



International Foundation
for Dermatology

International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD)

Annual Report 2024

The IFD is the charitable foundation of the ILDS. We work to improve understanding of the importance of skin health and access to dermatological care, particularly in underserved communities.

At the IFD, we are dedicated to advancing global skin health and addressing the stark disparities in access to dermatological care, particularly in underserved communities. We do this through impactful education and training programmes, strategic global partnerships, and advocacy for meaningful policy change.

In close collaboration with the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and a strong network of partners, we deliver initiatives that create long-term, sustainable improvements in care for those who need it most.



2024 was a dynamic and rewarding year, with key highlights including:

- Continued progress from our long-standing collaboration with the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Tanzania, resulting in increased training capacity and improved patient care
- Our major investment in the Pacific Dermatology Training Centre, driving significant growth in both dermatological training and treatment capabilities
- Expanded access to dermatological care across numerous underserved communities, made possible through the tireless efforts of our volunteers and our grant-funded programmes.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters. Your contributions truly change lives and we are profoundly grateful. We look forward to your continued support as we work together to improve skin health worldwide.

2024 in Review

Here's a summary of some of the IFD's key achievements over the last year:



The Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC)

The RDTC in Moshi, Tanzania, is a key strategic partner in our mission to improve skin health across Africa. In 2024, it treated more than 20,000 patients and organised 27 outreach clinics for people with albinism, along with 13 clinics for patients with xeroderma pigmentosum, delivering vital care to communities in Moshi and the surrounding regions.

In January, the RDTC hosted our 30th annual Continuing Medical Education event, bringing together professionals to share knowledge and foster innovation in African dermatology.

The RDTC has also expanded its training efforts through the Advanced Diploma in DermatoVenereology and continues to support Master's in Medicine scholarships, helping students complete their specialist dermatology training. We were especially proud to welcome seven new Master's graduates who have joined the RDTC faculty as dermatology consultants.



Expanding Dermatology Training in the Pacific Island Nations

More than 10 million people live in the remote communities of the southwest Pacific Island Nations, where skin diseases are both common and often left untreated.

In 2024, we committed US\$1 million to support the Pacific Dermatology Training Centre at Tamavua Twomey Hospital in Suva, Fiji. This investment has helped expand access to local dermatological training through the Fiji National University's postgraduate Diploma and Master's programmes in Dermatology.

These programmes are producing a new generation of 'home-grown' dermatologists with trainees providing care at the National Skin Clinic in Suva, which now sees more than 21,000 patients each year.

Our annual **DermLink Grants Programme** supports ILDS members and affiliated societies in delivering one-year projects that improve dermatological care in underserved areas.

In 2024, we awarded more than US\$76,000 to support 17 field work and community projects in 14 countries spanning Africa, Asia and South America. These initiatives are already making a measurable difference to individuals and communities affected by skin diseases.



During 2024, the 13 recipients of 2023 DermLink funding also completed their projects which directly benefited almost 10,000 patients and supported additional training for almost 500 dermatologists and healthcare workers.

DermImpact: Funding Long-Term Collaborative Change

Launched in 2024, our new **DermImpact Grants** provide US\$20,000 over two years to support multi-stakeholder collaborations that aim to create sustainable, long-term improvements in dermatological services.

Grants were awarded to five pioneering projects, currently underway in Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Philippines, and Uzbekistan. Together, these initiatives are expected to directly benefit at least 71,000 patients, and reach an additional 150,000 family members, friends, and caregivers.



Sharing Practical Knowledge Through the Community Skin Health Journal

Our official publication, the **Community Skin Health Journal (CSHJ)**, is a crucial resource for healthcare workers, especially those in low-resource settings. It provides up-to-date, practical guidance on the diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases.

In 2024, we refreshed the journal's design for improved usability, expanded access via mobile apps, and added Arabic to its list of available languages. We also optimised our print distribution to ensure the most efficient use of resources.

Supporting the Skin Health of Migrants, Refugees, and Displaced Populations

As global conflicts increase, so too does the number of people living as migrants, refugees, or internally displaced people. Our **Migrant Health Working Group (MWHG)** plays a vital role in supporting these vulnerable groups.



In 2024, the MWHG focused on education and capacity building. Key activities included:

- Preparing to conduct a field mission to two refugee camps in the Kigoma region of Tanzania in January 2025
- Hosting the third Migrant and Refugee Health Summer School in partnership with Bridges2Health & Rights and the University Hospital of Bern, Switzerland
- Developing a comprehensive toolkit of training resources tailored to common skin conditions among displaced populations.



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