-win” attitude. They have spacious and excellent congress facilities, and Argentina is an area of the world more than worth visiting.

A visit to Argentina

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In the book of Lonely Planet on Argentina there are about 300 pages describing this wonderful country. Only half a page summarizes “What sucks about Argentina?” (dog shit - extra’s in restaurants and a few minor things).

Argentina was severely affected by economical problems in 2001. This has left psychologically scars on most Argentineans, and has created significant problems for those unemployed including pensioners. The financial problems are easily visible in Buenos Aires. Therefore, security is important. I suggest the following: Come in your old jeans and sweater, leave your jewellery at home, bring



May I recommend Los Nostros? A wonderful hotel - very expensive, but located in the most beautiful surroundings. You wake up to look at the glacier. And you are surrounded by beautiful, young “angels” of Los Nostros (they come from all over Argentina). Here, you can sip your Angelinica Zappata Chardonnay or your Ruttini Malbec, while looking at the glacier. Claudia (the “sommelier”) will help you. And prices are what you should pay in our shops in Scandinavia. A gustatory and joyful event, which will melt any glacier within an elderly gentleman. It comes close to paradise on Earth. So - make your reservations now!

only hand luggage, order a personal pick-up in the airport on arrival (Martha will surely be happy to welcome you), and then enjoy Buenos Aires including the world congress. You can then for 1/3 of the price buy a new wardrobe, new leather bags, new shoes, new "everything", whereby you will save more than the expenses for your flight ticket! Because the only problematic thing about Argentina is that it is very far from our Nordic region - a 12-14-hour flight! You may make stop-over in Washington DC, Miami, Dallas, Mexico or Sao Paolo to visit friends or families, but it is a long way to go. Therefore, when going - enjoy! not only the world congress, but also the wonderful country of

Argentina.

Buenos Aires is a very big city, and carries all aspects of big cities: congestion, crowding and crime. No difference to e.g. New York, London or Paris (sorry to offend anyone in these areas). There are beautiful areas in Buenos Aires, and some good museums, but they are not overwhelming to a European. Therefore, the REAL Argentina is not Buenos Aires: It is outside the city! And - here come the delights! Argentina is the 7th biggest country in the world and its natural beauty is breathtaking. Just look at the photo on the previous page, where your "correspondent"

has risked - OK, maybe not his life, but his bank account - for a picture of the Perito Moreno glacier! Fantastic! You cannot put it into words. It has to be seen.

And this is just one option! Urushiah, Tucuman, Iguazu Falls, wineries, etc... So, if you at all go to the World Congress - do NOT miss Argentina outside Buenos Aires, because that is where you really experience the fantastic nature and the friendly people.

Here are some informative addresses:

Websites:

www.dermato2007.org

www.losnotros.com

www.santacruz.gov.ar

E-mail addresses:

info@losnotros.com

tur@spse.com.ar

info@solopatagonia.com.ar

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Another of the glaciers is the Upsala glacier - so called because the University of Uppsala supported an expedition in the area to study the glacier, almost 200 years ago.