

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, No. 1

Message from the IFHRS Chair

Wilma F. Bergfeld, MD, IFHRS Chair, BERGFEW@ccf.org



Happy New Year!

As we step into 2025, we reflect on an extraordinary 2024—a year of remarkable progress in the field of hair science. The momentum continues this year, with numerous ongoing projects and clinical trials tackling various hair disorders. Pharmaceutical companies are unveiling new therapies, and hair regeneration remains at the forefront of innovation and discussion.

Within these pages, you'll discover the latest developments and highlights from our sister societies, showcasing the collective efforts driving advancements in our field.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 14th World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR 2026) scheduled for May 2026 in Seoul—mark your calendars and join us for this exceptional event! Watch your inboxes as the Call for Abstracts will open in July 2025.

WCHR 2026 promises to be an inspiring and impactful event. Anchored by the theme “Awakening the Soul of Hair Science,” this congress that will bring together global leaders and innovators in hair science will serve as a dynamic platform for sharing groundbreaking ideas, tackling challenges, and fostering collaboration within the field of hair research.

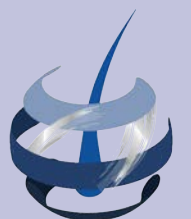
Renowned experts will take center stage as keynote speakers, offering fresh perspectives and insights into the latest scientific advancements. The event will also highlight key findings from recent clinical trials and experimental studies, offering attendees valuable opportunities to engage with cutting-edge developments and expand their professional knowledge. Beyond the academic program, the congress will offer a vibrant array of cultural and social activities, creating an ideal setting for connection and collaboration.

Join us in shaping the future of hair research. We look forward to your valuable participation in what promises to be an unforgettable gathering of minds and ideas.



The wonderful camaraderie of our global hair colleagues is on display in this photo from the Second Barcelona Hair Meeting, organized by Drs. Ramon Grimalt and Sergio Vañó Galván, that took place September 12-14, 2025, in Sitges, Barcelona, Spain.

Seated L-R: Andrey Panteleyev (Russia), Wilma Bergfeld (USA), Ulrike Blume-Peytavi (Germany). Standing L-R: Gillian Westgate (U.K.), Maria Fernanda Gavazzoni (Brazil), Lidia Rudnicka (Poland), Ramon Grimalt (Spain), Manabu Ohyama (Japan)



IFHRS

International Federation of Hair Research Societies

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Ukrainian Hair Research Society	26–28



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 Jianzhong Zhang (China)



WCHRS
The Korean Hair Research Society

14TH

WORLD CONGRESS for HAIR RESEARCH

Awakening the soul of hair science

May 28 - 31, 2026

COEX, Seoul, Korea

HI, SOUL
WCHR 2026 in Korea



hair2026.org

WCHR 2026 Secretariat



Save the date for **WCHR 2026!**

The Korean Hair Research Society invites you to the next WCHR 2026 in Seoul, Korea. Meet and connect with representatives and professionals in the industry. Share your studies and experiences with new colleagues and friends. Welcome to Korea!

About the **Korean Hair Research Society**



The Korean Hair Research Society conducts academic activities, research, and educations on hair to support hair loss patients. KHRS has been holding annual meeting since 2004 which consists of invited and educational lectures, oral and poster presentations.



Location

Gangnam, Seoul, Korea

The most iconic metropolis in Korea,
a place where exciting events unfold

14th WCHR Organizing Committee



Chang-Hun Huh
Congress President
Seoul National University



Ohsang Kwon
Congress President
Seoul National University



Moon Bum Kim
Congress President
Pusan National University



Bark-Lynn Lew
Congress Secretary
Kyung Hee University



Yang Won Lee
Scientific Program Director
Konkuk University



Sang-Seok Kim
Treasurer
Hallym University

Angela M. Christiano, PhD, AHRS President | amc65@columbia.edu | www.americanhairresearchsociety.org

REFLECTIONS AS AHRS PRESIDENT TERM COMES TO AN END

It is bittersweet to write this final installment of the IFHRS Newsletter on behalf of the AHRS, as my term as AHRS President will come to an end in just a few months. It has been such an honor to lead the AHRS over these past three years. I don't know where the time has gone!

Strengthening AHRS Committees

One of the critical initiatives that I began at the start of my term was to revisit AHRS committee structures to ensure that we had a strong configuration of committees to meet the current and future needs of the basic and clinical hair research community. We quickly realized that the reach and impact of the AHRS now extends far beyond the academic community and our stakeholders now include pharma partners, consumer product partners, government and regulatory partners, and practicing dermatologists and other physicians not affiliated with universities. Our community has certainly grown over the past 30+ years since the AHRS was established!

With Victoria Ceh and her extraordinary team, we have been working diligently over the past three years to evaluate and revise AHRS committees. By the end of my term in May 2025, we will have refreshed our entire structure and carefully considered each committee's functions and goals, and how it engages with and supports AHRS programs and stakeholders.

Strategic Planning for Future Success

The final step in this process will be a Strategic Planning meeting on May 6, 2025, in Orlando, Florida, during the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) meeting. The AHRS Board of Directors, along with several past presidents and former board members, will convene to chart the course for AHRS programs over the next 3-5 years. We will review our mission, membership, research, advocacy, communications, and several other key areas and special projects.

Building on the excitement from WCHR 2024, we will continue to develop the concept of a "Methods Matchmaking" platform to help colleagues from around the world connect with one another to generate and collaborate on new hair research projects together. If members of the IFHRS community have suggestions for the AHRS as we undertake this important exercise of self-reflection and contemplation as we plan our future, we would very much welcome your input! Please reach out to me or Victoria with any ideas you wish to share.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SECOND HALF OF 2024

The second half of 2024 was an exciting period for the AHRS, highlighted by engaging scientific webinars and active participation in prominent events. The AHRS hosted the following well-attended webinars:

- *June 1, 2024, Webinar: "GLP-1 Agonists, Metformin, and Pioglitazone: Antidiabetic Medications—Hair Friend or Hair Foe?"*
- *November 9, 2024, Webinar: "Hair Through the Ages: Menopause, Greying, and Inflammaging"*

AHRS members also took part in several key events:

- The National Alopecia Areata Foundation Patient Conference in Washington, D.C. (June 27-30, 2024)
- The Second Barcelona Hair Meeting (September 12-14, 2024)
- An AHRS session at the CILAD meeting in Cartagena, Colombia (November 19, 2024)

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Left to right: June 2024 webinar; November 2024 webinar; Aldo Galvez (Peru) presents at CILAD2024.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The AHRS has an exciting lineup of events planned as we move into the new year:

- *February Webinar:* On February 8, 2025, AHRS will host a scientific webinar titled “Clinical Conundrums.”
- *March Luncheon:* On March 7, 2025, the annual Scientific Meeting & Luncheon will be held during the AAD meeting in Orlando, Florida, featuring a session entitled “Neutrophilic Mediated Scarring Alopecias.”
- On May 2, 2025, an AHRS session is scheduled for RADLA in Uruguay.
- On May 9, 2025, AHRS will hold its Scientific Meeting & Annual General Meeting at the Society for Investigative Dermatology meeting in San Diego, California.
- On April 4-6, 2025, AHRS members will participate in the Scarring Alopecia Patient Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

I am deeply grateful for the honor of serving as AHRS President over the past three years. I look forward to staying involved with the AHRS once my term ends and supporting the next president in carrying these initiatives forward as they implement these innovative programs.



Australasian Hair and Wool Research Society

Samantha Eisman, MBChB, FACD | AHWRS Treasurer | sameisman@gmail.com | <http://ahwrs.org.au/>

ACADEMIC UPDATE

President of the AHWRS, Prof. Rod Sinclair, was recognised as one of Australia's top 250 researchers for 2025 and a field leader in dermatology—a testament to his exceptional contributions to research and his dedication to advancing knowledge in dermatology.

Some of the recent Australian publications from the AHWRS include the following:

- Novel investigational drugs for alopecia areata and future perspectives.**
Chim I, Ghiya R, Sinclair RD, Eisman S.
Expert Opin Investig Drugs. 2024 May;33(5):441-449. doi: 10.1080/13543784.2024.2348062. Epub 2024 May 20. PMID: 38682280 Review.
- Role of systemic minoxidil in the treatment of alopecia areata: A scoping review to direct future research.**
Darchini-Maragheh E, Rees H, Moussa A, Bokhari L, Jones L, Sinclair R.
J Am Acad Dermatol. 2024 Jun;90(6):1304-1306. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2024.02.031. Epub 2024 Feb 28. PMID: 38423467 Review. No abstract available.
- Treatment of moderate-to-severe alopecia areata in patients over the age of 65 years with baricitinib.**
Tang GT, Triwongwanat D, Sinclair R, Joseph S, Eisman S, Rathnayake D, Varathan V, Trindade de Carvalho L, Bhoyrul B.
Clin Exp Dermatol. 2024 Jul 19;49(8):875-878. doi: 10.1093/ced/llae033. PMID: 38270233
- Low-dose oral minoxidil improves hair length and global hair density in short anagen syndrome.**
Moussa A, Darchini-Maragheh E, Wall D, Meah N, Sinclair R.
J Am Acad Dermatol. 2024 Aug;91(2):346-348. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2024.03.040. Epub 2024 Apr 6. PMID: 38588822 No abstract available.
- Real-world effectiveness and safety of tofacitinib for alopecia areata: A retrospective cohort study of 202 patients.**
Cranwell W, Meah N, Wall D, Bhoyrul B, Laita B, Sinclair RD.
Australas J Dermatol. 2024 Sep;65(6):505-513. doi: 10.1111/ajd.14325. Epub 2024 Jun 3. PMID: 38831704
- Variants of female pattern hair loss in men.**
Awad A, Sharma P, Bhoyrul B.
Clin Exp Dermatol. 2024 Jul 19;49(8):898-899. doi: 10.1093/ced/llae055. PMID: 38372460 No abstract available.
- Assessment of clinician-reported outcome measures for alopecia areata: a systematic scoping review.**
Darchini-Maragheh E, Moussa A, Rees H, Jones L, Bokhari L, Sinclair R.
Clin Exp Dermatol. 2024 Aug 8;llae320. doi: 10.1093/ced/llae320. Online ahead of print. PMID: 39110905
- Low-dose oral minoxidil for the treatment of monilethrix: A retrospective review.**
Darchini-Maragheh E, Moussa A, Wall D, Meah N, Sinclair R.
J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol. 2024 Sep 18. doi: 10.1111/jdv.20329. Online ahead of print. PMID: 39291903 No abstract available.
- Health-related quality of life of adult and adolescent patients living with alopecia areata in Australia.**
Sinclair R, Eisman S, Lee CMY, Hitschfeld M, Witcombe D, Pereira CDF.
Australas J Dermatol. 2024 Aug;65(5):451-461. doi: 10.1111/ajd.14311. Epub 2024 May 20. PMID: 38764404
- Australian dermatologists' prescribing behaviours for female androgenetic alopecia.**
Willems A, Sinclair R.
Australas J Dermatol. 2024 Dec 2. doi: 10.1111/ajd.14393. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39620623

Australia's top 250 researchers in 2025

The Australian's 2025 Research magazine names the top researcher and top research institution in each of 250 fields of research, based on the quality and impact of their work. The 250 fields of research are divided into eight disciplines. Search by discipline, field, researcher or institution.

🔍 Dermatology

Discipline	Field	Leading researcher in the field	Leading research institution in the field
Health and Medical Sciences	Dermatology	Rod Sinclair, University of Melbourne	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

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11. **Clinical safety and efficacy of dual wavelength low-level light therapy in androgenetic alopecia: a double-blind randomized controlled study.**

Thomas M, Stockslager M, Oakley J, Womble TM, Sinclair R.

Dermatol Surg. 2024 Dec 16. doi: 10.1097/DSS.0000000000004509. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39679573

12. **Painful bilateral gynaecomastia secondary to topical finasteride.**

Thomas M, Sinclair R. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2024 Dec 2. doi: 10.1111/ajd.14387. Online ahead of print.

13. **Dissecting cellulitis of the scalp in a paediatric male.**

Thomas M, Yii V, Sinclair R. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2024;00:1-3. doi: 10.1111/ajd.14342

14. **Hair presentation test.**

Yii V, Thomas M, Sinclair R.

Aust J Gen Pract. 2024 Dec;53(12):942-944. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-05-24-7263

MEETINGS UPDATE

Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) 56th Annual Scientific Meeting | May 11-13, 2024 | Perth, Western Australia

At the ACD 56th Annual Scientific Meeting, the AHWRS was well represented by dermatologists and dermatology fellows and trainees.

Dr. John Frewen introduced the SALT score cards to the Australian audience. These score cards, which can facilitate SALT score calculation in alopecia areata (AA), are not only invaluable to the dermatologist with an interest in hair disorders but also to the general dermatologist who will need to be able to calculate the SALT scores once reimbursed access is available for newer therapies.

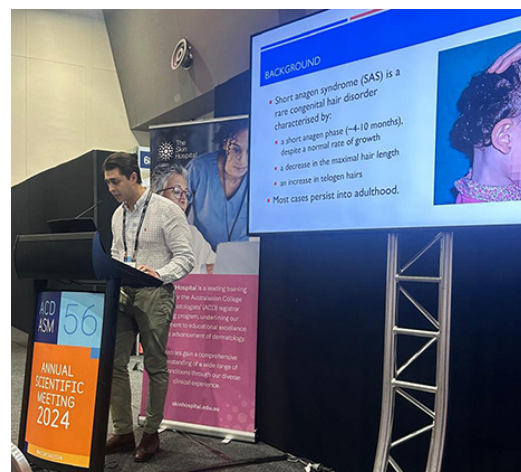
Dr. Ragini Ghiya introduced the concept of telogen effluvium (TE) being a precursor and incitant for balding in men with androgenetic alopecia (AGA) and presented results from a study performed on 220 balding males that used trichogram analysis to find a linear correlation between hair fibre diameter, growth rate, and anagen duration. The results showed that in balding male scalp, even the largest and normal diameter hair had shorter anagen duration with reduced growth rate leading to TE, suggesting that TE is a precursor to AGA.

Dr. Meghana Paranjape presented a retrospective analysis of the use of minoxidil and androgen directed therapy in female fibrosing alopecia (FFA). This analysis showed minoxidil monotherapy to be superior to standalone therapy or the addition of an androgen directed therapy. Bicalutamide showed a better response than dutasteride.

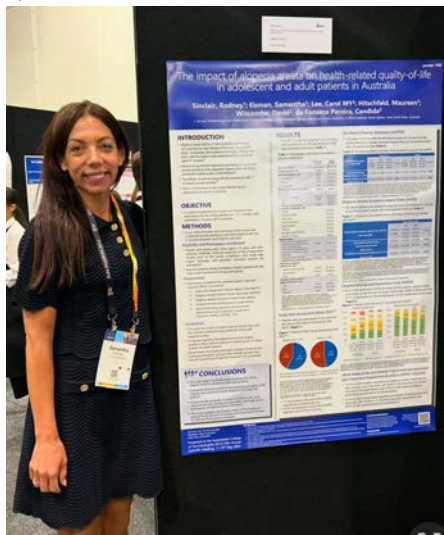
Dr. Anthony Moussa presented on the use of low dose oral minoxidil in those with short anagen syndrome.

Dermatologists Drs. Pooja Sharma and Samantha Eisman presented an update on platelet-rich plasma (PRP) and practical learnings from AA clinical trials, respectively.

There were also many posters displayed. There was novel work by Dr. Gia Tang who presented a prospective observational study that looked at changes to scalp hair parameters and quality of life in trans individuals in the first 6 months of gender-affirming hormone therapy. Additionally at the meeting, after a year of upskilling at Sinclair Dermatology, Dermatology Fellow Dr. Zeyad Al Dabbagh was conferred Fellowship of the Australasian College of Dermatology.



Dr. Anthony Moussa, Dermatology Trainee, presented at the ASM.



Dr. Samantha Eisman and her poster presentation on the impact of AA on quality of life.



Dermatology Fellow Dr. Zeyad Al Dabbagh was conferred Fellowship of the Australasian College of Dermatology.

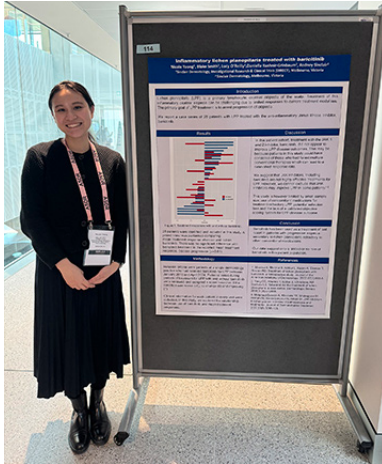
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26th Regional Conference of Dermatology (RCD) | October 2-5, 2024 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

At the 26th RCD, Dr. Nicole Yoong won best Oral Presentation (Cosmetic/Paediatric/Hair) for her presentation, "Combination of Oral Minoxidil and Bicalutamide for the Treatment of Androgenetic Alopecia in Adolescent Girls." She also presented posters entitled, "A Retrospective Analysis of the Use of Minoxidil and Androgen Directed Therapy in Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia" and "Topical Bimatoprost for Eyebrow Loss in Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia."

Australasian Society for Dermatological Research (ASDR) Annual Scientific Meeting | July 18-20, 2024 | Sydney, Australia

At the 2024 ASDR Annual Scientific Meeting, there were many informative poster presentations. Dr. Nicole Yoong presented the poster, "Inflammatory Lichen Planopilaris Treated with Baricitinib." Dr. Meryl Thomas presented the poster, "Dissecting Cellulitis of the Scalp in a Paediatric Male," and along with Dr. Valerie Yii, "The Hair Presentation Test." Dr. Yii also presented, "Graft Survival Rate of Hair Restorative Surgeries in Primary Cicatricial Alopecias."



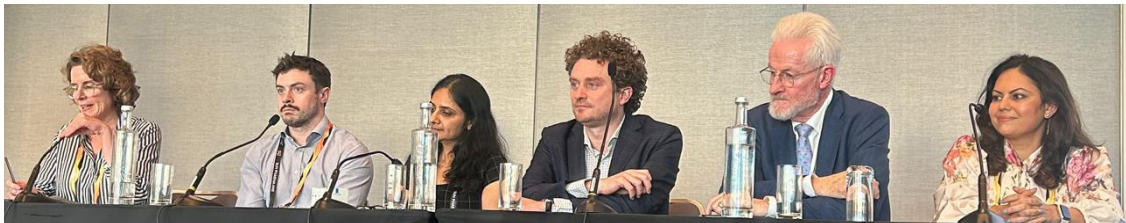
Dr. Nicole Yoong stands by her poster at the 2024 ASDR Annual Scientific Meeting.



Dr. Valerie Yii gave several presentations at the 2024 ASDR Annual Scientific Meeting.



Drs. Meryl Thomas (left) and Valerie Yii (right) gave a joint presentation at the 2024 ASDR Annual Scientific Meeting.



Hair panel at the 2024 ASDR Annual Scientific Meeting.

GLOBAL REGISTRY OF ALOPECIA AREATA DISEASE SEVERITY AND TREATMENT SAFETY (GRASS) UPDATE

The Global Registry of Alopecia Areata Disease Severity and Treatment Safety (GRASS) had a year of significant growth and reflection in 2024.

GRASS, which is actively recruiting patients in Australia, Italy, and Ireland, celebrated the 1,000th patient consented to the registry at the end of April 2024. The start of 2025 sees GRASS at 1,050 patients consented.

More than 60% of patients have treatment data covering a span of more than one year, with 28% of the consented patients having SALT scores recorded for more than a year. To ensure continued growth in 2025 and enable rapid onboarding of new GRASS countries, a Short Easily Enterable Dataset (SEED) platform was designed based on a review of pilot data from all GRASS patients, identifying key data points that are consistently entered and have high descriptive value. This curated minimal dataset will allow us to gather high-level data for analysis and can be used to foster collaborations if greater detail is needed.

Presentations on GRASS were given at the World Congress for Hair Research (April 2024), British Association of Dermatologists (June 2024), and Irish Association of Dermatologists (October 2024).

In 2025, GRASS aims to launch SEED centres in at least three additional countries and it aims to recruit an additional 280 patients.



Chinese Hair Research Society

Chinese Hair Research Society

Jianzhong Zhang, MD, CHRS Chairman | rmzjz@126.com
Cheng Zhou, MD | rmpkzc@163.com

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES IN 2024

8th Annual Meeting of Chinese Hair Research Society | August 22-25, 2024 | Yanji City, Jilin Province, China

The 8th Annual Meeting of Chinese Hair Research Society (CHRS) was successfully held in August 2024. The event was organized by the CHRS and co-hosted by Peking University People's Hospital, Huashan Hospital of Fudan University, and Yanbian University Hospital. Approximately 1,000 attendees from across the country—including physicians, academic researchers, and practitioners—participated in the meeting and its accompanying social events.



Group photo taken at the 8th Annual Meeting of the CHRS.

Prof. Jianzhong Zhang, founder and former president of CHRS, Prof. Wenyu Wu, president of CHRS, and Prof. Xinghua Gao, president of Chinese Society of Dermatology, gave the opening remarks at the meeting. Subsequently, Prof. Zhang elaborated on the current status and future of hair research in China. Additionally, Prof. Wu summarized the current status and prospects of the hair industry in China.

Invited speaker Prof. Chang-Hun Huh, from Seoul National University, presented a keynote speech entitled, "Current & Upcoming Treatment of AGA in Korea." Prof. Brett King, from Yale University, spoke about recent trends in Janus kinase inhibitors in his presentation "AA2024: What have we learned about AA and its treatment?" Additionally, 92 lectures and 95 posters showcased outstanding content on a wide range of topics including hair research, pathogenesis, histopathology, trichoscopy, diagnosis, non-surgical treatments, hair



Opening ceremony of the 8th Annual Meeting of the CHRS.

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transplantation, and more. These contributions were presented in various sessions, including poster presentations, CPC discussions, forums for young scholars and private hair institutions, a forum on hair clinic construction, and sessions on cutting-edge basic and clinical research. Other highlights included discussions on diagnosing and evaluating hair loss, updates on emerging treatments, and advancements in hair and scalp medical care.

The annual meeting was a resounding success, setting a record-high attendance and offering clinicians, researchers, and practitioners a valuable platform to share their ideas and experiences.

New Developments in Dermatologic Surgery and Hair Transplantation Workshop & New Developments in Pigmentary and Hair Disorders Workshop

In September 2024, Fudan University Huashan Hospital held two workshops initiated by Prof. Wenyu Wu, Director of Dermatology. The workshops featured cutting-edge developments in hair and pigmentary disorders, dermatologic surgery, hair transplantation, and cosmetic injectables. National experts delivered comprehensive lectures, attracting professionals nationwide and sparking lively discussions.



Group photo taken at the New Developments in Dermatologic Surgery and Hair Transplantation Workshop & New Developments in Pigmentary and Hair Disorders Workshop.

6th Symposium for Updates of Hair Disorders and Cosmetic Dermatology

This symposium, held in Beijing, China, November 2-3, 2024, was a landmark event in hair disorders and cosmetic dermatology. Prof. Cheng Zhou delivered the opening remarks. This was followed by renowned experts and rising talents in the field who shared their insights on alopecia areata, trichoscopy, and hair pathology, fostering extensive discussions. Building on this exchange, the symposium aims to further advance research and treatment in the field.

3rd Western China Hair Medicine Forum

The 3rd Western China Hair Medicine Forum in Chongqing drew 59 experts and nearly 500 delegates. Highlights included a live FUE transplant demonstration, 20 lectures on hair disease research and treatments, and hands-on sessions covering diagnostic techniques, physical therapy, mesotherapy, lasers, and robotic transplantation.



Photos from the opening ceremony of the 6th Symposium for Updates of Hair Disorders and Cosmetic Dermatology.

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Group photo taken at the 3rd Western China Hair Medicine Forum.

Tongren Dermatology Forum: Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Hair and Scalp Diseases

On August 3-4, 2024, Beijing Tongren Hospital's Dermatology Department hosted its first national Hair Disorders Seminar. Highlights included live demonstrations of advanced diagnostic and treatment techniques for hair and scalp diseases. Additionally, more than 150 attendees also visited the specialized Hair Clinic.



Group photo taken at the Tongren Dermatology Forum: Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Hair and Scalp Diseases.

China Alopecia Areata Patients' Public Welfare Organization

The Chinese Medical Education Association and Prof. Wenyu Wu of Huashan Hospital launched the "China Alopecia Areata Patients' Public Welfare Organization," advancing comprehensive, authoritative care and support for alopecia areata patients.



Group photo from the China Alopecia Areata Patients' Public Welfare Organization.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN 2025

9th Annual Meeting of the CHRS | November 11-14, 2025 | Xi'an City, China

Save the date for the 9th Annual Meeting of the CHRS to be held in November 2025. The secretary of the meeting is Prof. Ling Liu from Tangdu Hospital (email: liuling_derm@163.com).

Xi'an, located in the center of China, was the capital city of China for 13 dynasties, so it is rich in history and culture. While here, you can visit the Terracotta Army, the tomb of the First Emperor, the Bell Tower, the Drum Tower, the Muslim Quarter, and the City Wall. You won't want to miss this chance to be part of a premier event in hair research!

We hope to see you in Xi'an so you can savor this beautiful and historic area.



Pictures of Xi'an City, China, venue of the 9th Annual Meeting of the CHRS.

Claire Higgins, BSc, PhD, EHRS President

Sergio Vañó Galván, MD, PhD, EHRS Secretary | secretary@ehrs.org | <https://ehrs.org/>

Yuval Ramot, MD, MSc, EHRS Board Member

DR. CLAIRE HIGGINS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS LEO FOUNDATION AWARD 2024

The EHRS proudly congratulates its president, Dr. Claire Higgins, on receiving the esteemed LEO Foundation Award for Region EMEA in 2024. Presented during the 53rd Annual ESDR Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, this award recognizes Dr. Higgins's outstanding contributions to skin and hair research, her remarkable leadership, and her commitment to advancing the field of dermatology.

Dr. Higgins, a Reader in the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College London, leads the "Skin Regeneration" Lab, where her research focuses on scarless wound healing and reversing fibrosis through innovative studies on hair follicle biology. Her work has significantly enhanced our understanding of the skin, offering potential therapeutic applications that could transform lives.

The LEO Foundation Award, valued at USD \$100,000, highlights Dr. Higgins's impressive academic achievements and her dedication to mentoring the next generation of skin scientists. Her contributions embody the mission of the EHRS to foster excellence in hair and skin research.

It is also worth noting that Dr. Higgins is the second member of the EHRS to receive the Leo Foundation Award. The first EHRS member to receive the award was Dr. Maria Kasper, who received the prestigious LEO Foundation Gold Award in 2017 for her exceptional advances in dermatology research. Dr. Kasper is also an EHRS board member, and her work has greatly increased our understanding of skin and specifically hair follicle biology, earning her recognition as a leading figure in the field.

Congratulations to Dr. Higgins on this well-deserved recognition. We celebrate this and other remarkable achievements of our EHRS members!



Figure 1. Claire Higgins receives the Leo Foundation Award for the EMEA region (September 2024).

EUROPEAN HAIR RESEARCH SOCIETY MEETING & TRICHOSCOPY COURSE | MAY 29-31, 2025 | WARSAW, POLAND

We are delighted to announce the next EHRS meeting will be held in May 2025 in Warsaw, Poland. The program will cover such things as clinical and basic research and also offer presentations on trichoscopy.

You won't want to miss this meeting or its incredible venue. With Warsaw at the heart of Poland and Poland at the heart of Europe, the city serves as a vibrant meeting point for political, scientific, business, and cultural events. Boasting modern architecture, a welcoming infrastructure, and a community of creative inhabitants, Warsaw is the beating heart of business. Yet beyond the hustle and bustle of the business world, the city's charm truly comes alive. Savor the diverse flavors of its restaurants, take a leisurely stroll along the picturesque banks of the Vistula River, or lose yourself in the maze of its backstreets to uncover hidden gems and captivating stories.

You can find information on the congress at <https://ehrs2025.com/>.



RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES BY EHRS MEMBERS

Piraccini BM, Pampaloni F, Cedirian S, et al. **Real-life effectiveness and safety of baricitinib in patients with severe alopecia areata: A 24-week Italian study.** *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2024 Sep 9. doi: 10.1111/jdv.20312. Online ahead of print.

This pivotal study, conducted across 23 medical centers in Italy, provides critical real-world insights into the efficacy and safety of baricitinib for severe AA. Over a 24-week period, the study enrolled 118 adult patients with severe forms of AA, characterized by a SALT score ≥ 50 . The key outcomes revealed substantial hair regrowth, with a mean SALT score reduction from 96.6 to 48.0, and 42.3% of patients achieving SALT 30. Trichoscopy was highlighted as an early indicator of treatment response, showing decreased signs of AA activity even before visible hair regrowth.

Baricitinib demonstrated a favorable safety profile, with only mild adverse events in 12.7% of participants, including laboratory abnormalities and mild rash. This study underscores baricitinib's effectiveness in both improving hair regrowth and reducing psychological burden, evidenced by significant improvements in Skindex-16 and HADS scores.

This real-world evidence solidifies baricitinib's role as a promising therapeutic option for severe AA and emphasizes the utility of trichoscopy in monitoring treatment progress. The study also calls for longer follow-up periods to optimize treatment protocols and maximize patient outcomes.

Agramunt J, Parke B, Mena S, et al. **Mechanical stimulation of human hair follicle outer root sheath cultures activates adjacent sensory neurons.** *Sci Adv.* 2023 Oct 27;9(43):eadh3273. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.adh3273.

This groundbreaking study delves into the mechanotransductive properties of hair follicle outer root sheath (ORS) cells and their communication with sensory neurons. The researchers demonstrated that mechanical stimulation of ORS cells leads to the release of ATP, serotonin, and histamine. These molecules activate low-threshold mechanoreceptors (LTMRs) that innervate hair follicles, effectively forming a neuroepithelial unit.

The study employs advanced techniques such as calcium imaging, single-cell RNA



Bianca Maria Piraccini (left) and Michela Starace (right), first and last authors of the study.



Juli Agramunt (left, first author) with Francisco Jimenez (co-author on the article).

(Continued next page)

sequencing, and fast-scan cyclic voltammetry to explore this interaction. Findings reveal that ORS cells have enhanced mechanosensitive machinery compared to interfollicular skin keratinocytes and uniquely release serotonin in response to tactile stimuli.

This research not only expands our understanding of the tactile roles of hair follicles, but it also lays the foundation for exploring how hair follicle neural interactions contribute to touch sensation. The study is a compelling addition to the field of hair research, shedding light on the intricate cellular communication mechanisms at play in the hair follicle microenvironment.

SAVE THE DATE!

WCHR 2028 | MADRID, SPAIN | MAY 16-19, 2028

Join us in Madrid for the World Congress for Hair Research!

We are thrilled to announce that the prestigious World Congress for Hair Research, a gathering of the world's leading experts in hair follicle biology and alopecia research, will take place at the Melia Castilla Hotel in Madrid from May 16-19, 2028.

The meeting will feature groundbreaking presentations, insightful discussions, and meaningful networking opportunities alongside an exciting social program:

- ⇒ May 16th: Opening Cocktail Reception
- ⇒ May 17th: Speakers Dinner
- ⇒ May 18th: Gala Dinner

Madrid, a vibrant and international city, offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Known for its rich culture, world-class cuisine, and unparalleled hospitality, it's the perfect setting for this exceptional event.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with the brightest minds in hair research while experiencing and enjoying the charm of Madrid.





MADRID
WORLD CONGRESS
for HAIR RESEARCH
WCHR 2028 in Spain

President: Dr. Sergio Vano-Galvan
Co-President: Dr. David Saceda-Corralo
Secretary: Dr. Angela Hermosa-Gelbard

Melia Castilla Hotel, Madrid, Spain
16-19th May 2028







The Korean Hair Research Society

Chang Hun Huh, MD, PhD, Vice-President/International Relationship Director of KHRS |
 chhuh@snu.ac.kr | <http://www.khrs.or.kr/>

PREPARING FOR AND PROMOTING THE 14TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR HAIR RESEARCH

Preparations are underway for the 14th World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR), scheduled to take place May 28-31, 2026, at COEX in Seoul. The WCHR Organizing Committee is actively designing the academic program and inviting renowned international speakers. To attract a large number of participants from around the globe, the committee is undertaking extensive promotional efforts through both online and offline channels. KHRS members are also making efforts to promote the 14th WCHR during their presentations at various academic conferences. If you attend scientific events around the world, you may spot our WCHR banners or brochures. We warmly invite you to join us in supporting the promotion and successful hosting of this global congress.



Promotional slide for the 14th WCHR includes a QR code that leads to the official website: <https://www.hair2026.org/>



Banners promoting the 14th WCHR were set up at the Japanese Society of Investigative Dermatology and Chinese Dermatological Association meetings.

PAST/UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

22nd KHRS Hair Forum 2024

Welcoming all individuals involved in hair research, the KHRS Hair Forum is an annual summer academic event characterized by its open and interactive format. Participants have the opportunity to present and discuss the results of their studies and to freely exchange ideas on ongoing research projects. The Hair Forum was held on August 17, 2024, in the beautiful city of Busan, South Korea. It served as a platform for academically outstanding presentations and discussions while fostering unity among all those dedicated to hair research.

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Group photo taken at the 2024 Hair Forum.

10th Continuing Hair Education Conference

Organized by the KHRS, the 10th Continuing Hair Education Conference was held on Sunday, November 30, 2024, at the K Hotel in Seoul. With the official title “Harmonization of Novel and Traditional Treatments for Various Hair Loss,” the program offered a range of topics including the latest updates on the JAK inhibitors for alopecia areata (AA), updated real-world data for traditional drugs used in different hair loss conditions, and a look at non-pharmacological treatment options such as hair transplant and scalp micropigmentation. In addition to the insightful lectures, lively debate among clinicians and researchers made the conference as enriching as possible.



Group photo taken at the 2024 Continuing Hair Education Conference.

KHRS 2024 Educational Initiative for Alopecia Areata

The board members of the KHRS are joining forces to publish educational materials for patients with AA. Recognizing that patients with AA often encounter misinformation and develop misconceptions from the internet or others, leading to improper treatment, the KHRS has committed to creating scientifically grounded, evidence-based resources. Work on the project began in November 2024 with the goal of publishing educational booklets by early 2025. These materials will be made available to all KHRS members to use in their clinics and to distribute to patients. Through this initiative, the KHRS aims to dispel misconceptions and help patients gain an accurate understanding of the causes of and treatment methods available for AA.

21st KHRS Annual Meeting | May 25, 2025

The Annual KHRS Meeting, scheduled for May 25, 2025, is the largest event hosted by KHRS. It invites all those interested in hair research and disorders to engage in discussions and share the latest studies in trichology.

(Continued next page)

NOTABLE RESEARCH

Jang YH, Lee SS, Park DY, Lee Y, Kim DY, Park H, Shin HT, Kim JE, Shin K, Lee JH, Choi JW, Park BC, Kim BJ, Seo SH, Won CH, Park J, Kim MS, Kim SS, Lew BL, Huh CH, Kwon O, Lee YW, Kim MB. Korean Hair Research Society. **Korean Consensus Criteria for the Severity Classification of Alopecia Areata.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2024 Aug;36(4):236-246.

Summary: This study aimed to establish consensus criteria for classifying alopecia areata (AA) severity and identifying treatment refractoriness, addressing the lack of universally accepted guidelines. Using a Delphi method among KHRS members, consensus was reached on 23 out of 26 questions. Severity was defined using the Severity of Alopecia Tool (SALT), categorizing $SALT \geq 50$ as severe, $20 \leq SALT < 50$ as moderate, and $SALT < 20$ as mild. Moderate AA was classified as severe if additional criteria such as significant quality-of-life impact, eyebrow/eyelash involvement, active hair loss, or treatment resistance were present. These criteria aim to improve diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of AA.

Lee S, Ohn J, Kang BM, Hwang ST, Kwon O. **Activation of mitochondrial aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 promotes hair growth in human hair follicles.** *J Adv Res.* 2024 Oct;64:237-247.

Summary: This study explores the role of aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 (ALDH2) in hair follicle (HF) biology and hair growth promotion, focusing on its ability to mitigate oxidative stress caused by mitochondrial dysfunction. Using *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, and *in vivo* models, researchers found that ALDH2 activation reduces reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels, enhances reactive aldehyde clearance, and upregulates Akt/GSK3 β / β -catenin signaling, thereby promoting anagen phase induction and hair shaft elongation. These findings suggest that ALDH2 activation may serve as a promising therapeutic strategy for promoting hair growth and addressing hair loss.

Choi S, Kwon SH, Sim WY, Lew BL. **Long-term efficacy and safety of dutasteride 0.5mg in Korean men with androgenetic alopecia: 5-year data demonstrating clinical improvement with sustained efficacy.** *J Dermatol.* 2024 May;51(5):684-690.

Summary: Using the BASP classification and Investigator Global Assessment (IGA), this retrospective study assessed the 5-year efficacy and safety of dutasteride 0.5mg in 99 Korean men with androgenetic alopecia (AGA). Patients aged ≥ 18 years who were treated between 2009 and 2016 showed significant improvement, with 89.9% achieving clinical improvement (IGA score ≥ 1) and 93.9% experiencing disease progression prevention (IGA score ≥ 0). BASP classification analysis revealed clinical improvement in 52.5% of the basic type, 75% of the specific F type, and 82.2% of the specific V type. Dutasteride demonstrated robust long-term efficacy and safety, comparable to finasteride 1mg, for managing AGA in men.

Kim SR, Yu DA, Cho SI, Kwon O. **Association of primary cicatricial alopecia with subsequent cardiovascular disease.** *J Invest Dermatol.* 2024 May;144(5):1166-1169.

Summary: This population-based longitudinal study investigated the association between primary cicatricial alopecia (PCA) and cardiovascular disease (CVD), including coronary heart disease (CHD) and stroke, compared to patients with non-cicatricial alopecia (NCA) and controls without alopecia. The study found that patients with PCA had an increased risk of CVD, particularly CHD and stroke, with certain subtypes such as folliculitis decalvans and lichen planopilaris (LPP) showing stronger associations. Lipid metabolism dysregulation was suggested as a shared etiology between PCA and CVD. While no significant CVD risk difference was observed between PCA and NCA, the findings highlight the need for close cardiovascular monitoring and preventive measures for patients with PCA.

Choi JW, Park HS, Kim SS, Huh CH, Kwon O, Lew BL, Kim MB. **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on telogen effluvium: a nationwide multicentre interrupted time series study.** *Clin Exp Dermatol.* 2024 Nov 22;49(12):1627-1632.

Summary: This multicentre study investigated the association between telogen effluvium (TE) and the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination, analyzing data from 22 hospitals in South Korea between 2017 and 2022. Results showed a significant increase in TE cases during the post-pandemic period but no association with the COVID-19 vaccination. Other types of hair loss were not affected by either the pandemic or vaccination. The study highlights a potential link between the pandemic and rising TE cases.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Korean Hair Research Society kindly invites your support and encouragement for the World Congress for Hair Research, scheduled for 2026 in Seoul. We also seek your valued cooperation to ensure the success of this prestigious event.

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Corresponding author: Andrey Panteleyev, PhD, RHRS President | a.a.pantel@gmail.com

CLOSING OUT 2024

During the second half of 2024, members of the RHRS doing basic hair research participated in a number of national and international scientific meetings covering such topics as genomics, biochemistry, single cell profiling, regeneration and tissue engineering. Events were held in Moscow and Saint Petersburg.

This time was also quite busy, dynamic, and fruitful for the RHRS. We continued our regular online and offline activities, which included the following webinars and courses:

- *Webinar: "News and Opinions from the World Congress of Trichoscopy"* | Cancun, Mexico | 127 participants from 4 countries
- *Offline course: "System-Forming Course on Hair Diseases"* | Saint Petersburg | 18 participants from 3 countries (5-day training)
- *Webinar: "News and Opinions from the Barcelona Hair Meeting"* | Sitges | 105 participants from 6 countries
- *Two in-person training courses: "Alopecia Areata" and "Therapy of Hair Diseases"* | Moscow | 26 participants from 4 countries and 42 participants from 5 countries, respectively
- *Webinar: "News of World Trichology"* | 102 participants, 5 countries

The RHRS organized these webinars and in-person training courses within the final six months of 2024, thereby fully fulfilling the educational plan for 2024 (6 webinars and 5 in-person training courses in total). Additionally, these educational initiatives proved effective in attracting new members to the RHRS. By the end of 2024, the number of active RHRS members reached 394.

9th Congress of the Russian Society for Hair Research | St. Petersburg, Russia | July 2-4, 2024

The highlight of our activities in 2024 was undoubtedly the 9th RHRS Annual Congress, which brought together 347 participants from 9 countries.

We are thankful to Drs. Vladimir Botchkarev, Sergio Vañó Galván, Ramon Grimalt, Marianne Senna, Michela Starace, Asmahen Souissi, and Antonella Tosti for their essential contribution to the Scientific Program and success of the event. There were three main topics at the Congress:

1. The use of finasteride and dutasteride in men and women
2. JAK inhibitors in the treatment of hair diseases
3. Phototrichogram as a high-efficiency method for diagnosing and monitoring treatment efficiency



The 9th RHRS Annual Congress took place in July 2024.

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We express our special gratitude to Dr. Andrey Doroshkevich (RHRS Vice President) for his invaluable contribution to the popularization of the phototrichogram methodology. Dr. Doroshkevich shared his extensive (and quite successful!) experience in its use.

During the meeting, we tested a new format for communication and data sharing among participants: "ROUND TABLE" sessions focused on 10 different topics. This innovation was appreciated and highly valued by participants as it allowed them to discuss issues and difficult cases with experts in an informal setting. Noting the effectiveness of this approach, we will certainly continue it in the future.

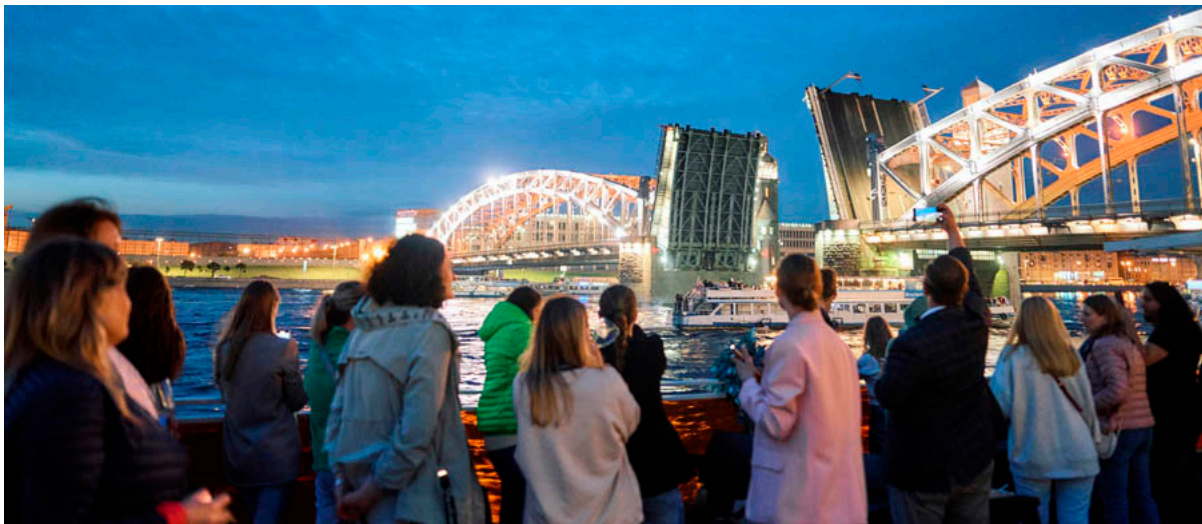
Attendees also enjoyed an extensive social program, and its pinnacle was the Night Welcome Reception on board two comfortable boats. Participants were treated to astonishing views over the embankments of the night city culminating in the process of bridge drawing, which is an iconic sight in St. Petersburg. Yes, it was not easy after the intensive first day of the Congress to have an on-board party until 2:30AM (the time of bridge drawing is between 1:00 and 2:00AM), but this exciting spectacle certainly was worth staying up for.



The Congress brought together 347 participants from 9 countries.



New Round Table sessions were highly valued by participants.



St. Petersburg's rich history is on view during the iconic bridge drawing.

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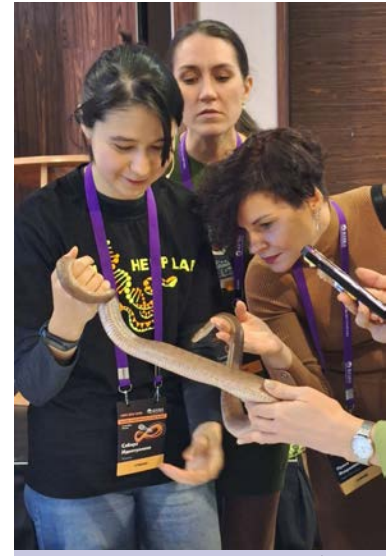
Winter Conference

We concluded 2024 with our annual Winter Conference in Moscow, which focused on “Hair Shaft Diseases and Care” and attracted 172 participants. Our Winter Conference is usually held just before the main holiday in Russia: the New Year. With 2025 being the Year of the Green Snake in the Chinese Zodiac, we decided to add a unique touch to the scientific program of the meeting by including an interesting and thought-provoking lecture by a herpetologist. The talk explored snakes and their skin, including the process of skin shedding, which some found to bear a striking resemblance to the exogen phase in humans (isn't it so?).

Of course, we also enjoyed a gala dinner with a “wear green” dress code.



Enjoying the “wear green” dress code at the Winter Conference gala dinner.



Snakes were on display at the Winter Conference.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For 2025, we have supplemented the RHRS's educational program with two new courses: “Androgenetic Alopecia” and “Phototrichogram Technique.” We are also starting to prepare for the 10th Annual RHRS Congress. This anniversary congress will be held in June-July in St. Petersburg.

We wish everyone a fruitful and successful 2025!



The Society for Hair Science Research (Japan)

Manabu Ohyama, MD, PhD, SHSR President | manabuohy@ks.kyorin-u.ac.jp | <http://www.shsr.jp/>

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

Japanese Dermatological Association's (JDA's) "Clinical Practice Guidelines for Alopecia Areata (AA)" 2024

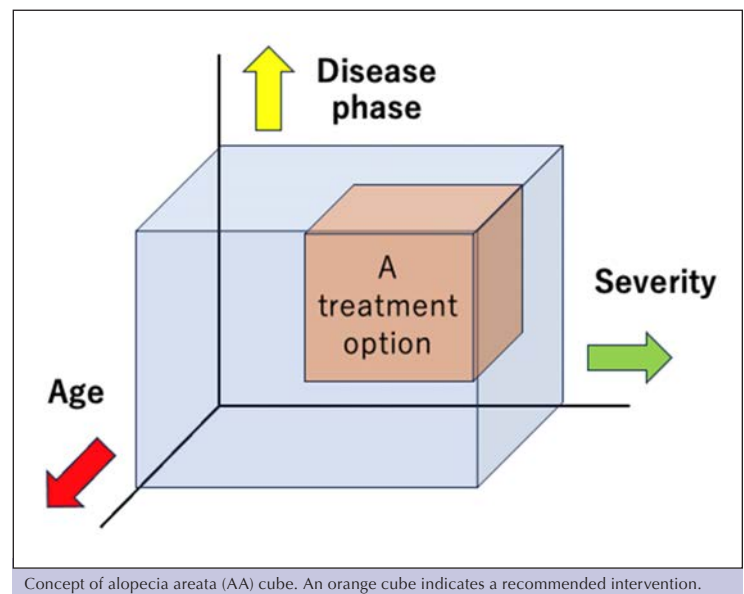
Usually in this newsletter, this author makes it a rule to chronologically describe what the SHSR has done in the field of hair science and dermatology; however, for this issue, I would like to start our update by introducing our hottest topic: the publication of the Japanese Dermatological Association's (JDA's) *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Alopecia Areata (AA) 2024* (in Japanese, see image), which has been enabled by the collaboration between SHSR and JDA. The first JDA *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Alopecia* was published in 2010 and revised in 2017. The formulation or revision of the JDA's guidelines has traditionally been initiated at the request of the SHSR. Following this practice, the SHSR requested a revision of the JDA's AA guidelines in response to new findings on AA and the recent official approval in Japan of Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKis) for managing severe AA.

The formulation committee was composed of SHSR members. Based on the knowledge and findings reported in recent publications, the 2024 version of the JDA's AA guidelines contains significant updates on the pathogenesis, epidemiology, and diagnosis of AA. Among the therapeutic options in the current AA guidelines, the use of JAKis for severe AA is newly included with the highest evidence level, supported by large-scale, international, double-blind randomized clinical trials demonstrating their efficacy.

The guideline is unique because it features an "AA cube"—a schematic diagram explaining the strategy for treating AA. As shown in the illustration, the 3D cube has an X, a Y, and a Z axis, which represent age, severity, and disease phase, comprehensively indicating recommended treatment options (box) for a condition determined by each axis. These guidelines soon will be translated into English and published in the *Journal of Dermatology*, the official international journal of the JDA. After the English version is published, we would appreciate your feedback regarding our new guidelines.



The title page of the JDA's *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Alopecia Areata 2024* (from <https://www.dermatol.or.jp/uploads/uploads/files/guideline/AAGL2024.pdf>)



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Second Barcelona Hair Meeting

In September 2024, the Second Barcelona Hair Meeting was held in Sitges, Spain, and hosted by our dearest colleagues, Prof. Ramon Grimalt and Dr. Sergio Vañó Galván. The global meeting attracted a large number of attendees. I was graciously invited to give a talk entitled, “Anti-JAK and New Options—JAK Inhibitors and Beyond for Severe Alopecia Areata.” The meeting fostered a welcoming atmosphere that strengthened the bonds not only among IFHRS members but also between various hair research societies. (See the picture on the first page of this newsletter.)

76th Korean Dermatological Association Autumn Meeting

SHSR and the Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS) have been closely interacting with each other for a long time. Probably because of this bond, I had a chance to give a lecture at the 76th Korean Dermatological Association Autumn Meeting in Seoul, which was held October 5-6, 2024. We are excited that KHRS will host the World Congress of Hair Research in 2026 and the SHSR is anxious to support this event as a close neighbor.



Representatives of the Korean Hair Research Society and this author at the 76th Korean Dermatological Association Autumn Meeting (Seoul, South Korea).

2024 “Virtual” Meeting

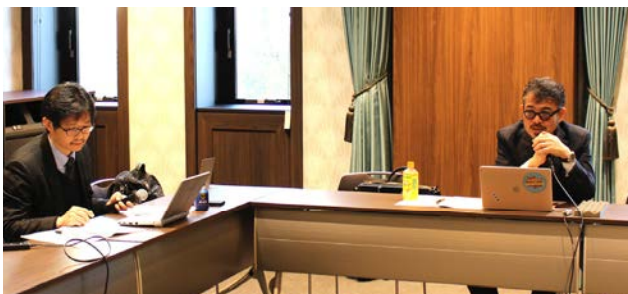
Typically, the SHSR does not hold its official annual meeting in the same year as the WCHR, but rather it holds its Board of Directors meeting and General Assembly at the WCHR venue. Because we were unable to hold these at WCHR 2024 in Dallas, we set up a virtual version that was organized by Prof. Yutaka Shimomura (Yamaguchi Univ.; SHSR Secretary General), A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise, and this author. This was our first attempt at holding a virtual meeting, and we believe it was a valuable step toward uniting our membership. However, we may not need to repeat this for the next WCHR in Seoul, given its close proximity to Japan.

60th Tokyo District Meeting of the Japan Alopecia Areata Foundation

Supporting patients is also an important mission of the SHSR. Dr. Masahiro Fukuyama (Kyorin Univ.), who has been actively publishing papers on alopecia areata, gave an educational talk at the 60th Tokyo District Meeting of the Japan Alopecia Areata Foundation. Dr. Fukuyama provided a well-received update on the management of alopecia areata. We will continue engaging with those who suffer from hair diseases, including but not limited to alopecia areata.

49th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID) was held in Nagoya, December 6-8, 2024, under the presidency of Prof. Akimichi Morita. Currently, this author is serving as a Secretary General for JSID. SHSR members from various institutions delivered presentations and educational talks, including an insightful sponsored seminar on alopecia areata presented by Assoc. Prof. Yohei Natsuaki of Kurume University. It was our great pleasure to see many KHRS members at this meeting. Representing SHSR/JSID, this author would like to express sincere gratitude for those who traveled to Nagoya.



Top: The SHSR the board of director meeting and general assembly, together with casual academic progress reports were held remotely this year. From the left, this author, Prof. Yutaka Shimomura (Secretary General, Yamaguchi Univ.), and A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise (Manager, Kyorin Univ.).

Bottom: Virtual meetings allowed participants to actively interact via the internet.

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COMMITTED TO THE FIELD OF HAIR SCIENCE

SHSR activities extend beyond the scope described above. Our members actively collaborate with domestic and international colleagues to advance hair science and research, while maintaining a strong commitment to supporting patients with hair diseases.

We wish you a happy and prosperous new year! May peace prevail on Earth.

UHRS Ukrainian Hair Research Society

Yuliya S. Ovcharenko, MD, PhD, UHRS President | julya.ovcharenko@gmail.com | <https://uhrs.org.ua>

Dear colleagues, summing up the difficult year of 2024, on behalf of the Ukrainian Hair Research Society (UHRS), we would like to pay tribute to the Ukrainian soldiers for holding the outpost of the free world and preventing the emergence of other fronts. We thank them for the happiness of living and creating scientific and educational projects and moving forward despite everything!

UHRS WINTER SUMMIT 2024

The UHRS Winter Summit, dedicated to discoveries in the world of alopecia areata (AA), is becoming a tradition. For the second time, on the UHRS Education platform (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/>) and with the support of Pfizer, we draw the attention of the professional community to issues that have been discussed throughout the year that have expanded our understanding of this intriguing nosology and opened up new therapeutic possibilities. Together with the Ukrainian team of scientists, Dr. Dmitri Wall (Ireland), a well-known world-class expert and a great friend of Ukraine, presented his research. Thanks to the teamwork of his research group, the idea of creating the Global Registry of Alopecia Areata Disease Severity and Treatment Safety (GRASS) was proposed, the implementation of which is already being worked on by many world experts, and many countries, including Ukraine, are involved. Despite the situation, the UHRS Collegium continues its epidemiological work to create an All-Ukrainian National Register of AA with the aim of contributing to the study of this disease, expanding the geographic area of research, and including Ukrainian patients in special programs for the progressive methods of treating AA.



Prof. Yuliya Ovcharenko (Ukraine) and Dr. Dmitri Wall (Ireland) at the UHRS Summit 2024, "What's new in the world of alopecia areata?"

UHRS EDUCATION PLATFORM

Online education is an accessible modern tool that allows us to stay up to date on the latest innovations and improve our level of competence and professionalism. UHRS Education is a global hybrid educational platform for continuous medical education in the field of trichology (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/>). The project, created in 2023 in collaboration with experts in the field, researchers, dermatologists, and trichologists, is grounded in advanced scientific research and their collective experience. This professional community now unites more than 1,200 dermatotrichologists, reconstructive surgery specialists, biologists, geneticists, pathohistologists, and pharmacologists around hair pathology issues.

On the UHRS Education platform, a doctor will find highly expert scientific content (video lectures, cases, articles, webinars, seminars, courses, lectures, etc.), as well as have the opportunity to earn the required annual certification credits upon successfully passing the tests. The unique motto of the UHRS Education platform—"MOVE THE TRICHOLOGICAL WORLD WITH US!"—reflects the goal of the project. Continuous development should become an integral part of life of a modern doctor. The UHRS education team regularly provides the knowledge platform with content of varying levels—from beginner to advanced—so that each user can be part of the community and be equal to the best. The UHRS Education platform has become a unique professional territory for its users, combining an

(Continued next page)

expert platform of innovative knowledge and opportunities, a runway for young specialists, a club-type social network, a knowledge simulator based on unique clinical cases, a congress hall, etc.

For 2025, the UHRS education team has planned several innovative changes to improve the work of the platform, including the introduction of new sections and an English-language version of the platform.

RESEARCH

The prevalence of androgenetic alopecia (AGA) in men and women explains the high index of clinical interest in the study of this condition. At the same time, with the development of fundamental studies of AGA, data from modern Ukrainian clinical observations reveal correlations between the age-related manifestation of AGA, comorbidity with the clinical subtype and prognosis, and indicate possible clinical and pathogenetic variants of the disease. Information on comorbidities and associations with AGA subtypes is contradictory and depends, among other things, on the population. According to our retrospective study that analyzed 188 women with AGA, the Ludwig type was found to be the most common subtype among Ukrainian patients. The Ludwig and Olsen subtypes showed significantly higher proportions of metabolic syndrome. Hypothyroidism was more common in the Olsen type (30.1%); the Hamilton-Norwood subtype was more likely to be accompanied by polycystic ovary syndrome and other signs of hyperandrogenism and showed significantly higher proportions of early onset of the disease. These observations are of high clinical significance and contribute to the planning of an individual therapeutic route taking into account gender, age, clinical form and severity, and based on somatic comorbid pathology (Ovcharenko et al). The results were presented at the 3rd World Congress on Trichoscopy (ITS2024).

3RD WORLD CONGRESS ON TRICHOSCOPY (ITS2024) | CANCUN, MEXICO | JUNE 13-16, 2024

United by love for trichoscopy, 15 Ukrainian dermatologists represented our country at the 3rd World Congress on Trichoscopy. We express our sincere gratitude to Prof. Daniel Asz Segall and the team of congress organizers for supporting Ukrainian participants and for the opportunity to present our scientific work and original research in the field of comorbidity of androgenetic alopecia and clinical-trichoscopy correlation of the rarest hair heterochromias. It is a great honor for us to exchange experience with the most open scientists and doctors, and most importantly, to receive friendly support from colleagues from all over the world.



Ukrainian team of participants at ITS2024 in Cancun, Mexico.

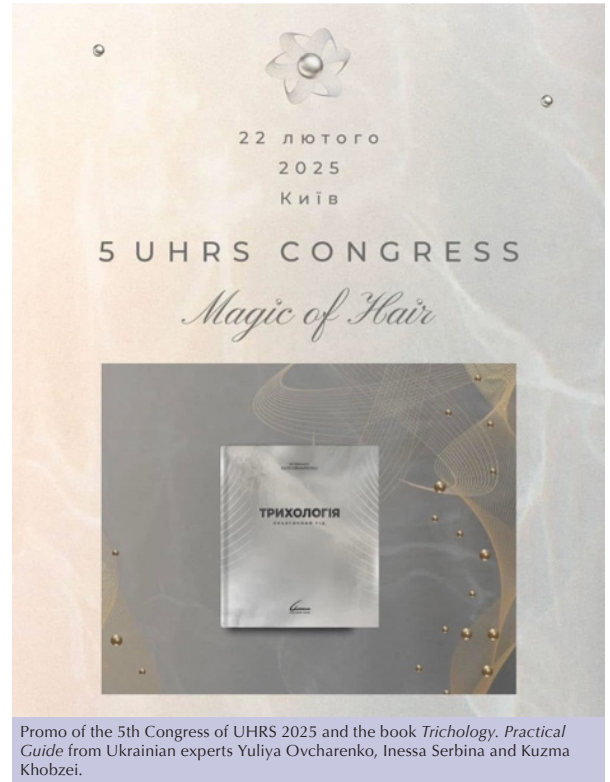
FUTURE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES

On February 22, 2025, in an offline format, in the heart of our Ukraine, in the city of Kyiv, we will hold the annual Charity and Scientific Event: 5 UHRS Congress (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/uhrs-congress-2025>). The event will bring together specialists for whom continuous improvement is an integral part of their professional path. Our team and speakers will present a practical and updated view on the diagnosis and treatment of various types of alopecia that will include not only scientific data but also valuable clinical experience. Together with Ukrainian experts, recognized world experts and invited guest speakers—Dr. Rodrigo Pirmez (Brazil), Dr. Michela Starace (Italy), Prof. Adriana Rakowska (Poland), Prof. Mohammad Jafferany (USA), Prof. Nino Lortkipanidze (Georgia), and Prof. Akaki Tsilosani (Georgia)—expressed their willingness to share their pearls of professional mastery. The main gift for Congress participants will be presentation of the book *Trichology. Practical Guide* from Ukrainian experts. The traditions of our educational meetings and unforgettable emotional surprises are combined with practical advice from experts and a program filled with advanced content that implements the principles of good clinical practice and forms good taste in modern trichology.

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CREATION OF PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

Trichology is a relatively young field, marked by rapid development, with more than 30 years of achievements in the study of the hair follicle. However, in the context of the centuries-old history of medicine, such an active but short period of increased scientific and clinical interest in trichology explains the limited number of methods for treating hair pathology with proven effectiveness, most of which are used off-label today. The need for continuous improvement of knowledge in the context of rapidly advancing science and a fundamental approach to the treatment of trichological patients is evident. This need formed the foundation for the creation of the book *Trichology. Practical Guide* by Ukrainian experts Yuliya Ovcharenko, Inessa Serbina, and Kuzma Khobzei. The purpose of writing this guide was to present a modern effective concept for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with hair pathology. Experts have carefully collected, analyzed and systematized unique material on hair and scalp diseases, based on the latest scientific data and the authors' clinical experience. We hope that this book will attract the attention of the professional community to the study of hair, popularize the Ukrainian clinical school, and become a practical guide for doctors in the management of patients with hair pathology.



Promo of the 5th Congress of UHRS 2025 and the book *Trichology. Practical Guide* from Ukrainian experts Yuliya Ovcharenko, Inessa Serbina and Kuzma Khobzei.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

One step away from the Peace, we continue to write the history of Ukrainian trichology. On behalf of UHRS members, we would like to express gratitude to everyone who believes in Ukraine and is helping to bring our victory closer, and to all the indestructible Ukrainians who prove to the world by their own example that Ukraine will stand, maintain its independence, and win.

Happy New 2025 Year, Year of Victory!

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

2028

15th WCHR

May 16-19, 2028

Madrid, Spain

Venue: Melia Castilla Hotel

Hosting Society: EHRS

2030

16th WCHR

Open Hub

Hosting Group: 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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