

66th Annual Meeting, American Academy of Dermatology, San Antonio, Texas, 2008

This 66th annual gathering, running from February 1 through 5, 2008, was held in San Antonio, a former frontier town of New Spain whose original civilian population in 1731 was colonists from the Canary Islands requiring special Royal encouragement, as true *peninsulares* (Spanish-born Spaniards) were reticent to settle there. This meeting brought together approximately 13,000 dermatologists from around the globe under the flag of the Republic of Texas, an independent nation for a decade after the final Texan victory at San Jacinto avenged the defeat at the presidio in San Antonio, known as the Alamo, which was overwhelmed in 1836 by vastly superior forces personally headed by Mexican President General Antonio López de Santa Ana. Dignitaries included Torello M. Lotti (Secretary-General, International Society of Dermatology), Alberto Giannetti (President of both the European Academy of Dermatology and the Italian Society of Dermatology), Jana



Fig 1. President Alberto Giannetti, Gabriella Fabrocini, Robert A. Schwartz and Camila K. Janniger (with son Edmund), Corinna Rigoni, and Antonella Tosti, right to left, at reception of the Italian Dermatologic Society at St. Anthony's Hotel

Hercogová (President of the Czech Academy of Dermatology and Venereology and Congress President, 10th International Congress of Dermatology), Yahya Dowlati MD, PhD (President, Iranian Society of Dermatology and President, 8th Iranian International Congress of the Iranian Society of Dermatology), Ramón Ruíz-Maldonado (President, International Society of Dermatology), Luis Hernando Moreno Macías of Cali (President, Asociación Colombiana de Dermatología y Cirugía Dermatológica), Andris Y. Rubins (President, Baltic Association of Dermatovenerologists), Rafael Falabella (Congress President, XXVII Congreso Colombiano de Dermatología), Giuseppe Micali (50th Annual Howard Fox MD Memorial Lecturer), Ricardo Galimberti (President, World Congress of Dermatology 2007), and Evangeline B. Handog (Past President, Philippine Society of Cutaneous



Fig 2. Giuseppe Micali and Aurora Tedeschi on the right and Robert A. Schwartz and Camila K. Janniger (with son Edmund) on the left, in the Technical Exhibits

Medicine). Other international luminaries included Martin Black of London, Robert Baran of Cannes, Antonella Tosti of Bologna, Luitgard G. Wiest of Munich, Zenab el-Gothamy of Cairo, Murlidhar Rajagopalan MD of Chennai, Aurora Tedeschi of Catania, Raúl Cabrera Moraga of Santiago de Chile, Mario Aricò of Palermo, Deepak A. Parikh of Mumbai, Corinna Rigoni of Milan, Luiz "Guiga" Guilherme Martins Castro of São Paulo, Gabriella Fabbrocini of Naples, Mohammed Amer of Zagazig, Anna Kukula of London, and Sandipan Dhar of Kolkata.

The academic program was outstanding and varied. Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin facilitated our understanding of the greatness of American President Abraham Lincoln. The nail symposium was highlighted by Richard K. Scher's superb "six signs, six cases, six mistakes" including a green nail recalcitrant to therapy overlying a pseudomonas osteomyelitis, a red nail due to an enchondroma, and a thick nail reflecting keratotic scabies. Robert Baran emphasized the many faces of the onychomatricoma. The acne symposium directed by Jenny J. Kim was excellent, with Diane M. Thiboutot stressing the value of pharma-

logic modulation of sebaceous gland activity in acne. Her work has shown that inhibition of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase pathway blocks sebocyte lipogenesis. Medication that interrupts this pathway may reduce sebum production and provide an exciting new approach to improve acne. Torello M. Lotti's forum on vitiligo had many insightful presentations, including one by Rafael Fabelbella. Luiz "Guiga" Guilherme Martins Castro led an important focus session on tropical and travel dermatology, or avoiding parasites in paradise, as increased international travel forces physicians to think globally and face unusual imported dermatoses. The academic program was supplemented by special events such as the elegant Italian Society of Dermatology reception organized by President Alberto Giannetti of Rome at the St. Anthony's Hotel, where US President Lyndon B. Johnson had his wedding dinner reception in 1934 (Fig 1). The eclectic academic lectures were supplemented by joyfully sagacious technical exhibits (Fig 2).

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Croatian Activity in Euromelanoma Day, May 5, 2008

European countries have for years now been actively included in the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology prevention campaign against melanoma entitled Euromelanoma Day, this year held on May 5, 2008. The intention of the Croatian Committee for Dermatology and Venereology of the Croatian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Croatian Society of Dermatology and Venereology of the Croatian Medical Association, and Referral Center for Melanoma of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Croatia, is to allow for the Croatian dermatologists/venereologists to include and participate in the pan-European prevention campaign against skin cancer with free-of-charge screening for moles by dermatologists on May 5, 2008.

The Croatian Society of Dermatology and Venereology will start the project in cooperation with Oktal Pharma (Pierre Fabre Dc) Croatia (conducting such actions in the field for the last two years) with "Avene sun-days of melanoma" on May 5-9, 2008, with free-of-charge screening for moles in

400 subjects at five departments in Croatia, i.e. in Zagreb (two), Rijeka, Split and Osijek.

In cooperation with La Roche-Posay for Croatia and Slovenia, free-of-charge screening with skin examination will be organized in the same way on June 6, 2008, with advertising actions on May 26-28, 2008.

Professor Andreas Katsambas, EADV President-Elect, has welcomed the Croatian campaign and joining the Euromelanoma Day using the unique European questionnaire for examination.

This year's motto for all European countries included in the campaign is: "Check your moles regularly; catch melanoma early!"

We all wish the Euromelanoma Day campaign to prove full success, with a reasonable Croatian contribution to the prevention of melanoma.

Professor Jasna Lipozenčić MD, PhD

Professor Mirna Šitum MD, PhD