

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, No. 1

## Message from the IFHRS Chair

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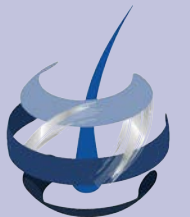


Hello and Welcome! to the International Federation of Hair Research Societies summer *Newsletter*. I am sure that you are all preparing to take your summer and, in some cases, fall holidays. I want to thank all the society participants at the World Congress of Hair Research 2024, Dallas, Texas. It was an outstanding congress, and we all learned a lot, had time to socialize, and became even more enthusiastic about our specialty. The WCHR2024 Goal: Enlightenment of the Total Eclipse of Hair Science was accomplished.

We all look forward to building and expanding our knowledge

of hair disorders and future therapies that benefit our patients.

Thank you all for all your contributions and continued participation in Hair Science and the International Federation of Hair Research Society.



IFHRS

International Federation  
of Hair Research Societies

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# World Congress for Hair Research Open Slot 2030

We are delighted to announce the launch of the **2030 Open Slot bidding process**. This is a new initiative, recently introduced into the calendar of the World Congress for Hair Research. In this unique instance, a bid to host the Open Slot need not come from an existing IFHRS member society; however, the bid must come from a Bid Team that has a genuine interest in promoting Hair Research and that has the strengths, confidence, and capabilities to organize and host this event. Additionally, the team must outline compelling reasons for its choice of location/timing that make the event unique in the cycle of hair research congresses. The timeline for the process is outlined in the chart below.

Expressions of interest are invited via a **Google Form** as a preliminary step in the process. We hope that there will be several potential teams interested in this unique opportunity. The IFHRS Board expects to select the **best two initial expressions** and invite each of these Bid Teams to prepare a **full and detailed proposal** to be presented May 2026 during the World Congress in Korea. The winning Bid Team will be chosen and will then present its bid during the Congress closing ceremony. To assist Bid Teams in preparing their proposal, a general guide document—“**WCHR Open Slot Bid Guide**”—is available to download from <https://www.ifhrs.com/>.

The Expressions of Interest at this stage need not be very detailed, and we do not expect presentations or video submissions at this time. Details of what we require are in the Google Form.

*The Expression of Interest should be submitted via the following Google Form:*  
<https://tinyurl.com/WCHROpenSlot2030GoogleForm>

Process	Key Dates	Method
Outline bid letter and form links sent to all societies	March 23, 2024	Email
Open Slot bid Q&A arranged (Dallas)	April 9, 2024, 1:30-3:00pm during Session 32: Closing Ceremony & Lunch	In person
Expressions of Interest Form open	April 1, 2024	Email
Expressions of Interest Form closed	May 31, 2025	Email
IFHRS Board meets to review applications	July 2025	Zoom
Selected Bid Teams invited to submit full proposal	July 2025	Email
Full proposal sent to IFHRS Board by Bid Teams	April 2026	Email
Bid Teams present proposals to IFHRS Board (Korea)	May 28, 2026	In person/Zoom
Decision made and communicated to the winning team (Korea)	May 28, 2026	In person/Zoom
Winning Bid Team will present its bid at the closing ceremony in Korea	May 31, 2026	In person/Zoom

## Open Hub Application Task Force Members

Gill Westgate (Chair), Wilma Bergfeld (Americas), Claire Higgins (Europe), Chung-Hun Huh (Korea), Manabu Ohyama (Japan), and Xingqi Zhang (China)



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## 13TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR HAIR RESEARCH SURROUNDED BY THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Since our last gathering as a global community of hair researchers just two years ago, the field of hair science has exploded with exciting new developments and discoveries that are paving the way for innovative solutions for patients with hair loss. This 13th World Congress held in Dallas this past April highlighted many of these breakthroughs and brought together both clinical and basic scientists across academia and industry to tackle some of the most challenging problems in hair loss research today. More than 600 internationally renowned scientists and clinicians interested in hair research came from 43 countries (45% from North America, 14% Central and South America, 22% Europe, 15% Asia, 1% Africa, 1% Australasia, 1% Middle East); of these, 43% were physician clinicians, 23% researchers/scientists, 12% practicing trichologists, 11% industry, 7% in-training, and 5% other. Please enjoy the photos from the event on the following pages.

In addition to a live patient viewing, pre-congress workshops focusing on clinical and basic science, and keynote lectures, attendees participated in sessions dedicated to specific topics affecting a range of patient populations including hair loss in pediatric and female patients, male pattern hair loss, patients with textured hair, hair care and management in gender diverse patients, and the latest breakthroughs in inflammatory hair disorders such as scarring alopecias and alopecia areata. Attendees were treated to a full viewing of the total solar eclipse after keynote speaker Dr. Joel Meyers, Assistant Professor of Physics at Southern Methodist University, delivered an informative address on his research extracting insights about fundamental physics from cosmological observations, including eclipses. Some of the attendee highlights from the 13th World Congress for Hair Research included:

- Exploring hair follicle imaging that follows cell migration patterns in hair follicles, opening new hypotheses regarding cell lineage and function in the hair follicle.
- Assessing cutting-edge technologies that are providing unique biological insights into hair biology, particularly the power of single-cell RNA sequencing to identify individual cell types within the hair follicle based on gene expression.
- Learning about the biology and biophysical properties of curly hair and quantitative scoring of hair texture.
- Reviewing the latest treatment advances for alopecia areata, including current data of FDA-approved JAK inhibitors and development of new methods to capture patient reported outcomes.
- Evaluating clinical factors and hair care practices specific to textured hair that influence outcomes in central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia.
- Examining new research in hair care and aesthetics, including research on the discovery of new molecules and evaluation methods that can benefit the quality of hair fiber.
- Studying ethnobotany and the role of plant-derived compounds and natural products in hair loss treatments.
- Investigating innovative approaches to skin regeneration, including the latest advancements in biological treatments, exosomes, and hair follicle stem cell banking.
- Delving into emerging topics such as sudden onset hair loss in patients taking GLP-1 inhibitors for weight loss.
- Exploring chemotherapy-induced hair loss and the effects of stress on hair graying.

This meeting highlighted the exciting advances research that is leading to new therapeutic approaches, and it provided the perfect venue for clinicians and researchers to interact and discuss novel approaches for hair loss. Meeting sessions led to numerous innovative discussions, which are likely to lead to new collaborations that will positively impact treatment of hair loss moving forward. The gathering demonstrated that the future is bright for improving therapies for hair loss.

The next World Congress for Hair Research is scheduled for May 28-31, 2026, in Seoul, Korea, and will be hosted by the Korean Hair Research Society. Appropriately, its theme is “Awakening the Soul of Hair Science.” For more information, go to [www.hair2026.org](http://www.hair2026.org).





















# Chinese Hair Research Society

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## 2024 PAST ACTIVITIES

### 13th World Congress for Hair Research



Figure 1. Attendees at WCHR2024

In April 2024, the CHRS organized a delegation of nearly 30 Chinese hair research experts from across the country to travel the 13th World Congress of Hair Research (WCHR) in Dallas (Figure 1). Prof. Wenyu Wu delivered a speech on behalf of the Chinese Hair Research Society (CHRS), highlighting the society's history, development, and participation in previous WCHRs (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Prof. Wenyu Wu delivered a speech on behalf of the CHRS at WCHR2024.

### 13th Asian Dermatological Congress

The 13th Asian Dermatological Congress (ADC) was held May 9-11, 2024, in Shanghai, China, with nearly 150 invited speakers from 16 countries and regions across Asia, Europe, and the United States. Notably, the Hair Disease Forum was co-chaired by Prof. Wenyu Wu, Director of the Department of Dermatology, Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, and Prof. Rattapon Thuangtong from Siriraj Medical College, Mahidol University, Thailand. Eminent speakers, including Prof. Jerry Shapiro (Grossman School of Medicine, New York University), Prof. Amos Gilhar (Technion-Israel Institute of Technology), Prof. Xingqi Zhang (The First Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University), Prof. Rattapon Thuangtong (Siriraj Medical College, Mahidol University), Prof. Wenyu Wu (Director, Department of Dermatology, Huashan Hospital), and Prof. Mingxing Lei (Chongqing University) delivered insightful academic presentations (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Academic presenters from the 13th ADC.

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### 7th West Lake Hair Conference

The 7th West Lake Hair Conference was successfully held March 23-24, 2024. This conference included more than 20 scholars in hair research field who delivered speeches on hair basic research and hair clinic build. The successful conference had more than 200 on-site attendees. Prof. Ralf Paus and Jeremy Cheret from the University of Miami presented keynote speeches titled, “Preliminary Evidence That Selected Fragrances May Promote FFA Pathology” and “The Role of MTORC1 on Hair Pigmentation and Greying,” respectively, which drew great interest from the audience (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Keynote speech at the 7th West Lake Hair Conference.

### Western China Hair Disease Alliance

The Western China Hair Disease Alliance (WCHDA), which was initiated by Prof. Hengguang Zhao from the Second Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, is a collaboration of over 170 hospitals in Western China. The goal of WCHDA is to improve the diagnosis and treatment capabilities of hair diseases in Western China. The alliance provides a learning and communication platform for medical institutions and hair-related health enterprises in Western China. Over the first half of 2024, the WCHDA held a series of academic conferences in five different cities in Western China, including Kunming (Yunnan province), Suining (Sichuan province), Zunyi (Guizhou province), Xi'an (Shaanxi province), and Lanzhou (Gansu province) (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Attendees at the (WCHDA).

### Annual Conference of Hair Medicine

The Annual Conference of Hair Medicine Branch of Guangdong Medical Aesthetics Association was held in Guangzhou, May 25-26, 2024. Prof. Zhang Xingqi shared the progress of the “528 Hair Caring Fund” program for children with alopecia areata, which has so far supported 11 poor children with alopecia areata, and the program is still in progress (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Attendees at the Annual Conference of Hair Medicine.

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### ***Medical Cluster for Hair Disease Forum***

From January 12-14, 2024, more than 350 medical workers participated in the construction and management forum of the Medical Cluster for Hair Disease of the National Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine Center held in the China-Japan Friendship Hospital. This annual meeting and its academic activities play an important role in strengthening the construction of hair specialist diseases, cultivating hair specialist talents, carrying out basic research and standardizing hair diseases, improving hair diagnosis and treatment services, and expanding the hair and scalp health industry market (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Attendees at the Medical Cluster for Hair Disease Forum.

### ***“528, I Love Hair” Hair Care Day***

To promote the diagnosis and treatment of hair loss and other scalp diseases, as well as to raise public awareness about hair care, hundreds of hospitals all over China organized a series of activities on May 28, which is deemed “Hair Care Day” in China (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Photos from 528 Hair Care Day.

### ***Facilitating Communication Between Clinics***

As the hair clinics are booming in China, communications between different hospitals are happening more frequently. To facilitate this, Beijing Tongren Hospital organizes and encourages multiple department clinical communication with other hospitals in China and conducts on-site visits and experience exchanges through specialized outpatient clinics for hair disorders (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Communication between clinics is encouraged.

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## 2024 UPCOMING ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

### *8th Annual Meeting of the CHRS*

The 8th Annual Meeting of the CHRS will be held August 23-25, 2024, at the Yanbian Baishan Hotel in Yanji City, China. Basic science and clinical topics will be showcased in the form of workshops, plenary lectures, satellite sessions, and poster presentations; and this conference will undoubtedly serve as a significant venue for the exchange of ideas and the exploration of strategies that address current issues in the field. Yanji is known for its beautiful natural scenery, rich Korean culture, the majestic Changbai Mountain in the south and the summer resort Jingbo Lake in the north. We hope that you will join us and take extra time to experience the beautiful sites, wonderful cuisine, and diverse culture (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Yanji City, China.





# European Hair Research Society

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**Sergio Vañó Galván, MD, PhD, EHRS Secretary** | [secretary@ehrs.org](mailto:secretary@ehrs.org) | <https://ehrs.org/>

## IMPRESSIONS FROM WCHR2024

The 13th World Congress of Hair Research, held in Dallas from April 6-9, 2024, was a landmark event in hair research, with notable contributions from the EHRS. EHRS members played pivotal roles, delivering keynote lectures, chairing sessions, and leading workshops. The congress featured groundbreaking research on single-cell analysis and innovative treatments for hair disorders, underscoring the importance of global collaboration. EHRS members actively participated in panel discussions, sharing expertise on complex cases and new therapeutic approaches. The event emphasized the transformative potential of hair research in improving patients' lives. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizers for creating this exceptional platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

## AWARDS AND HONORS FROM WCHR2024

### *Prof. Vladimir Botchkarev Receives Prestigious John Ebling Award*

Prof. Vladimir Botchkarev from Boston University was honoured with the prestigious John Ebling Award by the EHRS for his outstanding contributions to hair research. He gave an engaging keynote lecture titled, "All Roads Lead to the Nucleus: How Epigenetic Machinery Orchestrates Hair Growth." Prof. Botchkarev has an impressive background, with medical training from Chuvash State University in Russia and a PhD from People's Friendship University in Moscow. In 1994, Prof. Botchkarev moved to Berlin, Germany, where he conducted postdoctoral training with Prof. Ralf Paus. In 1999, he and his wife Natasha relocated to the United States where he established his research group in the Department of Dermatology at Boston University. Between 2007 and 2019, he was also the Deputy Director of the Centre for Skin Sciences at the University of Bradford in the UK. Throughout his career he has received several awards, including from the Dermatology Foundation and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). With over 100 publications in top journals like Nature and Science Advances, his research focuses on how molecular mechanisms control hair growth and skin health. His work, funded by NIH grants, is crucial in understanding skin aging and hair loss. Prof. Botchkarev started his lecture by reflecting on words of wisdom imparted to him when he moved to the United States 25 years ago, by the renowned dermatologist and alopecia expert, David Whiting. The prominence of this acknowledgment was fitting given the location of the congress, since David Whiting lived and worked in Dallas from 1977 until his death in 2018.



Prof. Vladimir Botchkarev (center), together with Dr. Claire Higgins (EHRS President, right) and Dr. Sergio Vano-Galvan (EHRS Secretary, left).

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### ***Katherine Stewart Wins Jurgen Schweizer Prize for Groundbreaking Stem Cell Research***

The EHRS awarded the prestigious Jurgen Schweizer Prize for best oral presentation to Dr. Katherine Stewart, a Postdoctoral Fellow at The Rockefeller University. Dr. Stewart's talk, titled "Hair Follicle Stem Cells Clear Apoptotic Cellular Debris During Catagen to Maintain Hair Follicle Integrity," shed light on her groundbreaking discovery that hair follicle stem cells not only replenish and repair cells but also remove dying neighbour cells. This novel ability, previously unlinked to any type of stem cell, opens new avenues for research into skin regeneration. Dr. Stewart's work aims to further understand why stem cells engage in this behaviour, potentially advancing insights into the mechanisms of skin and hair health. For EHRS members who were unable to attend the congress do not despair—Dr Stewart plans to give her presentation again at one of our online symposia over the summer.



Katherine Stewart with the Jurgen Schweizer award.

### **21ST EHRS MEETING | WARSAW, POLAND | MAY 29-31, 2025**

Mark your calendars for the 21st EHRS Meeting, set to take place in Warsaw, Poland, May 29-31, 2025. Dr. Lidia Rudnicka will lead this meeting, which promises to bring together leading experts and researchers in the field of hair science for three days of insightful presentations, discussions, and networking opportunities. Stay tuned for more details, which will be available soon. You won't want to miss this chance to be part of a premier event in hair research!

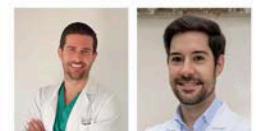
**SAVE  
THE DATE!**  
May 29-31, 2025  
Warsaw, Poland



### **MADRID ANNOUNCED AS HOST CITY FOR 2028 WORLD CONGRESS OF HAIR RESEARCH**

We are thrilled to announce that the venue for the 2028 World Congress of Hair Research has been decided. Organized by the EHRS, the congress will take place in the beautiful city of Madrid, Spain. Scheduled for May 2028, the event will be hosted at the Hotel NH Eurobuilding, a centrally located venue offering excellent facilities and accommodations. The organizing committee, led by Dr. Sergio Vano-Galvan (President) and Dr. David Saceda-Corrado (Secretary), is dedicated to making this congress an unforgettable experience. Attendees can look forward to an engaging program and the vibrant culture of Madrid in May 2028. More details will be available soon.

#### **WCHR 2028: MADRID, SPAIN !!**



**President: Dr. Sergio Vano-Galvan  
Secretary: Dr. David Saceda-Corrado**



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## 14TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR HAIR RESEARCH Launching Ceremony of the 2026 Organizing Committee

The launching ceremony of the organizing committee for the 14th World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR) 2026, which will be held May 28-31, 2026, at COEX in Seoul (Figure 1), took place on January 17, 2024, in the Korean Dermatological Association conference room (Figure 2). The Organizing Committee consists of Co-Presidents Chang-Hun Huh, Ohsang Kwon, and Moon Bum Kim, Congress Secretary Bark-Lynn Lew, Scientific Program Director Yang Won Lee, and Treasurer Sang-Seok Kim along with additional directors and committee members. Through a public contest, the logo and slogan were selected. Using the winning slogan, “Awakening the Soul of Hair Science,” we are preparing for a successful academic conference.



Figure 1. Official promotional slide of WCHR 2026.



Figure 2. Group photo from the launching ceremony.



Figure 3. Promotion photos of WCHR2026 were shown at WCHR2024 in Dallas

## Official Promotion of the WCHR2026 Begins

The official promotion of WCHR2026 began at WCHR2024 held in Dallas, Texas (Figure 3). During the opening ceremony, Co-President Ohsang Kwon introduced the upcoming conference, followed by a progress report at the IFHRS board meeting. At the closing ceremony, Co-President Chang-Hun Huh explained the conference logo and slogan, highlighting the attractions of Seoul to effectively promote WCHR2026. A dedicated WCHR2026 booth was set up at the Dallas conference venue to promote the next academic conference to attendees and distribute promotional souvenirs. The official website for WCHR2026, <https://www.hair2026.org/>, has been officially launched.

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## 2024 PAST EVENTS

### *The Alopecia Areata Foundation Hope Festival and General Assembly, 2024*

The 2024 Alopecia Areata Foundation Hope Festival and General Assembly were held on January 7 at the Sahmyook Health University small auditorium. The festival began with a celebratory music performance, followed by VR game experiences and art activities for children with alopecia areata. Simultaneously, a wig-wearing workshop and a lecture on the latest treatments for alopecia areata were held for the patients and their parents. This event aims to share hope and empathize with the pain experienced by those with alopecia areata and to seek and urge the necessary support for them to live as dignified members of society.

### *The 20th Annual Meeting of the Korean Hair Research Society in 2024*

The 20th Annual Korean Hair Research Society Conference was held on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at the Samjung Hotel, Seoul (Figure 4). With more than 190 participants, the conference covered a wide range of topics, from the basics of hair science to various clinical fields. Distinguished international researchers, including Kiarash Khosrotehrani in hair biology, Maria Hordinsky in alopecia areata, and Ramon Grimalt in topical finasteride, along with prominent domestic scholars, shared the latest knowledge and research trends in hair and hair loss. Additionally, as part of the ongoing exchange between the Korean and Japanese Hair Research Societies initiated a few years ago, two Japanese speakers, Misaki Kinoshita-Ise and Manabu Ohyama, attended the conference and delivered insightful lectures.



Figure 4. Group photo from 2024 KHR Annual Meeting.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### *The Hair Forum*

The Hair Forum, which will be held on August 17, 2024, aims to be a casual meeting where anyone interested in hair research can freely present and discuss their research topics.

## NOTABLE RESEARCH

**Lim JH, Kwon SH, Sim WY, Lew BL. A clinical investigation of early-onset alopecia areata in children: onset earlier than 4 years of age might have a better short-term prognosis. *Exp Dermatol.* 2024;33(1):e14991.**

**Summary:** This retrospective study examined the clinical characteristics and prognostic factors of early-onset alopecia areata (AA) in children under 10 years. Among 162 patients treated with topical corticosteroids, those with an onset before 4 years of age showed significantly better treatment responses. The study found that 57.4% of these patients experienced over 50% hair regrowth within 12 months. The research suggests that early-onset AA, particularly in children younger than 4 years, may have a more favorable short-term prognosis, but additional long-term studies are needed to confirm these findings.

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**Jeon JJ, Jung SW, Kim YH, et al. Global, regional, and national epidemiology of alopecia areata: a systematic review and modelling study. *Br J Dermatol*. Published online February 9, 2024.**

**Summary:** This systematic review and modeling study aimed to investigate the global, regional, and national incidence and prevalence of alopecia areata (AA), a chronic autoimmune disease. The study included data from 88 studies across 28 countries and found that the estimated lifetime prevalence of AA is 0.10% globally, with higher prevalence rates in adults (0.12%) compared to children (0.03%). The prevalence was highest in Asian regions and lowest in African regions. The study highlighted significant data gaps, particularly in middle- and low-income countries, and emphasized the need for additional epidemiological research to inform healthcare policy and resource allocation

**Park HU, Chung KB, Kim DY. Quantitative measurement of hair diameter diversity as a diagnostic indicator of androgenetic alopecia in Korean males: a cross-sectional study. *JAAD Int*. 2024 Feb 15;15:121-126.**

**Summary:** This study aimed to validate the 20% hair diameter diversity (HDD) threshold for diagnosing androgenetic alopecia (AGA) and to develop a refined criterion specific to Korean males. The research involved 240 male patients and used phototrichogram images analyzed with Image J software. The results indicated that a 45µm hair diameter threshold provided the best diagnostic accuracy, suggesting that 21% of hairs below this diameter is optimal for diagnosing AGA in Koreans. It concluded that while the HDD 20% remains a key method for early detection of vertex AGA, the definition of thin hair should be ethnicity-specific.

**Lee JY, Lim HJ, Kim SH, Lee GJ, Nam KH, Park J, Choi JK. Decreased CD19+CD24hiCD38hi regulatory B cells in alopecia areata. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2024 Feb 21:S0022-202X(24)00160-X**

**Summary:** This study explored the role of regulatory B cells (Bregs), particularly those producing IL-10, in alopecia areata (AA). Flow cytometry analysis showed that patients with AA had significantly fewer CD19+CD24hiCD38hi Bregs compared to healthy volunteers. These Bregs were found to regulate inflammatory mediators like CD8+ T cells and NK cells via IL-10. The study also noted altered STAT1 and STAT3 signaling in these Bregs, suggesting a mechanistic link between Bregs and AA pathogenesis. The findings highlight the potential of targeting Bregs for AA treatment

**Lee YY, Lim HH, Son S, Jin S, Shin JM, Hong DK, Jung KE, Seo YJ, Lee TK, Kim YM, Lee Y. Efficacy and safety of topical corticosteroid treatment under occlusion for severe alopecia areata in children. A single-center retrospective analysis. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2024 Mar 19;11ae085.**

**Summary:** This study assessed the efficacy and safety of topical corticosteroids under occlusion using plastic wrap in treating severe alopecia areata in children. The analysis involved a retrospective review of pediatric patients who received this treatment. The results demonstrated significant hair regrowth in a substantial number of patients, with minimal adverse effects. This suggests that topical corticosteroid treatment under occlusion is an effective and safe option for managing severe AA in pediatric patients.

## WE INVITE YOU TO SEOUL FOR WCHR2026

The Korean Hair Research Society kindly requests your support and participation in the upcoming World Congress for Hair Research, set to take place in Seoul in 2026. Your cooperation in ensuring the success of this conference is greatly appreciated.





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## 2024 EDUCATIONAL EVENTS OFF TO A GOOD START

### Webinars

In the first half of 2024, the Russian Hair Research Society (RHRS) maintained the high level of its activity. From an educational point of view, we held three online webinars on different aspects of trichology:

1. “News of World Trichology,” was attended by 135 physicians from 58 cities in 5 countries (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Estonia);
2. “Retinoids in Trichology,” was attended by 146 physicians from 60 cities in 6 countries (Belarus, Germany, Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan, Estonia);
3. “Androgens: What a Trichologist Needs to know,” had 154 attendees from 56 cities in 6 countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan).

### In-Person Training Courses

Additionally, in March 2024, we had two in-person training courses (both in St. Petersburg): “Trichoscopy” (which had 28 participants from 19 cities and 3 countries: Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan) and “Cicatricial Alopecia” (which had 20 physicians from Russia and Kazakhstan).

The basic research activity of RHRS members during this period was mainly focused on the development of experimental models for hair research (stem cell organoids), molecular mechanisms driving hair cycle progression, and cell fate decisions during specification of hair follicle structural compartments.



Educational events were well attended during the first half of 2024.

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## WCHR2024

In April 2024, the RHRS took part in WCHR2024 in Dallas, which is certainly the major scientific event in the hair field. Unfortunately, only a handful of RHRS members were able to attend this scientifically and socially outstanding event in person. Nevertheless, attending RHRS members actively participated by giving talks, submitting posters, co-chairing sessions, and being involved in discussions and sharing expertise. Thanks to the wonderful planning of Congress organizers, non-attending RHRS members were able to watch recorded presentations on the Congress website and were also able to get personal views/opinions from the participating members through the public media.

## RHRS ANNUAL CONGRESS SET FOR JULY 2-4, 2024

The Russian Society for Hair Research will be holding its annual congress July 2-4, 2024, with the participation of prominent international speakers. We have been actively preparing for this event since Christmas 2023 and hope our efforts will pay off. The scientific program will be broad and intense. With the timing in conjunction with amazing social events around St. Petersburg (it is a zenith of tourist season and the “White Nights”), we are confident that the Congress will be enjoyed by RHRS members and visitors from abroad. At this time, we are expecting close to 250 participants. Stay tuned for the January 2025 newsletter where we will review this annual congress.



Attendees of WCHR2024







# The Society for Hair Science Research (Japan)

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## UPDATES ON THE ACTIVITIES/SITUATION OF THE SOCIETY FOR HAIR SCIENCE RESEARCH (SHSR)

The Society for Hair Science Research (SHSR) has always been anxious to support the World Congress for Hair Research. This year, SHSR members not just actively participated in but fully enjoyed WCHR2024. At least for the Japanese attendees, the influence of the COVID pandemic has not been fully diminished in terms of intention to travel abroad. Still, the SHSR made their presence known at this fantastic meeting, which successfully combined elements of basic and clinical hair science with entertainment, exemplified by the exciting experience of viewing the total eclipse.

This author made brief speeches at the opening (Figure 1) and closing ceremonies. With regards to the plenary presentation, Dr. Tatsuro Iwasaki (Kyorin Univ.) gave a presentation on the use of a newly invented three-dimensional ultra-high-frequency ultrasound imaging machine for assessing alopecia areata. Prof. Emi Nishimura (Univ. of Tokyo), Prof. Yutaka Shimomura (Professor and Chair, Yamaguchi Univ. Graduate School of Medicine, and the Secretary-General of the SHSR), and this author chaired the basic and clinical sessions and gave educational talks. Other SHSR colleagues, including those from Prof. Junji Fukuda's lab (Yokohama National Univ.) and Prof. Kazutoshi Harada's lab (represented by Drs. Masaki Uchiyama and Ryokichi Irisawa), actively participated in the discussion at the poster sessions.

One of the major missions of the SHSR is to foster young investigators. To achieve this, the society provides travel grants. Attending this WCHR was grant recipient Ms. Aprill Kee Oliva Mizushima, a Ph.D. candidate from Prof. Hiroko Isoda's lab (Tsukuba Univ.) (Figure 2).

Networking and reconnecting with colleagues, along with staying updated on the latest scientific advancements, are key reasons for attending international in-person meetings. SHSR members thoroughly enjoyed the total eclipse (Figure 3) and the Texan-style entertainment with members from all of the other societies (Figure 4).

The SHSR has maintained a long-term partnership with a neighboring society, the Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS). In recent years, both societies have made it a rule to invite speakers to each other's annual meeting. This year, the KHRS celebrated its 20th anniversary, which hosted distinguished speakers from around the world. This author, together with A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise (SHSR manager, Kyorin Univ.), received the honor of being an invited guest speaker (Figure 5). This author gave a lecture on the current management strategy of severe alopecia areata; A. Prof. Kinoshita-Ise



Figure 1. This author (Manabu Ohyama) introduces the Society for Hair Science Research (SHSR) at the opening ceremony of the WCHR 2024.



Figure 2. Aprill Kee Oliva Mizushima (second to the left), a Ph.D. trainee at Tsukuba Univ., received the SHSR's travel grant for this WCHR. (Also pictured, from the left to right, Prof. Yutaka Shimomura [SHSR secretary general, Yamaguchi Univ.], Ms. Mizushima, this author, A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise [Kyorin Univ.].)

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**Figure 3.** We saw it together! SHSR members enjoyed viewing a spectacular total eclipse.

spoke on recent advances in the diagnosis of hair disease, including updates on trichoscopy and ultra-high-frequency ultrasound imaging.

In collaboration with the Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA), selected members of the SHSR are working hard to update the guidelines for the management of alopecia areata, which will include new therapeutic approaches. The English version is expected to be published in the future, and these guidelines will be an invaluable resource for IFHRS member societies.

Additionally, at the beginning of June, the JDA annual meeting annual meeting will be. The launch of JAK inhibitors, baricitinib and ritlecitinib, has been a hot topic in the field of dermatology and will be a highlight of this meeting.

Typically, the SHSR will not hold its official annual meeting during the year of the WCHR. Beginning this year, however, our society will start having its board of director meeting, general assembly, and some casual research presentations that will report the progress made in each lab. We hope that this new trial will further enhance our unity and activities.



**Figure 4.** At every WCHR, the SHSR members never fail to enjoy social events!



**Figure 5.** This author gave a lecture at the 20th anniversary annual meeting of the Korean Hair Research Society (courtesy of Prof. Chang Hun Huh [Chief, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital])



# UHSR Ukrainian Hair Research Society

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## THE UKRAINIAN SUN WILL RISE!

That's what the legendary Ukrainian musicians KOZAK SYSTEM sang from the stage and that's how our main photo zone looked (Figure 1) at the 4th UHSR Congress, which took place in January 2024 live in Kyiv (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/uhrscongress2024>). During this most difficult time for the country and for every Ukrainian, the same sun shined in the heart of every participant, partner, and speaker at the Congress. We admire the heroism of Ukrainian soldiers and thank them for the happiness of living, allowing us to create scientific and educational projects and move forward despite everything going on in our country (Figure 2).

## WHAT IS THE UHSR CONGRESS?

The UHSR Congress is a continuation of traditions and structure of the European and World Hair Research Congresses, where the scientific component is the main value, but it is infused with the Ukrainian soul: Soul that is full of real emotion, warmth, beauty, atmosphere, creativity, and patriotism. Soul that makes people happier! Additionally, it is about the following:

- ♥ The UHSR Congress is about recognizing the best and promoting further development. We congratulate the winner of the UHSR 2024 Clinical Trichoscopic Quiz: Talented trichoscopist Dr. Lesya Stelmakh received a travel grant to the 3rd ITS Congress, which will be held in Cancun, June 13-16, 2024 (Figure 3).
- ♥ The UHSR Congress is about being innovative while maintaining respect to traditions. Today, the newest creation of a strategic communication resource is the UHSR education platform (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/>). We invite colleagues to join, to share their expertise, and to help us move the trichological world together!



Figure 3. Congratulating Dr. Lesya Stelmakh, winner of the UHSR 2024 Clinical Trichoscopic Quiz.

- ♥ The UHSR Congress is about having an opportunity to thank those who have kept us alive. Our military doctor colleagues (Figure 4) presented an opportunity for participants of the Congress to join the charity fundraiser for medical props, which are necessary for mastering skills in emergency and tactical medicine. We will forever preserve the treasures—the flags of the legendary Azov—as a symbol of Ukrainian resistance.
- ♥ The UHSR Congress is about a psycho-emotional reboot. After a long embargo on joy, the incredible energy of communication in a collegial atmosphere brought us back to energetic balance. Someday we will look back and remember this Congress during the war, and we will be proud to have been a part of such event.

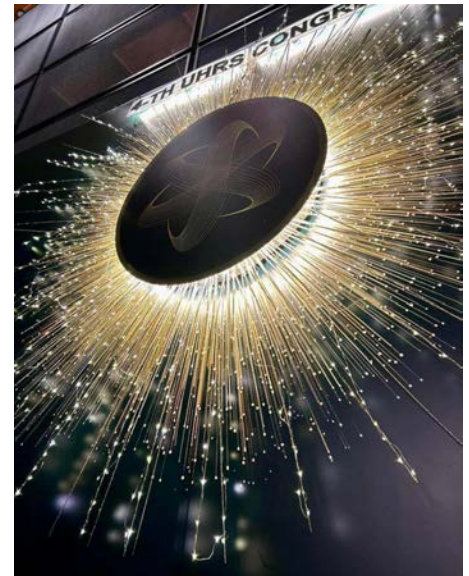


Figure 1. The logo of the 4th Congress of the Ukrainian Hair Research Society (UHSR2024)



Figure 2. At the opening ceremony of the 4th Congress of the Ukrainian Hair Research Society (UHSR2024), the memories of Ukrainian doctors who died in the Russian-Ukrainian war were honored.

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**Figure 4.** Charity evening at the 4th UHRS Congress dedicated to collecting donations for the legendary Azov regiment. The People's band of Ukraine—the voice of war KOZAK SYSTEM—and combat medic/neurophysiologist Viktor Komarenko.

### ***Who made this celebration possible?***

We express our gratitude to the Ukrainian experts, representatives of the National Clinical School, who, despite facing bombings, continue to provide care for patients and mentor aspiring young professionals.

We thank our foreign colleagues, friends of Ukraine, who continue to believe in us and our Victory and share their experience with us. We thank Daniel Asz Sigall, Daniel Fernandes Melo, Bianca Maria Piraccini, Nino Lortkipanidze, Maria Fernanda Gavazzoni, Anna Lyakhovitsky, Maryanne Makredes Senna, and Sergio Vañó Galván for their invaluable contribution. We thank our partners, who have been investing in the development of Ukrainian trichology and Ukrainian doctors for many years. We thank our UHRS team that has remained

united over the years to popularize the development of hair science. And, of course, we thank the audience of Ukrainian scientists and doctors, for whom continuous improvement of their knowledge is an essential part of the profession. As long as there are such people in our country and friends who continue to believe in us, the Ukrainian sun will inevitably continue to rise. (Figures 5 and 6)



**Figure 5.** Presentation at UHRS2024 by Prof. Nino Lortkipanidze during the session dedicated to the research of lymphocytic cicatricial alopecias.



**Figure 6.** The organizing team of the 4th Congress of the Ukrainian Hair Research Society

## **RESEARCH**

As it is known, alopecia areata (AA) and psychotrichology are among the main scientific directions of the UHRS. In continuation of our research work, we have studied the factors of stress limiting system in AA. Nitric oxide (NO) is a universal messenger mediating fundamental functions of intercellular communication. The inducing effect of NO on the synthesis of protective stress proteins—heat shock proteins 70 (HSP-70)—that play a role in adaptation and constitute an important mechanism of anti-stress defense, has been proven. NO and HSP-70 can be attributed to the factors of the stress-limiting system of the organism, the role of which in AA has not been studied. We observed 45 patients, aged 18 to 50 years, with various forms of AA. We identified disturbances in the NO system and secretion of HSP-70 depending on the severity, activity, and duration of the pathological process. Positive correlations were found between NO and HSP-70 levels. Increased iNOS activity ( $\eta^2 = 68.4\%$ ) and secretion of HSP-70 ( $\eta^2 = 66.2\%$ ) is estimated as a predictor of AA development. The revealed disorders may indicate the failure of adaptation mechanisms in AA and be considered as potential therapeutic targets. We presented these results at the 13th World Congress for Hair Research in Dallas (WCHR2024).

## **13TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR HAIR RESEARCH 2024**

United under the UHRS flag, and united by the love of hair science and of Ukraine, 20 Ukrainian doctors represented our country at WCHR2024 in Dallas, Texas, as part of the larger IFHRS trichological family. We express our sincere gratitude to the organizers of the Congress, the friendly American Hair Research Society for their support in complementary registration for Ukrainian participants. Three young Ukrainian specialists, Dr. Olga Busko, Dr. Liubov Mukomela, and Dr. Inna Horda, were awarded travel grants for their contributions, which gave us the opportunity to present our scientific work on psychotrichology, including an original study on alopecia areata and clinical observations.

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It is a great honor for us to exchange experiences with the most open-minded scientists and doctors, and most importantly, to receive friendly support from colleagues from all over the world (Figures 7-10).



Figure 7. Ukrainian team of participants at the WCHR2024.



Figure 8. Greetings on behalf of the UHRS at the Opening Ceremony of WCHR2024.



Figure 9. The Board of the IFHRS met at the WCHR2024.



Figure 10. Grant Holders from UHRS at WCHR2024 with President of UHRS Yuliya Ovcharenko. From left to right: Dr. Inna Horda, Prof. Yuliya Ovcharenko, Dr. Olga Busko, Dr. Liubov Mukomela.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026

We are looking forward to the next meeting scheduled for 2026 in Seoul, and to making our victory happen, so we can welcome the special community of IFHRS hair researchers back to our beautiful Ukraine!



# SAVE THE DATE | APRIL 4-6, 2025



## Scarring Alopecia Foundation National Conference 2025

Friday–Sunday, April 4–6, 2025

Blazing Trails  
Sheraton Music City  
Nashville, Tennessee, USA



## 2026 AND BEYOND

The following dates and locations have been decided on by the IFHRS:

### 2026

#### 14th WCHR

May 28-31, 2026

Venue: North Wing of COEX

Seoul, Korea

Co-chairs Chang-Hun Huh,

Ohsang Kwon, & Moon-Bum Kim

Hosting Society: KHRS

[www.hair2026.org](http://www.hair2026.org)

### 2028

#### 15th WCHR

Madrid, Spain

Hosting Society: EHRS

### 2030

#### 16th WCHR

Open Hub

Hosting Society: TBD

## Staff and Member Societies

Chair: Wilma F. Bergfeld, MD

Executive Secretary: Victoria Ceh, MPA

Immediate Past Chair: Gillian Westgate, PhD

Managing Editor, IFHRS Newsletter: Cheryl Duckler

### IFHRS MEMBER SOCIETIES

American Hair Research Society – founding member

Australasian Hair and Wool Research Society – founding member

Chinese Hair Research Society

European Hair Research Society – founding member

The Korean Hair Research Society – founding member

Russian Hair Research Society

The Society for Hair Science Research – founding member

Ukrainian Hair Research Society

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