



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

REVISITING DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETIES: INSIGHT INTO PRACTICES, RELEVANCE AND USEFULNESS

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Background: The International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) is an umbrella organization with member societies from across the world. These societies are actively involved in knowledge dissemination and advancement of the subject. While visiting the website of the individual societies, it was evident that several of these societies might be redundant or dormant, as suggested from missing information on their websites.

Objective: The aim of this investigation was to determine the various practices, activities and usefulness of the dermatological societies across the world.

Materials and Methods: The website of ILDS was used to generate the list of member societies and their respective web-addresses. The information obtained from website of individual societies (between 1-10 September, 2018) were used to synthesize the data. All web links that could not be opened, or were not updated for more than 2 years, or were in local languages and could not be translated with the help of Google Translator, were excluded from the study.

Results: There are 170 member societies in ILDS representing more than 150,000 dermatologists. For reasons stated above, 47 (27.6%) societies were excluded. Among the 123 societies studied, 64 (52%) were national societies, while 9 (7.3%) each were dermatopathological and diseases specific societies. Fifty-seven (46.3%) websites were in local languages while rest were in English. USA and Italy have maximum number of societies, 25 (20.3%) and 11 (8.9%) respectively. Forty-four (35.7%) societies have journals, of which 25 are indexed in PubMed, and 7 are offered in local languages only. Fellowship and travel grants to attend conferences are offered by 16 (13.1%) and 32 (26%) societies respectively. The membership scheme for these societies are primarily annual, while 6 (4.8%) societies offer life memberships. Forty-five (36.6%) societies offer membership for trainees or residents.

Conclusions: There is variation in activities and practices of dermatological societies.

