

NEWSLETTER

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Message from the IFHRS Chair & Executive Secretary

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Dr. Wilma Bergfeld



Victoria Ceh

As we reach the midpoint of 2025, it's been a busy and productive year filled with a full schedule of hair meetings. Hair research is an exciting field and new discoveries and therapies continue to emerge, and we look forward to the second half of the year bringing even more opportunities to connect and share new insights.

The IFHRS Open Hub 2030 Task Force has been busy reviewing the Expression of Interest Forms for a bid team to host the World Congress of Hair Research in 2030. Seven applications were received, which shows the enthusiasm and increased interest in the field globally. The Task Force met and had lengthy discussion on the details of each pre-bid. Later in the month, the IFHRS Board will meet to review the

data. The IFHRS Board will vote for two teams to elevate to the next round; the teams will then provide a full bid presentation to the Board at the 2026 World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR2026) in Seoul, Korea. Good luck to the teams!

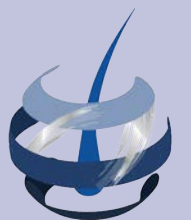
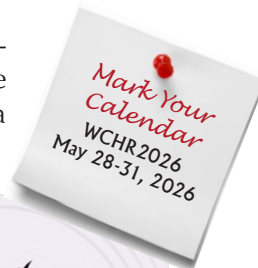
WCHR2026 Call for Abstracts Now Open

Scheduled to take place May 28-31, 2026, in beautiful Seoul, Korea, WCHR2026 is less than a year away. Our sister society, Korean Hair Research Society, has been diligently working to develop a fantastic program filled with cutting-edge hair science along with a robust social and cultural program.

We are pleased to announce that the Call for Abstracts is now open. Please visit <https://www.hair2026.org> for details and to submit your abstract.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the important dates and start considering your travel arrangements.

We hope to see you there!



IFHRS

International Federation
of Hair Research Societies

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14th

WORLD CONGRESS for HAIR RESEARCH

Awakening the soul of hair science

May 28–31 (Thu–Sun), 2026 | COEX, Seoul, Korea

KHRS
The Korean Hair Research Society

The Official Website is **Now Open!**

www.hair2026.org



**Early
Registration**

By Dec. 31, 2025

www.hair2026.org/registration



**Abstract
Submission**

By Nov. 14, 2025

www.hair2026.org/abstract



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are excited to announce that the official website for the 14th World Congress for Hair Research is now open!

WCHR 2026 will take place at COEX, Seoul, Korea, from May 28 to May 31, 2026.

Key Information Available on the Official Website:

- *Important dates and scientific program highlights*
- *Abstract submission and registration guidelines*
- *Travel and accommodation details*
- *Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities*
- *Local insights about Seoul, Korea*

We warmly welcome you to be part of this vibrant scientific community and contribute to advancing the future of hair research.

Best regards,

Organizing Committee of **WCHR 2026**

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ADVANCING THE AHRS MISSION TOGETHER

Hello, everyone, this is my first IFHRS Newsletter as the recently elected President of the AHRS. I am very excited and honored to work with the AHRS team, Board of Directors, and society members to continue growing the AHRS and advancing its mission. A vital component of our mission is to collaborate with our sister societies around the world, and I look forward to working together with you to promote hair care, education, and research at future meetings.

Personally, and on behalf of the AHRS, I would like to express my immense gratitude and thanks to Dr. Angela Christiano, AHRS Immediate Past-President, for her visionary leadership these past three years. Dr. Christiano's leadership resulted in many advances for the AHRS, including the following:

- First, in 2017, the AHRS expanded its membership to include hair experts and trainees from North, Central, and South America. This growth in membership has enriched the intellectual content of our meetings and webinars, and I believe this upward trajectory will continue to benefit the society. AHRS membership currently stands at 328, representing a truly global community—with members from every continent except Antarctica.
- Second, the AHRS has restructured all its committees. Working with Victoria Ceh and the AHRS team, we have revised the mission and structure of each committee to better serve the society's programs and our stakeholders. These stakeholders include not only the academic community, but also our partners in the pharmaceutical and consumer products industries, government and regulatory agencies, as well as practicing dermatologists and physicians outside of academic institutions.

Lastly, on March 6 in Orlando, we held the AHRS Strategic Meeting, attended by current members of the Board of Directors and other key stakeholders. The goal of this meeting was to discuss ways the AHRS could better fulfill its mission in the years ahead. There were numerous outstanding ideas generated, many of which will be implemented over the next few years—helping us to be more effective in achieving our mission.

EVENTFUL FIRST HALF OF 2025

The start of 2025 was very active and included the following:

- On February 8, 2025, the AHRS hosted a scientific webinar entitled, "Clinical Conundrums." Noted hair experts, Drs. Rodrigo Pirmez, Prince Adotama, Maria Hordinsky, and Melissa Piliang, presented on a range of topics including scarring alopecia in men, scalp dysesthesias, and treating patients with no apparent hair loss. The webinar was attended by 66 members from 23 countries and stimulated much discussion.
- On March 7, 2025, the AHRS hosted its Annual Scientific Meeting & Luncheon at the American Academy of Dermatology annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. Entitled "Neutrophilic Mediated Scarring Alopecias," the program was organized by Dr. Paradi Mirmirani, who chairs our Clinical Research Subcommittee, and included the following presentations: Dr. Kristen Lo Sicco, "Folliculitis Decalvans—The North American Perspective"; Dr. Isabella Doche, "Folliculitis Decalvans—The South American Perspective"; and Dr. Leslie Castelo-Soccio, "Scalp Microbiome—Latest Research." The meeting had 135 attendees and was a great success. At the meeting, Dr. Jerry Shapiro was honored with the 2025 David Whiting award.



Jerry Shapiro was honored with the 2025 David Whiting award.

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Also at the March 7 meeting, the AHRS announced the recipients of the 2025 AHRS Mentorship Grants that support our trainee members to engage with an AHRS investigator on a project. We especially thank Lilly and the many AHRS members for financially supporting this vital program. The Mentorship Grants Program had been directed by Dr. John Sundberg from 2018-25, and Dr. Sundberg has been part of the Mentorship Committee since its inception in 2002. Dr. Sundberg's contributions to the program have been uniquely impactful and have facilitated uniting students with mentors from not only across the Americas, but from across the globe, to learn more about research on hair biology and its diseases.

The AHRS also recognized Dr. Adriana Schmidt for her significant contributions to the Mentorship Committee. Since 2010, she has been helping young mentees connect with mentors to learn more about research on hair biology and its diseases.

- On May 2, 2025, the AHRS held a scientific program, organized by Dr. Jorge Larrondo, at the RADLA meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The program included a broad range of interesting presentations on eyebrow alopecia, hair disorders in skin of color, new therapies for AGA, getting more from your pathologist, and the use of JAK inhibitors in alopecia.
- On May 9, 2025, the AHRS hosted its Scientific Meeting & Annual General Meeting at the Society for Investigative Dermatology meeting in San Diego, California. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 physicians and scientists. There were 3 oral presentations and 12 posters for viewing. The oral presentations covered a broad range of research topics including single-cell genomic studies of hair

follicle-inductive fibroblasts, how IL-27 induces immunosuppressive T cells to prevent AA, and regulation of feather length FGF and IGF regulation of Notch/YAP signaling.



Recipients of the 2025 AHRS Mentorship Grants



The AHRS was represented at the RADLA meeting.



The AHRS was represented at the SID meeting.

UPCOMING WEBINAR | NOVEMBER 8, 2025

The AHRS will conduct its second live webinar of the year—"Hair Therapies Your Patients Will be Asking About in 2026: What You Need to Know"—on November 8, 2025, at 9:00AM Central Time. The format will include three speakers covering the topics of androgenetic alopecia, alopecia areata, and cicatricial alopecia followed by panel discussion, and it will include live polling.

If you are interested in attending, please register at <https://americanhairresearchsociety.org/upcoming-meetings/>.

Thank you for reading our update. We are looking forward to an exciting and active second half of 2025 and seeing you at upcoming meetings.



Australasian Hair and Wool Research Society

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

2025 MEETINGS UPDATE

Australasian College of Dermatology held its 57th annual scientific meeting | Brisbane | May 31–June 2

The Australasian College of Dermatology recently held its 57th Annual Scientific Meeting. The AHWRS was well represented at the meeting, and 5 members were conferred fellow of the royal college of dermatology (FACD). Present to receive their awards (Figure 1) were Drs. Prateek Sharma, John Frewen, Meghana Paranjape, and Themis Colia. Dr. Ragini Ghiya received her award in absentia.

Dr. Leona Yip, accompanied by Drs. Samantha Eisman and Bevin Bhoyrul, confidently chaired the hair session (Figure 2). Titled “Alopecia Expert Panel Fireside Chat and TED Talks: The Future of Alopecia Treatments—Expert Strategies and Emerging Frontiers,” the session covered a range of topics and included the following:

- “Regrowing Hair in Scarring Alopecias: When and How Is It Possible?”
- TED Talk: “Hair Transplant for Scarring Alopecias: Who Is Ideal?” – Dr. Bevin Bhoyrul
- “Old Fashioned Conventional Therapies for Alopecia Areata: Are They Obsolete?”
- “JAK Inhibitors for Adult Alopecia Areata in 2025: Where Do We Stand?”
- TED Talk: “Dos and Don’ts of Prescribing JAK Inhibitors for Severe Adult AA” – Dr. Samantha Eisman
- “Hair Shedding That Never Stops: Is it the New Normal?”
- “Hair Regeneration Therapies for MPHL and FPHL (Exosomes, Autologous Micrografting): Is It Fluff?”
- TED Talk: “Hair Regeneration Therapies: Disrupting the Hair Loss Narrative” – Dr. Leona Yip



Figure 1. (l to r) AHWRS members Drs. Prateek Sharma, Meghana Paranjape, Themis Colia, and John Frewen were conferred Fellow of the Royal College of Dermatology at the Australasian College of Dermatology 57th Annual Scientific Meeting.



Figure 2. (l to r) Drs. Samantha Eisman, Bevin Bhoyrul, and Leona Yip

Two posters were presented at the meeting (Figure 3):

1. Dr. Gia Toan Tang presented “A Multicentre Cohort Study of the Clinicopathological Features and Treatment Outcomes of Fibrosing Alopecia in a Pattern Distribution.”
2. On behalf of Drs. Brett King, Maryanne Senna, Manabu Ohyama et al., Dr. Samantha Eisman presented “Evidence-Based Data on How Long to Achieve Treatment Response with Baricitinib in Severe Alopecia Areata.” She also delivered talks in the paediatric session, “JAK Inhibitors for the Treatment of Severe Alopecia Areata in the Adolescent and Pre-adolescent Patient,” covering both published data and the experience in a single centre, Sinclair Dermatology. In addition, she presented at the nurses meeting on alopecia areata and on what we have learned from clinical trials.

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European Hair Research Society | May 29-31, 2025 | Warsaw, Poland
Rodney Sinclair Awarded Honorary Life Membership

At the recent European Hair Research Society meeting in Warsaw, Prof. Rodney Sinclair was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Polish society of Dermatology (Figure 4).

ALOPECIA AREATA (AA) RESEARCH

The AA research team, led by Prof. Sinclair, has been actively engaging with clinical experts to consolidate perspectives on the use of JAK inhibitors and defining eligibility criteria for the treatment of AA. With baricitinib and ritlecitinib now approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), there is a timely opportunity to develop a standardised treatment framework. Our recent manuscript, entitled “Criteria for Commencing and Continuing Subsidised Janus Kinase Inhibitor Therapy in Australian Alopecia Areata Patients—Results from an Australian Expert Consensus Exercise,” has been accepted for publication. Additionally, “Psychosocial and Occupational Burden on Caregivers of Adolescents with Alopecia Areata in Australia” (Sinclair R, Eisman S, Lee CMY, et al. 2025 June;66(4): e235-e240) was published in the *Australasian Journal of Dermatology*.

Other publications from 2025 include the following:

- Tang GT, Sinclair R, Leemaqz S, et al. Scalp hair parameter changes in transgender individuals commencing gender-affirming hormone therapy: a 24-week prospective observational study. *JAAD*. 2025;92(6):1390-1394.
- O'Connor C, Boyle A, Asfour L, et al. COLLAB: a global survey of clinical and laboratory assessment in alopecia areata by hair specialists. *EADV Clinical Practice*.
- King B, Mostaghimi A, Shimomura Y, et al. Safety of baricitinib in adults with severe alopecia areata from two phase III trials over a median of 2.3 years and up to 4 years of treatment. *Am J Clin Dermatol*. 2025 Apr 11. doi: 10.1007/s40257-025-00932-0. Epub ahead of print.
- Olsen EA, Sinclair R, Hordinsky M, et al. Summation and recommendations for the safe and effective use of topical and oral minoxidil. *JAAD*. 2025 Apr 10:S0190-9622(25)00605-X. Epub ahead of print.
- Darchini-Maragheh E, Moussa A, Yoong N, et al. Alopecia areata—specific patient-reported outcome measures: a systematic review. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2025 Apr 1;161(4):421-429.
- Humphries H, Sinclair R, Piraccini BM, et al. Prediction of long-term scalp hair regrowth at 24 months in patients with alopecia areata receiving ritlecitinib treatment in the ALLEGRO clinical trial program. *SKIN – The Journal of Cutaneous Medicine*. 9(2):s561-s561.

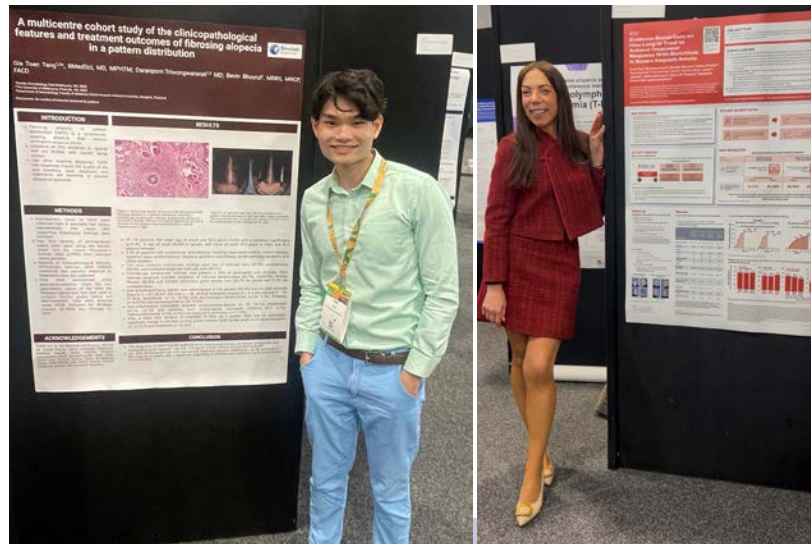


Figure 3. (l to r) Drs. Gia Toan Tang and Samantha Eisman presented posters at the meeting.



Figure 4. Prof. Rodney Sinclair was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Polish Society of Dermatology.

- Kushnir-Grinbaum D, Triwongwaranat D, Bhoyrul B, et al. Continued year-on-year improvement in hair density with systemic minoxidil in women with female pattern hair loss: a case series. *JAAD*. 2025 Mar 17:S0190-9622(25)00466-9. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2025.03.028. Epub ahead of print.
- Sinclair R. Promoting Hair Growth and Treatment of Hair Loss or Excessive Hair Shedding. US Patent App. 18/942,149. <https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2019010535A1/en>.
- King B, Mirmirani P, Lo Sicco K, et al. Patterns of clinical response in patients with alopecia areata treated with ritlecitinib in the ALLEGRO clinical development programme. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. 2025 Jun;39(6):1163-1173.
- Piliang M, Lynde C, King B, et al. Sustained hair regrowth with continued ritlecitinib treatment through week 48 in patients with alopecia areata with or without early target responses. *JAAD*. 2025;92(2), 276-284.
- Darchini-Maragheh E, Moussa A, Rees H, et al. Assessment of clinician-reported outcome measures for alopecia areata: a systematic scoping review. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2025 Jan 27;50(2):267-278.
- Yoong N, Yii V, Sinclair R, et al. Combination of oral minoxidil and bicalutamide for the treatment of female pattern hair loss in adolescents. *JAAD*. 2025 May;92(5):1156-1157.
- King B, Senna M, Ohyama M, et al. Evidence-based data on how long to treat to achieve treatment response with baricitinib in severe alopecia areata. *SKIN – The Journal of Cutaneous Medicine*. 9(1):s521-s521.
- Sinclair R, Sicinska J, Bokhari L, et al. Sublingual minoxidil increases fibre diameter in male androgenetic alopecia—a proxy for reversal of hair follicle miniaturization. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2025 Jan 8:llaf012. doi: 10.1093/ced/llaf012. Epub ahead of print.
- Tziotziros C, Sinclair R, Lesiak A, et al. Long-term safety and efficacy of ritlecitinib in adults and adolescents with alopecia areata and at least 25% scalp hair loss: results from the ALLEGRO-LT phase 3, open-label study. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. 2025 Jun;39(6):1152-1162.
- Costa MR, de Xavier de Brito FO, Yamagata JP, et al. Trichoteiromania: a multicentre retrospective descriptive and analytical study of 129 cases. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. 2025 Jan 9. doi: 10.1111/jdv.20532. Epub ahead of print.
- Akiska YM, Mirmirani P, Roseborough I, et al. Low-dose oral minoxidil initiation for patients with hair loss: an international modified delphi consensus statement. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2025;161(1),87-95.

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

GRASS has been steadily expanding; as of the end of May 2025, we have recruited 1,073 patients. Participating countries include Australia, Ireland, and Italy, with a few more countries working on their ethics approvals. We are also pleased to announce that our first planned GRASS Short Easily Entered Dataset (SEED) country—Spain—has received ethics approval. GRASS SEED is a lighter platform that allows entry of a reduced dataset while still allowing high-quality analysis. There is ongoing work in developing data analysis pipelines that will incorporate both the SEED and full datasets. These pipelines will enable both the individual countries and the global GRASS to generate reports based on their country data for reporting and review purposes.



Chinese Hair Research Society

Jianzhong Zhang, MD, CHRS Chairman | rmzjz@126.com

2025 MEETING UPDATES

The First Symposium on Scalp and Hair Pathology in China | Wuxi, China | May 16-17, 2025

This First Symposium on Scalp and Hair Pathology addressed complex hair disease pathology. Nearly 100 leading experts, young scholars, and postgraduate students from more than 30 hospitals nationwide attended the event, which was opened by Prof. Weixin Fan and Prof. Xufeng Du. Attendees analysed 37 challenging cases and reviewed over 100 digital slides covering a wide spectrum of hair conditions, igniting active and in-depth discussions. As the first symposium in China dedicated to complex hair pathology, this event was a significant step towards precision diagnostics in hair medicine.



Figure 1. Highlights from the First Symposium on Scalp and Hair Pathology

The Clinical Research Symposium on Dermatology and Hair Loss | Peking University People's Hospital | March 29, 2025

For this symposium, Prof. Dirk M. Elston and Prof. Susan C. Taylor visited Peking University People's Hospital, where they attended the Clinical Research Symposium on Dermatology and Hair Loss. They engaged with dermatology and trichology colleagues from across China, sharing research breakthroughs, clinical strategies, and future perspectives. These interactions significantly enhanced international collaboration and inspired continued innovation among Chinese experts.



Figure 2. Prof. Dirk Elston and Prof. Susan Taylor joined the symposium and visited Peking University People's Hospital.

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Symposium on Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Skin Diseases and Hair-Scalp Health | March 1, 2025 | Liuyang, Hunan

This symposium was co-chaired by Prof. Ji Li and Prof. Wei Shi. The event focused on immune-driven scalp conditions, with discussions exploring genetics, lipid metabolism, inflammation, and immunity in hair follicle regeneration. Experts also discussed the latest advances in the management of alopecia areata and other immune-related scalp disorders, as well as how to bridge the gap between clinical and basic research to inform future studies.



Figure 3. Opening ceremony of the Symposium on Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Skin Diseases and Hair-Scalp Health

The Western China Congenital Hypotrichosis Collaboration Project Launch | March 30, 2025 | Chengdu

This project, launched by the Western China Hair Disease Alliance, offers free genetic testing to patients with congenital hypotrichosis and their families. The project aims to improve access to diagnosis and treatment in remote regions of western China.



Figure 4. Prof. Hengguang Zhao, from The Second Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, announced the launch of the Western China Congenital Hypotrichosis Collaboration Project.

Shanghai International Forum on Immuno-Dermatology | May 24-26, 2025 | Shanghai

Organized by Huashan Hospital, this forum convened global experts to discuss immune-related skin diseases, AI diagnostics, and interdisciplinary approaches. Prof. Wu's keynote on single-cell analysis in androgenetic alopecia provided novel insights, shaping future research directions. The forum strengthened clinical collaboration and innovation, aiming to enhance patient outcomes.



Figure 5. Opening ceremony of Shanghai International Forum on Immuno-Dermatology

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ACADEMIC UPDATES

Presentation of Chinese Hair Drug Development at AAD Annual Meeting

Prof. Jianzhong Zhang, from Peking University People's Hospital, presented the results of a groundbreaking Phase 3 clinical trial of ivarmacitinib—China's first highly selective JAK1 inhibitor for severe alopecia areata—at the “Late-Breaking Research” session of the AAD Annual Meeting, showcasing China's capabilities in the development of dermatological drugs.

Enhanced International Communication and Collaborations on Hair Research

Esteemed international hair specialists, including Professors Dirk M. Elston, Susan C. Taylor, Brett King, and Jacek C. Szepietowski, visited several Chinese cities, promoting significant international exchanges with local dermatologists and hair specialists.

Additionally, CHRS delegates Wenyu Wu, Cheng Zhou, and Jinran Lin attended the Delphi Expert Panel Meeting on Alopecia Areata in Bangkok from 17 to 18 May 2025, contributing to advancements in regional hair medicine. On 25 May 2025, Cheng Zhou represented CHRS at the KHRS Annual Meeting in Seoul, highlighting recent achievements in Chinese hair research.

Chinese Guidelines and Consensus Updates (2025)

In 2025, we plan to complete updates for:

1. Chinese Guidelines and Consensus on Alopecia Areata
2. National Expert Consensus on AA Disease Severity Assessment and Initiation of Systemic Therapy (“STAGE-AA”)
3. Chinese Expert Consensus on Lichen Planopilaris/Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

PUBLICATIONS

Some noteworthy academic publications:

- Qin Wang, Linxia Shen, Yuou Sha, et al. Upadacitinib for refractory alopecia areata unresponsive to prior systemic therapies: A retrospective study. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025 May 28:S0190-9622(25)00718-2.
- Cheng Zhou, Bin Yang, Huiming Zeng, et al. Efficacy and safety of topical finasteride spray solution in the treatment of Chinese men with androgenetic alopecia: A phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *Chin Med J (Engl)*. 2025 Mar 17.
- Cong Ma, Ming Cheng, Ting Xiao, et al. miR-574-3p and miR-125a-5p in adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell exosomes synergistically target TGF- β 1/SMAD2 signaling pathway for the treatment of androgenic alopecia. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2025 Apr 28:S0022-202X(25)00448-8.
- Wen Xu, Yujie Li, Sheng Wan, et al. S100A8 induces cyclophosphamide-induced alopecia via NCF2/NOX2-mediated ferroptosis. *Free Radic Biol Med*. 2025 Mar 16;230:112-126.
- Yijie Sun, Shuang Xu, Yujing Zhang, et al. Correlation between increased total serum IgE levels and clinical features in alopecia areata patients. *Front Immunol*. 2025;16:1581976.
- Rui Qiao, Jiaping Zhu, Jing Fang, et al. Microneedle transdermal delivery of compound betamethasone in alopecia areata—A randomized controlled trial. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025;92(2):269-275.



Figure 6. Prof. Jianzhong Zhang giving an oral presentation at the AAD Annual Meeting.



Figure 7. CHRS representatives in Thailand and Korea

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN 2025

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

Meeting Secretary: Prof. Ling Liu, Tangdu Hospital (liuling_derm@163.com).

The 9th CHRS Annual Meeting will take place in Xi'an, China, an area historically significant as the capital of 13 dynasties. Xi'an offers visitors iconic sites such as the Terracotta Army, the First Emperor's Tomb, the Bell Tower, the Drum Tower, the Muslim Quarter, and the City Wall.

Join us for this exciting event in hair research—we look forward to welcoming you to Xi'an!



Figure 8. Xi'an City, China



European Hair Research Society

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

21ST EUROPEAN HAIR RESEARCH SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING (EHRS 2025) | WARSAW, POLAND | MAY 29-31, 2025

The 21st EHRS Annual Meeting, held in Warsaw, Poland, was chaired by Prof. Lidia Rudnicka, a renowned expert in trichology and an EHRS board member. As such, preceded by a Trichology Course, the meeting had a strong trichology theme and a high number of delegates who attended specifically to gain expertise in this field. The meeting was very popular, and we had to close registration a few weeks before the event, capping the number of attendees at 620 and making it the largest EHRS congress to date.

The program was split into basic scientific research and clinical research sessions. At the start of the congress, the Polish Dermatological Society gave honorary membership to Dermatologists and honorary diplomas to the presidents of sister societies within the IFHRS.



The Polish Dermatological Society gave honorary diplomas to Angela Christiano (AHRS), Chang-Hun Huh (KHRS), Yuliya Ovcharenko (UHRs) and Claire Higgins (EHRS).

John Ebling Lecture at EHRS 2025

One of the highlights of the Warsaw congress was the John Ebling Lecture, given in memory of the late Prof. John Ebling, a zoologist at the University of Sheffield in the UK who dedicated his career to the study of the hair follicle. Prof. Ebling attended the inaugural meeting of the EHRS in 1989 and sadly passed in 1992. Since 1993, the EHRS has held an annual lecture at its meetings dedicated to his memory. This year's lecture was given by Prof. Bianca Maria Piraccini, who delivered the following three main messages in her talk:

1. To optimally treat alopecia, you should understand hair follicle anatomy and physiology and the modalities with which the hair follicle responds to insult.
2. All tools for studying the hair and scalp should be learned and used. New techniques don't always make the old ones obsolete!
3. Learn and share—knowledge is nothing if you do not pass it onto your students.

Perhaps highlighting this last point is that Prof. Piraccini trained with Prof. Antonella Tosti (a previous John Ebling lecturer) and was a mentor to Dr. Michela Starace (Treasurer/Board member of the EHRS), who were both in attendance at the meeting.



Professor Piraccini after receiving her award for giving the John Ebling Lecture.

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The Polish Dermatological society gave honorary membership to the following Dermatologists (l to r): Daniel Asz Sigall (Mexico), Ulrike Blume-Peytavi (Germany), Rachita Dhurat (India), Sergio Vañó Galván (Spain), María Hordinsky (USA), Nino Lortkipanidze (Georgia), Hoda Moneib (Egypt), Bianca Piraccini (Italy), Rodrigo Pirmez (Brazil), Antonella Tosti (USA), and Rodney Sinclair (Australia).

Clinical Research at EHRS 2025

Several great lectures were given by EHRS members during the congress:

- **Prof. Yuval Ramot** (Hadassah Medical Center) delivered two insightful talks. In the first, he explored the clinical relevance of the hair cycle, highlighting how a deeper understanding of its phases and regulatory pathways (such as WNT, BMP, EDAR, and Shh) can enhance the diagnosis and management of hair disorders. In his second talk, he focused on the intersection of alopecia and hematological malignancies, using illustrative cases to shed light on conditions such as folliculotropic mycosis fungoides and persistent chemotherapy-induced alopecia, and underscoring the importance of collaboration between dermatologists and hematologists in these complex presentations.
- **Dr. David Saceda-Corrado** (Ramon y Cajal Hospital (TricoHRC) Madrid) spoke about methodologically rigorous studies looking into botulinum toxin and androgenetic alopecia. The take home message was that it is not effective in improving androgenetic alopecia; however, future research is expected to explore its potential role in halting long-term progression or modulating TGF-beta-induced perifollicular fibrosis.
- **Dr. Sergio Vano-Galvan** (Ramon y Cajal Hospital, Madrid) presented new information on the safety profile of low dose oral minoxidil in specific populations (patients with hypertension and patients older than 65 years).
- **Dr. Rod Sinclair** (Melbourne, Australia) described a new mechanism of action of oral minoxidil that involved the opening of cysteine channels that increase minoxidil entry into the follicular epithelial cells.
- **Dr. Michela Starace** (Bologna, Italy) gave a lecture on how to manage trichodynia, explaining that the first therapeutic approach should be topical or intralesional steroids. In case of failure, it is possible to start systemic therapy as antidepressants or neuroleptics. The persistent itching induces the patient scraping and developing evident lesions, such as chronic lichen simplex, that are very easy to diagnose with trichoscopy or histopathology.

Basic Science Research at EHRS 2025

At the annual meeting, there were four sessions dedicated to the presentation of basic research. Here, we saw a range of exciting presentations showing the latest research in the domain of hair biology. These varied from presentations on hair development, pigmentations, and genetics to disease modelling and drug discovery:

- **Dr. Nicole Cesarato** (University of Bonn, Germany) revealed new cases of uncombable hair syndrome, but instead of having a pathogenic mutation in trichohyalin, patients had increased numbers of a repeating element within the gene.
- **Ms. Asia Gosieniecka** (PhD student, Imperial College London, UK) showed that changes could be detected in the transcriptome of human hair follicles as little as 3 hours after participants were subjected to acute stress events, which gives some understanding as to how stressful events can impact appearance.
- **Dr. Sabine Gruedl** (Henkel, Germany) showed the beneficial effects that hydrolysed protein products from peas could have on hair fiber integrity. Prof. Alexander Steinkasserer (University of Erlangen, Germany) presented CD83, which has a role in modulating immune cells, as a new therapeutic for the treatment of alopecia.

(Continued next page)

- **Prof. Alexander Steinkasserer** (University of Erlangen, Germany) presented CD83, which has a role in modulating immune cells, as a new therapeutic for the treatment of alopecia.

EHRS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

At the 2025 EHRS Meeting, the Society proudly recognized three outstanding contributions that exemplify innovation, clinical impact, and scientific rigor in the field of hair research. For the first time, these awards were people's choice awards, with winners selected by live voting through the conference app during the meeting—a new and engaging initiative introduced this year.

Best Progress in Research Award

Dr. Valentina Balaguera-Orjuela (Department of Dermatology, Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal) | Madrid, Spain

Presentation: **Autoantigen Profiling and Insights into the Etiopathogenesis of Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia: A Multiplex Microarray Analysis in 282 Patients**

Dr. Balaguera-Orjuela's groundbreaking work leveraged an advanced multiplex microarray platform to profile auto-antibodies in 282 patients with frontal fibrosing alopecia (FFA). The study identified key autoimmune targets—such as tyrosinase, zinc transporter 8, and CYP1B1—implicating melanocyte-related proteins and hormone-metabolism enzymes in FFA pathogenesis. These findings provide compelling support for the autoimmune hypothesis and offer a foundation for future diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

Best Case Presentation Award

Dr. Kinga Kolcz (Department of Dermatology, Medical College of Rzeszow University) | Rzeszow, Poland

Presentation: **Improvement of Recalcitrant Folliculitis Decalvans After a Trial of Baricitinib**

In a striking and educational case, Dr. Kolcz described the successful use of baricitinib in a 47-year-old woman with treatment-resistant folliculitis decalvans (FD). After multiple failed therapies—including antibiotics, systemic retinoids, and photodynamic therapy—the patient achieved disease stabilization and hair regrowth following a 7-month regimen of baricitinib combined with topical treatments. This case highlights the promise of JAK inhibitors in scarring alopecias and encourages further exploration of their role in FD management.

Best Progress in Clinical Research Award

Dr. Cristina Romera de Blas (Department of Dermatology, Hospital Universitario de Toledo) | Spain

Presentation: **Recipient Site Necrosis After Hair Transplantation: A Retrospective Multicentre Study**

Dr. Romera de Blas and colleagues conducted a comprehensive multicentre analysis of 52 patients who developed recipient site necrosis after hair transplantation—a rare but serious complication. The study identified key risk factors, including high graft density, use of adrenaline, and ischemia-prone areas such as the temples and frontal scalp. With follicular survival rates below 60% in nearly half of the cases, this work underscores the need for heightened awareness and prevention strategies among hair surgeons.

Travel Awards

At the EHRS General Assembly, the EHRS also gave out five travel grants to trainees, giving each of them a £500 grant and complementary registration to the meeting.



Travel Grant Recipients (l to r): Asia Gosieniecka, Francesca Panpaolini, Stephano Cedrian, Angela Hermosa, and Tika Batonisashvili with Michela Starace (Treasurer), Claire Higgins (President) and Sergio Vano Galvan (Secretary).

(Continued next page)

22ND EUROPEAN HAIR RESEARCH SOCIETY MEETING | DUBLIN, IRELAND | JUNE 10-12, 2027

Save the date! Off the back of the successful meeting in Warsaw, we are excited to announce that the 22nd EHRS meeting will be held in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, June 10-12, 2027. The meeting will be chaired by Prof. Des Tobin and Dr. Dmitri Wall, bringing both scientific and clinical expertise to the design of the academic program. Dublin offers a rich blend of history and vibrant culture with beautiful cathedrals, museums, parks, and even famous bridges! The congress venue, Trinity College Dublin, is also steeped in history; founded in 1592, it is Ireland's oldest university.

We can't wait to welcome you to Ireland in 2027!

22nd Annual Meeting of European Hair Research Society

Dublin, Ireland, EU.

June 10-12, 2027

@Trinity College Dublin (City Centre)



Des Tobin






Dmitri Wall














MADRID
WORLD CONGRESS
for HAIR RESEARCH
WCHR 2028 in Spain

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

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







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

THE 14TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR HAIR RESEARCH | SEOUL | MAY 28-31, 2026 *Official Website and Early Registration Now Open!*

Early registration (until December 31, 2025) for the 14th World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR) is now open through the official website (<https://www.hair2026.org/>). Abstracts can be submitted online from July 1, 2025, through November 14, 2025. We would like to welcome all members of the IFHRS to submit abstracts and share their valuable insights in hair research.

Planning for the meeting is progressing steadily, with the organizing committee actively shaping the scientific program and inviting esteemed international experts. To ensure strong global participation, the committee is conducting dynamic promotional campaigns through both digital and traditional media. All members of the KHRS are also helping by promoting the event during their presentations at various academic gatherings worldwide. If you attend scientific conferences, you may come across WCHR banners or brochures. We warmly encourage you to help spread the word and contribute to the success of this prestigious international event.



Figure 1. Promotional slide for the 14th WCHR featuring a QR code linking to the official site

ADVOCATING FOR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SEVERE ALOPECIA AREATA IN KOREA

The KHRS has long been committed to advocating for the inclusion of medications used to treat severe alopecia areata under the National Health Insurance coverage in Korea. Although treatments such as JAK inhibitors have been introduced for alopecia areata, the high cost of these medications renders them inaccessible to patients without insurance support. As a first step, in 2024, we undertook the task of defining “severe alopecia areata” using existing literature and data from multicenter studies. Based on this definition, we held a policy forum on January 16, 2025, targeting the Ministry of Health and Welfare and members of the National Assembly. Many KHRS members actively participated in the event, urging the government to support the treatment of patients with severe alopecia areata. We are hopeful that these efforts will come to fruition within this year.



Figure 2. Group photo from the policy forum.

(Continued next page)

KHRS EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR ALOPECIA AREATA

Since last year, KHRS board members have been working together to develop educational materials for patients affected by alopecia areata. Acknowledging that patients often encounter misinformation or misconceptions—whether online or from those around them—that can result in improper treatment, the society committed to producing scientifically accurate, evidence-based resources. This effort culminated in the creation of a booklet designed for use in member clinics, allowing physicians to share reliable information directly with patients. Through this initiative, the KHRS aims to correct misunderstandings and promote a clear, accurate understanding of the condition and its treatment options.

THE ALOPECIA AREATA FOUNDATION HOPE FESTIVAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY | JANUARY 19, 2025

The 2025 Alopecia Areata Foundation Hope Festival and General Assembly opened with a celebratory musical performance, followed by informative lectures on the latest treatments for alopecia areata, tailored for patients and their families. The festival's goal was to foster hope, show solidarity with those affected by the condition, and advocate for the support needed to help them lead fulfilling lives as active members of society.

THE 21ST ANNUAL KHRS MEETING | MAY 25, 2025

The Annual KHRS Meeting is the largest event hosted by the KHRS, serving as a platform for anyone interested in hair research and hair disorders to participate in, share the latest studies in trichology, and exchange ideas. Under the theme “Cool Ideas, Warm Connections in Hair Research,” leading experts in the field convened in Seoul for meaningful academic exchange. This year's event was attended by distinguished international speakers, including Dr. Luis A. Garza (USA), Dr. Cheng Zhou (China), Dr. Yutaka Shimomura, Dr. Yohei Natsuaki (Japan), Dr. Sung-Jan Lin (Taiwan), Dr. Ratchathorn Panchaprateep (Thailand), and Dr. Ardhiyah Iswanda Putri (Indonesia).



Figure 3. Cover page of the booklet



Figure 4. Group picture at the Hope Festival



Figure 5. Group photo from the KHRS Annual Meeting

(Continued next page)

UPCOMING EVENT

KHRS Hair Forum Scheduled for August 23, 2025

The Hair Forum aims for a casual meeting where anyone interested in hair research can freely present and discuss their research topics.

NOTABLE RESEARCH

- Kim JE, Lee S, Kang H, et al. **Korean Hair Research Society. Survey on alopecia areata patients' reported factors that determine severity of alopecia areata: a nationwide multicenter study.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2024 Dec;36(6):376-383.

Summary: This was a KHRS initiative to define patient-reported factors related with the severity of alopecia areata (AA). This study surveyed 791 AA patients and caregivers in Korea to identify factors influencing perceptions of disease severity. Most respondents agreed that $\geq 20\%$ scalp hair loss signifies severe AA. Additional factors associated with greater perceived severity included long disease duration, hair loss on non-scalp body parts, poor treatment response, and significant social or mental distress. The findings highlight the substantial quality-of-life impact of AA and the need for improved treatment options.

- Shin JW, Kang T, Swan H, et al. **Birth outcomes of infants born to mothers with alopecia areata: a nationwide population-based study in Korea.** *Acta Derm Venereol.* 2025 Jan 8;105:adv42248.

Summary: This retrospective cohort study examined over 45,000 children born to mothers with AA and over 4.7 million controls in South Korea from 2002 to 2016. It found that maternal AA is associated with a slightly increased risk of adverse birth outcomes. Specifically, infants born to mothers with AA had higher adjusted risks of preterm birth, low birthweight, Caesarean section, and congenital malformations—particularly of the urinary and musculoskeletal systems—compared to those born to mothers without AA.

- Kang DH, Kwon SH, Sim WY, et al. **Telogen effluvium associated with weight loss: a single center retrospective study.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2024 Dec;36(6):384-388.

Summary: This retrospective study analyzed 140 patients with telogen effluvium (TE) triggered by weight loss. TE typically occurred when patients lost an average of 15.21% of their body weight at a rate of 3.54kg per month. Men lost weight faster than women, but women and older adults were more susceptible to developing TE, even with less severe weight loss. The study found no significant differences in TE occurrence based on the cause of weight loss.

- Yun D, Kim D, Juhyun C, et al. **Clinical features of patients treated with hair transplants in female pattern hair loss.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2024 Dec;36(6):341-347.

Summary: This retrospective study reviewed 195 female-pattern hair loss (FPHL) patients who underwent hair transplantation (HT). Most patients reported high satisfaction, with 88.2% expressing over 75% satisfaction—especially among those receiving a higher number of implanted hairs. The majority had moderate hair loss (F2 type). Common complications included pain, facial swelling, folliculitis, scarring, paresthesia, and telogen effluvium. The findings offer practical insights to help clinicians better inform FPHL patients considering HT.

JOIN US FOR THE 2026 WORLD CONGRESS FOR HAIR RESEARCH

The Korean Hair Research Society would like to request your interest and encouragement for the World Congress for Hair Research, scheduled for 2026 in Seoul. Additionally, we seek your kind cooperation for the successful hosting of the conference.

Tatiana Silyuk, MD, RHRS Immediate Past President | tatianasiliuk@gmail.com | <https://rhrs.pro/>

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

Dear colleagues, as of June 2025, the our society has 406 physician members, 79 of whom joined in 2025.

Our educational activities were complemented by two new courses launched this February in St. Petersburg:

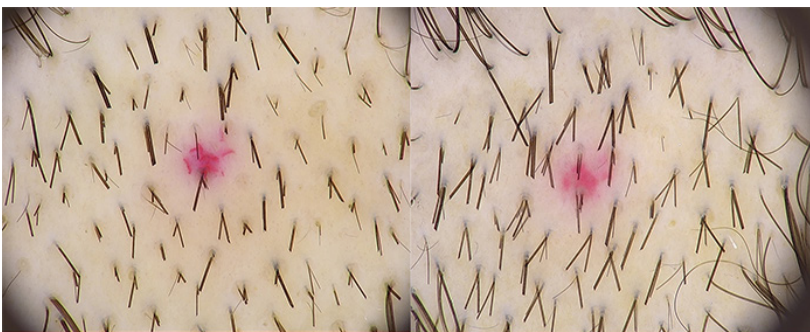
1. Androgenetic Alopecia (Figure 1), for doctors from Russia and Kazakhstan (18 specialists from 10 cities) and the Phototrichogram course (Figure 2), dedicated to the most accurate method of diagnosing hair diseases and tracking the effects of therapy. We consider phototrichogram to be the gold standard for examining a patient, and we are trying to introduce it into the daily practice of our doctors, to count the anagen/telogen ratio, hair density and average thickness. Figure 3 shows an unprocessed phototrichogram, but it clearly demonstrates the improvement in hair characteristics.
2. Additionally, this April we organized our regular courses in Moscow: Trichoscopy (16 attendees from 9 cities of Russia) and Therapy of Hair Diseases (18 specialists from 11 cities) (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 1



Figure 2



BEFORE

AFTER 3 MONTHS OF TREATMENT

Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

(Continued next page)

We continue to support the online activity of our society through webinars on various topics. At the end of January, we held the **Cancer and Hair** webinar (attended by 113 physicians from 7 countries and 45 cities); in March we held the **Tinea Capitis** webinar (which included 131 attendees from Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Belarus, Latvia, and Estonia); and in May, the **Rosacea of the Scalp** webinar (which included 120 attendees from 6 countries).

X'TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RHRS CONGRESS

The main event of this year is the X'th Anniversary RHRS Congress that will be held July 2-4, 2025, in St. Petersburg. We expect about 400 attendees and faculties from different countries. We devote great care and attention to its preparation, ensuring both a stellar scientific program and engaging social activities.





The Society for Hair Science Research (Japan)

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

UPDATES FROM THE SOCIETY FOR HAIR SCIENCE RESEARCH

The SHSR has several key events that are held every year. Among those, the friendship seminar series between the Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS) is of particular importance, as these seminars further strengthen the bond between our two neighboring societies. The KHRS annual meeting is typically held each May, and SHSR members are invited to attend. Conversely, the SHSR meeting takes place between November and December, with KHRS members invited to participate. This year, two distinguished SHSR members, A. Prof. Yohei Natsuaki (Kurume Univ./St. Mary's Hospital; Figure 1) and Prof. Yutaka Shimomura (Yamaguchi Univ., Secretary General of the SHSR; Figure 2) were selected to be guest speakers and gave lectures at the 21st Annual Meeting of the KHRS, which was held in Seoul on May 24. Prof. Natsuaki and Prof. Shimomura gave talks on the management of alopecia areata and the update of genetic hair diseases, respectively. The contents of their talks were highly regarded. This exchange program has always prioritized academic contributions, while also placing particular importance on fostering personal interactions. Both SHSR representatives seem to have done excellent jobs in this regard (Figure 3).

Under the presidency of this author, the SHSR meeting this year will be held on December 13 at Hitotsubashi Hall in the National Science Center Building at the center city Tokyo. As usual, we will invite two KHRS researchers and are looking forward to the high-level scientific lectures as well as social events to enhance our partnership.

The majority of SHSR members belong to the larger societies of individual specialty, such as the Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA), the Japan Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and/or the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID). It is of particular importance to show our presence in these societies to attract attention to hair research. As of this April, this author was appointed as the president of the JSID, which is the largest researcher community in the field of investigative dermatology in Japan and ten-times larger than the SHSR (Figure 4). The JSID is a charter member of the International Societies of Investigative Dermatology (ISID). Taking this opportunity, the author would like to further promote hair science and, in line with the JSID's mission to foster young academicians, encourage the recruitment of as many investigators as possible to our field, both domestically and internationally.



Figure 1. A. Prof. Yohei Natsuaki giving a lecture at the 21st Annual Meeting of the KHRS.



Figure 2. Prof. Yutaka Shimomura giving a lecture at the 21st Annual Meeting of the KHRS.

(Continued next page)

The SHSR's involvement in JDA activities—delivering educational lectures, developing clinical guidelines, and monitoring the safety of new treatments like JAK inhibitors—is especially important. This past May 29-June 1, the 124th Annual Meeting of the JDA was held in Yokohama. SHSR members, including this author (Figure 5), played key roles as speakers and chairs in educational lectures for general dermatologists to better their understanding and handling of hair disease pathophysiology and management. In recent efforts to globalize itself, the JDA has started inviting international experts to its annual meeting. This year, we were honored to have a distinguished colleague, Prof. Ncoza Dlova (Head of Dermatology, Full Professor and Dean of the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa; Figure 5). The topic of her lecture was hair and ethnicity. Because the population in Japan is fairly homogeneous, the topic is not often discussed domestically. Thus, the lecture was quite meaningful and attracted great interest from the audience.

In collaboration with the JDA, the SHSR has renewed the guidelines for the management of alopecia areata. The complete translated version will be published shortly. Likewise, the SHSR will endeavor to further promote hair research and optimize therapeutic approaches for hair diseases for the sake of patients and their families.



Figure 3. The KHRs has consistently created opportunities for its members to engage with international speakers, including IFHRS representatives—an effort that SHSR presenters deeply appreciate



Figure 4. This author (Manabu Ohyama) giving a speech as the president of the JSID at the Society for Investigative Dermatology meeting, which was held May 7-10, 2025, in San Diego, California.



Figure 5. SHSR members, including this author (A), gave educational lectures at the 124th JDA Annual Meeting. Additionally, we were honored to have Prof. Ncoza Dlova as a guest speaker in the hair disease session at the meeting (B, pictured third from the left).

UHRS Ukrainian Hair Research Society

Dear colleagues,

Despite the hardships of war, the Ukrainian Hair Research Society (UHRS) has endured, grown stronger, and amplified its scientific voice within the global community. The first half of 2025 has been a time of resilience, international solidarity, and meaningful progress.

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES

On February 22, 2025, in the heart of our country, we opened the educational season with a charitable scientific event — the 5th UHRS Congress (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/uhrs-congress-2025>) (Figure 1), to feel together the magic of hair science

and to celebrate the birthday of our creative child—the Ukrainian-language monograph, “Trichology. A Practical Guide” (Figure 2). It was not just a scientific gathering, but a celebration of life stronger than war, uniting over 450 physicians and researchers, including international experts. The advanced scientific

content, grounded in the principles of good clinical practice and designed to cultivate refined taste in trichology, was enriched with clinical pearls from the national school and our foreign friends who have supported Ukraine and elevated the congress’s academic value: Lidia Rudnicka (Poland), Nino Lortkipanidze (Georgia), Rodrigo Pirmez (Brazil), Andriana Rakowska (Poland), Michela Starace (Italy), and Anna Lyakhovitsky (Israel).

As always, the UHRS Congress blended tradition with innovation. With integrated workshops, interactive sessions, and live transcontinental broadcasts, the Congress became a platform for the professional growth of young specialists and a source of both intellectual and financial support. We warmly congratulate Iryna Yaniv and Yevheniia Lukianova, recipients of the UHRS Travel Grant to attend the EHRs 2025 Congress in Warsaw. A vital part of UHRS’s educational mission is charitable support. We express our deepest gratitude to our defenders for the gift of life — and we are honored to support our colleagues serving as military medical professionals.

CREATION OF PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

The main gift for the participants of the Congress was the presentation of the Ukrainian monograph “Trichology. A Practical Guide,” by Yuliya Ovcharenko, Inessa Serbiia, and Kuzma Khobzei (Figure 2). Its goal is to introduce an up-to-date, effective concept for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with hair and scalp disorders. We carefully collected, analyzed, and systematized unique materials on hair and scalp diseases, drawing on the latest scientific advancements and the clinical experience we’ve been fortunate to gain in everyday practice. We hope that our book will draw the attention of the medical community to the field of trichology, help promote the Ukrainian clinical school, and serve as a practical foundation for physicians managing patients with hair disorders.

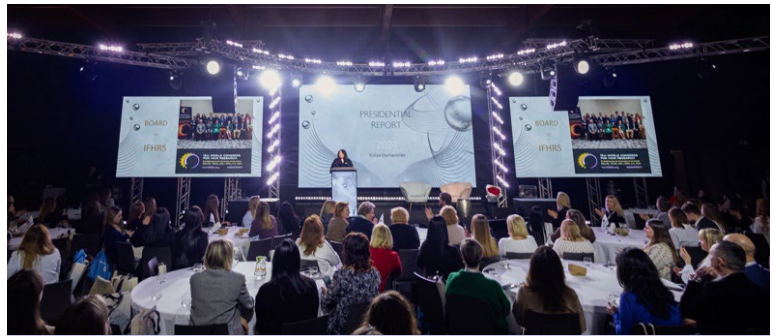


Figure 1. Opening ceremony of UHRS 2025; Kyiv, Ukraine



Figure 2. Co-authors of the monograph “Trichology. A Practical Guide”: (left to right) Yuliya Ovcharenko, Kuzma Khobzei, Inessa Serbiina at UHRS 2025 in Kyiv, Ukraine

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PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOOD CLINICAL PRACTICE (GCP) GUIDELINES IN TRICHOLOGY—REVISION OF PROTOCOLS

The emergence of JAK inhibitors as a new class of therapy for alopecia areata (AA) has become a major prerequisite for revising UHRS recommendations on the management of AA patients. In June 2025, we coordinated the national launch of ritlecitinib and established an expert Advisory Board to facilitate its integration into clinical guidelines for AA treatment in Ukraine (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/advisory-board>). Nevertheless, one of the most significant achievements in recent years has been the rethinking of the invisible impact of a visible disease.

Quality-of-life assessments, psychological screening, and patient-reported outcomes have laid the foundation for a psychotrichological approach to AA care. The degree of psychological burden often does not correspond to clinical severity. Traditional markers of disease burden—such as scalp hair loss percentage—have proven insufficient to capture the overall impact of AA. This supported the expansion of treatment selection and monitoring criteria in the 2021 Ukrainian national guidelines. We developed a differentiated approach based on age, disease activity, and severity—while also considering factors that increase disease burden, including poor-prognosis subtypes, prognostically significant comorbidities, and deterioration in quality of life. However, our recent data suggest that the psycho-emotional effects of AA treatment may not always align with cosmetic improvements, and psychological recovery may lag behind visible hair regrowth. Furthermore, the emotional burden of AA extends beyond anxiety and depression, impacting self-perception and feelings of stigma. These insights led us to integrate quality-of-life evaluation as a key therapeutic criterion in the revised treatment protocols.

There is growing recognition of the need to manage both positive and risk-associated patient expectations at every stage—before, during, and after treatment withdrawal. In our view, even after full hair regrowth, long-term follow-up must include the patient's emotional experience through routine screening for anxiety, depression, and body image distress.

EUROPEAN HAIR RESEARCH SOCIETY MEETING & TRICHOSCOPY COURSE | WARSAW, POLAND (UHRS 2025)

A meaningful milestone for the UHRS was our participation in the EHRS Congress 2025. We were truly honored to be part of this global scientific celebration, and especially grateful to Prof. Lidia Rudnicka (Figure 3), the flagship of Eastern European dermatotrichology, and to the Polish organizing team for their professionalism and warm hospitality. We were proud to represent the largest foreign delegation (Figure 4) and presented three oral talks and two poster presentations, demonstrating not only our scientific curiosity but also the strength, professionalism, and mutual trust within our community. To speak about psychotrichology was more than an academic contribution—it was deeply symbolic for us.

At this European event, we presented the international volume “Psychotrichology,” edited by Yuliya Ovcharenko, Anna Lyakhovitsky, and Mohammad Jafferany (Springer Publishing)—an edition that marked the beginning of a new, independent direction in medicine (Figure 5). In this collective monograph, created with the participation of leading global specialists in dermatology, psychiatry, and psychology, original data on the psychiatric and psychosocial aspects of hair and scalp disorders were systematized for the first time. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the group of authors—Ruta Barkauskaite, Maria Fernanda Gavazzoni, Mohammad Jafferany, Kuzma Khobzei, Nino Lortkipanidze, Anna Lyakhovitsky, Yuliya Ovcharenko, Lidia Rudnicka Inessa Serbina, Ralph Trüeb, and Antonella Tosti—who supported our bold idea and made an invaluable contribution to the creation of this book. May this book become a bridge between science, compassion, and healing.



Figure 3. Honorary award of diplomas of the Polish Society of Dermatology, UHRS 2025, Warsaw, Poland

(Continued next page)



Figure 4. Ukrainian delegation at the European Hair Research Society Meeting & Trichoscopy Course in Warsaw, Poland (UHRS 2025)

LEARN & SHARE—POPULARIZATION OF UKRAINIAN TRICHOLOGY ABROAD

We are happy to inform the international hair community—all IFHRS members—about an important step in promoting the Ukrainian school of trichology: we have launched the preparation of translated editions of “Trichology. A Practical Guide” into Georgian and Uzbek and “Psychotrichology” into Portuguese. We are deeply grateful to our international colleagues—Rodrigo Pirmez, Maria Fernanda Gavazzoni, Shorazmat Shorakhmetov, and Nino Lortkipanidze—for their sincere interest. It is a great honor and joy for us to share our clinical experience with such a wide and respected international audience. The desire of our entire team to surpass our personal best every time comes from a simple truth: behind true creativity, there is always a great energy of love and belief.

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!



Figure 5. Yuliya Ovcharenko with deep gratitude to the co-editors and co-authors for their invaluable contributions to the creation of the monograph, “Psychotrichology.” The book was presented at the European Hair Research Society Meeting & Trichoscopy Course in Warsaw, Poland (UHRS 2025).

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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