

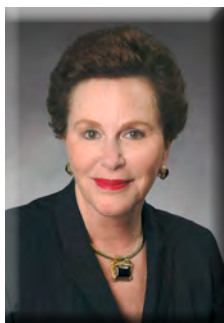
## NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, No. 1

## Message from the IFHRS Chair &amp; Executive Secretary

Wilma F. Bergfeld, MD, IFHRS Chair, [bergfew@ccf.org](mailto:bergfew@ccf.org)

Victoria Ceh, MPA, IFHRS Executive Secretary, [vceh@americanhairresearchsociety.org](mailto:vceh@americanhairresearchsociety.org)



Dr. Wilma Bergfeld



Victoria Ceh

Friendly greetings in the new year!

The second half of 2025 was as busy as the first half filled with hair meetings around the world. We hope you were able to attend one or several as it is a wonderful way to stay abreast of the latest research and connect with colleagues.

If you have not done so already, we encourage you to make your travel arrangements for the upcoming 14th World Congress for Hair Research taking place in beautiful Seoul, Korea, over the dates May 28-31, 2026.

The academic program is coming along nicely, and we received word from the WCHR 2026 Co-Chairs that there were a record number of abstracts submitted—over 700. It is sure to

be an exciting meeting of hair science, dialogue, and collaboration. The organizers are planning many highlighted social events. Please sign up for the Gala Dinner taking place at the Westin Seoul Parnas.

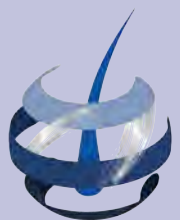
Members of the sister societies receive discounted registration rates. We hope you plan to attend and will see you there! All details regarding hotel and agenda can be found at <https://www.hair2026.org>.

We are pleased to release the results of the initial round of the 2030 Open Hub bid process. In case you missed it, the article on page 2 was released on July 16, 2025.

We wish the sister societies of the Federation a Happy New Year!



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IFHRS

International Federation  
of Hair Research Societies

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## PRESS RELEASE

July 16, 2025

### Two Bids Advance to the Next Stage for the 2030 World Congress for Hair Research

The International Federation of Hair Research Societies (IFHRS), comprised of 8 member societies, launched the 2030 Open Slot bidding process in April 2024. This new initiative introduced into the calendar of the World Congress for Hair Research an opportunity for bid teams not necessarily from an existing IFHRS sister society to host the 2030 World Congress for Hair Research.

It is an exciting time for hair research as the IFHRS Board received 7 bids from teams around the world including from Bangkok, Cancun, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Shanghai, and Singapore. The IFHRS is grateful for the thoughtful proposals from each of the teams. The vetting and voting process resulted in the following two bid teams advancing to the next stage (listed in alphabetical order):

#### ***Shanghai Bid Team***

Wenyu Wu – Huashan Hospital Fudan University

Xingqi Zhang – Sun Yat-Sen University The First Affiliated Hospital

Cheng Zhou – Peking University People's Hospital

Jinran Lin – Huashan Hospital Fudan University

Mingxin Lei – Chongqing University

#### ***Singapore Bid Team***

Carlos Clavel – A\*STAR, Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS)

Etienne Wang Cho Ee – National Skin Centre (NSC), Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS)

The next stage involves each bid team to prepare a full and detailed proposal that will be submitted to the IFHRS Board in April 2026 and further presented to the IFHRS Board in person at the IFHRS Board meeting on May 28, 2026, at the time of the WCHR 2026 in Seoul, Korea.

Congratulations to the Shanghai and Singapore teams and good luck during the next stage!





**KHRS**  
The Korean Hair Research Society

14<sup>TH</sup>

# **WORLD CONGRESS for HAIR RESEARCH**

Awakening the soul of hair science

**May 28 - 31, 2026**

**COEX, Seoul, Korea**

**Hi, Seoul**  
**WCHR 2026 in Korea**



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

**WCHR 2026 Secretariat**

**Homepage** [www.hair2026.org](http://www.hair2026.org) | **E-mail** [info@hair2016.org](mailto:info@hair2016.org) | **Tel** +82-2-2038-4954 | **Fax** +82-2-520-1588



# American Hair Research Society

**John T. Seykora, MD, PhD, AHRS President | [seykora@penntestmed.upenn.edu](mailto:seykora@penntestmed.upenn.edu) | [www.americanhairresearchsociety.org](http://www.americanhairresearchsociety.org)**

Hello everyone!

The latter half of 2025 was very busy for the AHRS with multiple educational activities including both webinars and in-person meetings. These activities required the time and expert input from many individuals. First, I would like to acknowledge the AHRS staff led by Victoria Ceh. The AHRS staff worked very hard this year to make our webinars and recent summit highly successful. Their strong dedication helps the AHRS transform great ideas into outstanding educational activities. Secondly, I would like to thank the AHRS Board of Directors and our members who generously share their time and expertise to help us achieve educational excellence in furthering our mission.

Interacting with our sister societies around the globe remains a key component of our mission. We look forward to engaging with our colleagues at future meetings to advance hair care, education, and research, including at the upcoming World Congress in Seoul.

## AHRS SCIENTIFIC LIVE WEBINAR | NOVEMBER 8, 2025

Organized by Dr. Paradi Mirmirani, the AHRS held an exciting webinar—"Hair Therapies Your Patients Will Be Asking About in 2026: What You Need to Know"—with over 100 registered attendees that addressed the latest therapeutic insights on treating a broad range of alopecias. Drs. Maria Hordinsky and Antonella Tosti presented on recent advances in treating androgenetic alopecia (AGA), including an engaging discussion on GT20029, an investigational topical medication specifically designed to treat male AGA that shows promise in providing another helpful therapeutic agent for patients.

Dr. Maryanne Senna gave an interesting presentation on the use of JAK inhibitors in scarring alopecia that discussed the biological impact of these drugs and their associated side effects. Dr. Crystal Aguh discussed the therapeutic effects of using metformin in central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia (CCCA) and other fibrosing disorders. It is becoming clear that restoring metabolic homeostasis may be key to treating CCCA.

Drs. Rodrigo Pirmez and Paradi Mirmirani discussed recent advances in treating alopecia areata (AA). Dr. Pirmez discussed how bempikibart may provide durable remission in treating AA and could provide a potential alternative to long-term JAK inhibitor use. Dr. Paradi Mirmirani discussed the exciting potential of targeting the OX40/OX40L pathway in alopecia areata.

## ALOPEICA SUMMIT | DECEMBER 13-14, 2025

The AHRS hosted its second Alopecia Summit at the New York Academy of Medicine. There were 193 in-person registrants and 57 recorded-only registrants discussing the latest advances in AGA, AA, CCCA, FFA, and LPP. We had an amazing group of speakers from around the globe that presented on a broad range of topics over the two days. The Summit started with a "Day of Discovery" session highlighting recent advances in systemic minoxidil treatment for AGA. Approximately 100 trainees attended this session that was organized and sponsored by Veradermics. The first day also included sessions on JAK inhibitors and new therapies for AA along with an interesting session on how to approach AA in adolescent patients. The first day closed with dinner and the AHRS Honorary Lecture, "Hair Therapies Your Patients Will Be Asking You About in 2026: What You Need to Know," presented by Dr. Paradi Mirmirani in honor of her mentor, Dr. Vera Price.

The second day of the Summit started early with a session on CCCA followed by a session on new approaches to lichen planopilaris (LPP) and frontal fibrosing alopecia (FFA). Our last session, which was a big hit, reviewed recent advances in AGA, covering the latest in biology, treatment, and new innovations for understanding and treating this disorder.

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The Summit concluded with a brunch and panel discussion on hot topics in hair co-chaired by Drs. Rodney Sinclair and Angela Christiano. It is still possible for you to view the recorded meeting, please sign up online at <https://alopeciasummit.org/>.

We extend our sincere thanks to our Summit sponsors—Lilly, Sun Pharma, Veradermics, Pfizer Dermatology, and Nutrafol—as well as to Pfizer, Inc. for the medical education grant, and to our exhibitors—Canfield, Chemistry RX, Lumenis, MedTech, and NAAF. We could not do this without you.



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## UPCOMING AHRS ACTIVITIES

### AHRS Scientific Live Webinar

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9:00AM–10:30AM CST (Chicago Time)

Via Zoom

### AHRS Scientific Meeting and Luncheon – at the AAD Annual Meeting

Friday, March 27, 2026 | 12:00PM–2:00PM

Embassy Suites Denver Downtown Convention Center

Meeting Room: Crestone Ballroom A / B

Denver, Colorado, USA

### AHRS Meeting at SID Annual Meeting

Scientific Meeting & Annual General Meeting

Friday, May 15, 2026 | 6:30PM–8:00PM

Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue

Meeting Room: Marquette, 3rd Floor

Chicago, Illinois, USA

### AHRS Session – at RADLA Annual Meeting of Latin American Dermatologists

May 20-23, 2026 (RADLA dates)

AHRS Session: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 | 4:00PM–5:30PM

Buenos Aires, Argentina

For more information and to register, please visit: <https://americanhairresearchsociety.org/upcoming-meetings/>

Thank you for reading our update. We look forward to an exciting and active 2026, and hope to see you at upcoming meetings.



# Australasian Hair and Wool Research Society

Rod Sinclair, MBBS, MD, AHWRS President | [rodney.sinclair@sinclairdermatology.com.au](mailto:rodney.sinclair@sinclairdermatology.com.au) | <http://ahwrs.org.au/>

As we move into 2026 with the innovation and advances ahead, we reflect on the latter half of 2025. For the first time in Australia, a drug has been taken through the whole clinical trial development landscape with predominantly Australian funding. The phase III trial of sublingual minoxidil for males over 18 with androgenetic alopecia has recently completed enrollment, and we are anticipating that results will be available by June this year. Compared to low dose oral minoxidil, sublingual minoxidil bypasses first hepatic metabolism minimising systemic exposure to minoxidil sulfate and increasing minoxidil bioavailability in the hair follicle.

Over the past 6 months, AHWRS members have co-authored a number of articles that have been published on alopecia areata, frontal fibrosing alopecia, and androgenetic alopecia.

## **Rationale and Design of a Novel, Phase 3, External and Synthetic Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial of Ritlecitinib 50 mg and 100 mg for Alopecia Areata**

B King, A McMichael, R Sinclair, et al. *Dermatol Ther*. 2025;15(12):3793-3803

## **Maintenance of long-Term Efficacy with Continuous Baricitinib Treatment in Patients with Severe Alopecia Areata: 3-Year Results from BRAVE-AA1 and BRAVE-AA2**

M Senna, A Mostaghimi, R Sinclair, et al. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025 Nov 26:S0190-9622(25)03277-3

## **Long-term Efficacy and Complete Scalp Hair Regrowth in Patients with Alopecia Areata Receiving Ritlecitinib 50 mg QD Up to 3 years in the ALLEGRO Clinical Trial Program**

B King, R Sinclair, L Rudnicka, et al. *SKIN The Journal of Cutaneous Medicine*. 2025;9(6):s661-s661

## **Description of the 3 Tranquillo Phase 3 Clinical Program Study Designs to Assess Ritlecitinib Treatment in Adults and Adolescents with Nonsegmental Vitiligo**

T Lukic, P Ghosh, L Napatalung, et al. *SKIN The Journal of Cutaneous Medicine*. 2025;9(6):s714-s714

## **Efficacy, Safety, and Tolerability of Upadacitinib in Adults and Adolescents with Severe Alopecia Areata: Results from the Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Phase 3 Program (UP-AA)**

A Mostaghimi, M Gooderham, C Lynde, et al. *SKIN The Journal of Cutaneous Medicine*. 2025;9(6):s664-s664

## **Alopecia Areata**

B Ungar, Y Renert-Yuval, NC Dlova, et al. *Nature Reviews Disease Primers*. 2025;11(1):77.

## **Efficacy, Safety, and Tolerability of Upadacitinib in Adults and Adolescents with Severe Alopecia Areata: Results from the Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Phase 3 Program (UP-AA)**

A Mostaghimi, M Gooderham, C Lynde, et al. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2025;145(11):e89.

## **Systemic Treatment of Moderate to Severe Alopecia Areata in Adults: Updated Australian Expert Consensus Statement**

D Kushnir-Grinbaum, L Bokhari, J Frewen, et al. *Australas J Dermatol*. 2025 Nov;66(7):e444-e460

## **Criteria for Commencing and Continuing Subsidised Janus Kinase Inhibitor Therapy in Australian Alopecia Areata Patients—Results from an Australian Expert Consensus Exercise**

M Thomas, M Hankins, E Darchini-Maragheh, et al. *Australas J Dermatol*. 2025;66(7):404-412

## **Scalp Hair Repigmentation After Radiotherapy**

A Maxwell, CYM Chew, I Porter, et al. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2025;50(11):2341-2343

## **Improvement in Patient-Reported Emotional Symptoms and Activity Limitations Due to Hair Loss in Patients with Alopecia Areata Treated with Ritlecitinib: Additional Analyses from ALLEGRO-2b/3**

EH Law, B Sherif, A Mostaghimi, et al. *Int J Dermatol*. 2025 Oct 9. Epub ahead of print.

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## **A Multicentre Cohort Study of the Clinicopathological Features and Treatment Outcomes of Fibrosing Alopecia in a Pattern Distribution**

GT Tang, D Triwongwaranat, M de Souza Teixeira, et al. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2025;llaf444

## **61720 The Effect of Sublingual Minoxidil on Androgenetic Alopecia in Transgender Individuals Receiving Testosterone for Gender-Affirmation: A 24-Week Single-Centre Double-Blinded, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial**

G Tang, S Leemaqz, B Bhoirul, et al. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025;93(3):AB314

## **Response to “Enhancing Gender-Affirming Hair Loss Assessment: Comment on ‘Scalp Hair Parameter Changes in Transgender Individuals Commencing Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy’”**

GT Tang, R Sinclair, S Leemaqz, et al. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025;94(1):e37-e38

## **You Cannot Go Bald Without First Losing Your Hair: Telogen Effluvium Is a Precursor to, Prerequisite for and Potentially an Incitant to Common Baldness in Men**

L Asfour, U Blume-Peytavi, L Bokhari, et al. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2025;llaf361

## **Statement from the Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia International Expert Alliance: SOFFIA 2024**

N Meah, J Li, D Wall, et al. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. Publish Ahead of Print, July 25, 2025.

## **Lichen Planopilaris Presenting with Symmetrical Patchy Alopecia of the Beard**

SS Yong, V Chitreddy, A Nirenberg, et al. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. 2025;50(7):1427-1429

Unfortunately, in Australia, challenges in medicine access exists where complex pricing and reimbursement processes prevent individuals with alopecia areata qualifying for JAK inhibitors from receiving the treatment needed.

On a fun note, the year-end was celebrated with a Studio 54 theme. Sparkles, feathers, wigs, and over-the-top fashion prevailed. Farewells were made, excellent contributions acknowledged, and outrageous outfits awarded. The energy and culture reignited for a successful, productive, and empowering 2026.







# Chinese Hair Research Society

Jianzhong Zhang, MD, CHRS Chairman | [rmzjz@126.com](mailto:rmzjz@126.com)

## 2025: A LANDMARK YEAR FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE IN HAIR RESEARCH AND TREATMENT IN CHINA

In 2025, the 9th Chinese Hair Research Society (CHRS) Annual Meeting and the 8th China Hair Transplantation Congress (CAHRS) were jointly held in Xi'an November 13-16 (Figure 1). The president of the meeting was Prof. Wenyu Wu from Huashan Hospital of Fudan University. As a premier national event in hair research, it convened leading experts and scholars. Centered on the latest advancements in basic research, clinical diagnosis, and treatment of hair disorders, the meeting facilitated in-depth discussions through keynote lectures and thematic sessions. It effectively promoted academic collaboration and the translation of scientific discoveries into clinical practice.



Figure 1. A: Group photos from the 9th CHRS Annual Meeting and B: the 8th CAHRS

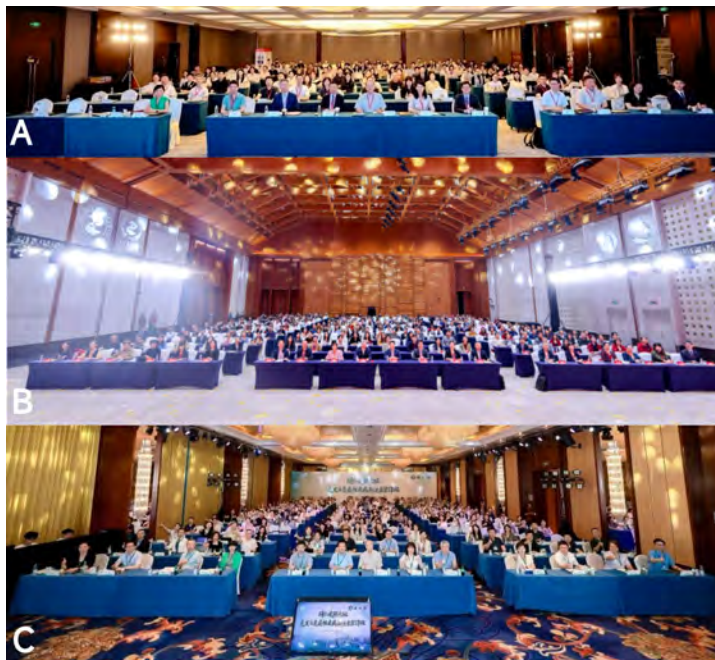


Figure 2. A: Peking University People's Hospital, Workshop on Diagnosis, Treatment, and Research for Hair Loss; B: The 4th Western China Hair Medicine Forum; C: Tongren Hospital, Tongren Dermatology Forum: Advances in Hair, Scalp, and Inflammatory Disorders

Brand academic training programs achieved fruitful results this year (Figure 2). From July 4-6, Peking University People's Hospital organized the "Workshop on Diagnosis, Treatment, and Research for Hair Loss" in Beijing, focusing on cutting-edge targeted therapies and cultivating young physicians' research capabilities. From August 1-3, Beijing Tongren Hospital conducted the "Tongren Dermatology Forum: Advances in Hair, Scalp, and Inflammatory Disorders," which enhanced clinical diagnosis and treatment proficiency through various teaching formats. From October 16-18, the 4th Western China Hair Medicine Forum was held in Chongqing, featuring live demonstrations of robotic hair transplantation and skill competitions.

Meanwhile, a series of academic events were held across the country, including the "New Advances in Chinese Trichology and Scalp Health Management" City Lecture Tour (Guiyang, April 11-12), the Hubei Province Dermatologists Association Hair Annual Conference (Wuhan, August 29-30), the Annual Conference of the China Hair Industry Alliance (November 28), and the Association for Chinese Medical Education in Dermatology (ACMED) Changbai Forum (Yanbian, December 19-20).

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In terms of international academic exchanges, Prof. Rodney Sinclair from the University of Melbourne delivered a keynote speech at the First Academic Annual Meeting of the ACME in Shanghai in August. In November, Prof. Jerry Shapiro from New York University and Prof. Chang Hun Huh from Yonsei University participated in the 9th CHRS Annual Meeting (Figure 3). These high-level international engagements not only facilitated the cross-border flow of cutting-edge knowledge but also significantly strengthened the collaborative ties between Chinese institutions and the global hair research community.



Figure 3. A: Prof. Rodney Sinclair at the ACME Annual Meeting; B: Prof. Jerry Shapiro at the 9th CHRS Annual Meeting; C: Prof. Chang Hun Huh at the 9th CHRS Annual Meeting

## 2025: A YEAR OF SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS IN CHINESE HAIR RESEARCH

In the field of alopecia areata, national studies on disease burden led by Prof. Cheng Zhou from Peking University People's Hospital have revealed the significant epidemiological and psychosocial impact of alopecia areata in China.<sup>1,2</sup> Building upon this foundational understanding, notable therapeutic progress has been made, as the JAK inhibitor ivarmacitinib<sup>3</sup> was approved for Chinese market use, while new drugs such as ritlecitinib and upadacitinib demonstrated positive clinical outcomes.<sup>4,5</sup> Teams from Peking University People's Hospital, Huashan Hospital, Xiangya Hospital and China-Japan Friendship Hospital, through real-world studies et al, confirmed the efficacy profiles of these drugs in different populations and the factors influencing their effects.<sup>5-9</sup> In the therapeutic and mechanistic research of androgenetic alopecia, significant findings have emerged. A team from China Medical University discovered a novel mechanism in which adipose-derived stem cell exosomes regulate the TGF- $\beta$ 1 pathway via miR-574-3p/miR-125a-5p.<sup>10</sup> Concurrently, research led by Prof. Ji Li revealed that arginine metabolic disruption impairs hair regeneration via ROS-mediated inactivation of mTOR signaling,<sup>11</sup> offering new directions for targeted therapies.

## 2025: A YEAR FOR PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND PATIENT EDUCATION IN CHINA

On May 25th (National Skin Care Day) and May 28th (National Hair Care Day), hospitals and dermatology clinics across the country organized public lectures, free consultations, and community-based educational outreach. Prof. Wu Wenyu, Prof. Zhou Cheng, Prof. Li Ji, Prof. Song Xiuzu, Prof. Wei Aihua, and Prof. Zhao Hengguang delivered medical science segments of hair and scalp health on China Central Television (CCTV), effectively raising public awareness. The publication of the Chinese version of "Color Atlas of the Diagnosis and Management of Hair and Scalp Disorders (Second Edition)," containing over 900 high-quality clinical images, provided an authoritative visual reference that significantly enhanced the accuracy of both professional diagnosis and public communication.

## 2026: THE 10TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHRS TO BE HELD IN CHANGZHI

The 10th Annual Meeting of the CHRS will be held September 4-6, 2026, in Changzhi, Shanxi Province. Known historically as Shangdang, Changzhi, is a city where profound history and vibrant culture converge at the foot of the majestic Taihang Mountains (Figure 4). It boasts over 3,500 ancient structures, earning its title as an "Open-Air Museum of Ancient Chinese Architecture." While here, you can visit the magnificent Bagong Mountain Grottoes, explore the serene Guanyin Hall famed for its Ming Dynasty colored sculptures, or take a leisurely walk through the Zhangze Lake National Urban Wetland Park, known as the "Sky Lake of Taihang." We are confident this premier hair research event will be an unforgettable experience.

We hope to see you in Changzhi!

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Figure 4. Photos of Changzhi City, China, venue of the 10th Annual Meeting of the CHRS

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5. Sheng Y, Wang Q, Tao K, et al. Real-world efficacy and safety of ritlecitinib in alopecia areata: A single-centre experience. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. 2025;39(12):e996-e998.
6. Zhang W, Li X, Zhang Y, et al. Ritlecitinib in alopecia areata: A multicenter retrospective real-world analysis. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025;93(4):1136-1137.
7. Huang J, Jian J, Li M, et al. Real-world efficacy of ritlecitinib in treating alopecia areata across various anatomical sites: Potential rapid response predictors. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025;93(5):1236-1242.
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10. Ma C, Cheng M, Xiao T, et al. miR-574-3p and miR-125a-5p in Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cell Exosomes Synergistically Target TGF- $\beta$ 1/SMAD2 Signaling Pathway for the Treatment of Androgenic Alopecia. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2025;145(11):2719-2735.e3.
11. Duan S, Li G, Chu Y, et al. Arginine Metabolic Disruption Impairs Hair Regeneration via ROS-Mediated Inactivation of mTOR Signaling in Androgenetic Alopecia. *Adv Sci (Weinh)*. 2025;12(40):e04579.



# European Hair Research Society

**Claire Higgins, BSc, PhD, EHRS President**

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

**Yuval Ramot, MD, MSc, EHRS Board Member**

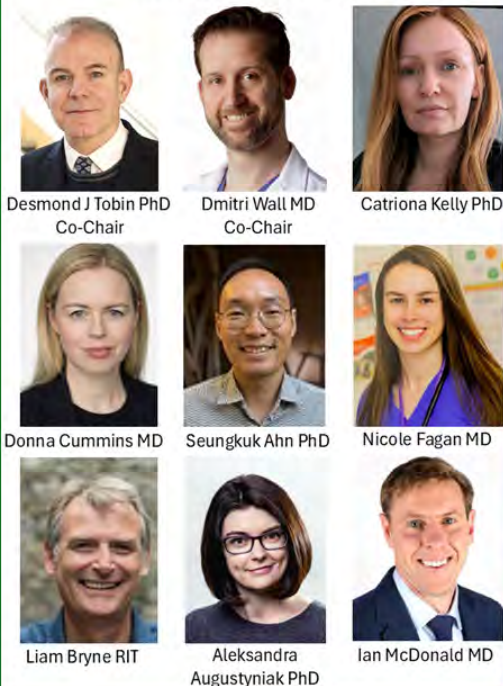
Dear colleagues, EHRS would like to highlight the upcoming conferences that the society will be holding, the scientific activity of its members, information of interest regarding the reimbursement status of JAKi drugs in Europe, and some summaries of recent conferences.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

We would like to remind you that the EHRS Conference in 2027 will be held in Dublin, Ireland, June 10-12, 2027, and that the WCHR 2028 will be held in Madrid, Spain, from May 23-26, 2028. Please **SAVE THE DATES** in your calendars! For EHRS 2027, see the organising committee below and get a flavour of some of the highlights of the conference.

### EHRS 2027: Dublin-Ireland June 10-12, 2027

#### Local Organizing Committee



#### Congress Venue - Dublin City Centre



Nearby  
Christchurch  
Cathedral  
(circa 1030)  
Gala Dinner  
Venue



Dublin Castle  
(circa 1204)  
adjacent to  
congress venue

#### EHRS 2027 – Proposed Themes

##### Community Theme

- Building Hair Research Capacity across Europe

##### Hair Science Themes - Basic

- United Colours of Hair
- The Aging Scalp

##### Hair Science Themes – Clinical

- Frontal fibrosing Alopecia
- Hair in Menopause

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## RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES FROM EHRS MEMBERS

### 1. Dr. Bianca María Piraccini (Italy)

Piraccini BM, et al. **Effectiveness and safety of baricitinib in severe alopecia areata: 48-week results.** *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2025 Sep 23. doi: 10.1111/jdv.70067.

**Summary:** We presented both the 24- and 48-week results, providing real-life evidence data about efficacy and tolerability of treatment with baricitinib in severe and very severe alopecia areata.

### 2. Dr. Pedro Gómez-Arias (Spain)

Rivera-Ruiz I, Ungar B, Dávila-Flores V, et al. **Unravelling the transcriptomic landscape of primary lymphocytic scarring alopecias: systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Front Immunol.* 2025 Aug 11;16:1651019.

**Summary:** This study shows that alopecia areata is associated with a distinct imbalance of scalp microbiota, which correlates with clinical severity and systemic inflammatory markers. This work supports the concept of alopecia as a complex immune-mediated disease and highlights transcriptomics and microbiota as complementary sources of biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

### 3. Dr. David Saceda-Corralo (Spain)

Naharro-Rodríguez J, Berna-Rico E, Hermosa-Gelbard Á, et al. **Real-world efficacy and safety of baricitinib combined with corticosteroids in alopecia areata.** *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2025 Dec;39(12):e1019-e1021.

**Summary:** This retrospective real-world study evaluated the efficacy and safety of adding systemic corticosteroids to baricitinib in adults with severe alopecia areata and inadequate response to baricitinib monotherapy. The combination therapy was well tolerated, with no severe adverse events reported. Overall, adding systemic corticosteroids enhanced baricitinib efficacy without compromising safety.

### 4. Dr. Daniella Kushnir-Grinbaum (Israel)

Kushnir-Grinbaum D, Triwongwaranat D, Bhoirul B, et al. **Continued year-on-year improvement in hair density with systemic minoxidil in women with female pattern hair loss: A case series.** *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2025;93(1):279-281. Published online: March 17, 2025.

**Summary:** This study reports long-term outcomes of women with female pattern hair loss treated with systemic (oral or sublingual) minoxidil. A total of 51 women were treated for at least 3 years, with 34 patients having 5-year follow-up data. Adverse effects recorded were consistent with previously reported safety data for systemic minoxidil.

### 5. Dr. Juan Jimenez-Cauhe (Spain)

Jimenez-Cauhe J, González-Ramos M, Imbernon-Moya A, et al. **Safety and tolerability of low-dose oral minoxidil in patients aged 65 or older: A multicenter study of 321 patients.** *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2025 Sep;93(3):767-769. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2025.05.1363.

**Summary:** This multicenter retrospective study assessed the safety of low-dose oral minoxidil (LDOM) in 321 patients aged ≥ 65 years with alopecia. Overall, LDOM showed a favorable safety profile in older patients, supporting standard dosing with preference for daily regimens.

### 6. Dr. Rick Waalboer-Spuij (The Netherlands)

Willaert M, Van Dongen T, Dikrama P, et al. **Systemic treatments for lichen planopilaris and frontal fibrosing alopecia: a retrospective study of 315 patients.** *Acta Derm Venereol.* 2025 Apr 28;105:adv42465. doi: 10.2340/actadv.v105.42465.

**Summary:** This retrospective cohort study analyzed 315 lichen planopilaris (LPP) and frontal fibrosing alopecia (FFA) patients treated at Erasmus University Medical Center between 2016 and 2022 to assess systemic treatment effectiveness. Most patients were female (90.5%), and hydroxychloroquine was the most commonly prescribed drug. Methotrexate showed the highest response rate for LPP (79.2%), while retinoids were most effective for FFA (73.9%), though cyclosporine A and retinoids had higher discontinuation rates due to side effects. The findings suggest methotrexate and cyclosporine A may be optimal for LPP, and cyclosporine A and retinoids for FFA, but prospective studies are needed to confirm these results.

(Continued next page)

## INFORMATION OF INTEREST REGARDING THE REIMBURSEMENT STATUS OF JAKI DRUGS IN EUROPE

### *Reimbursement of JAK Inhibitors for Alopecia Areata: Disparities Between Different European Countries (as of January 2026)*



Dr. Marisa Mathieu, MD

#### **Dr. Marisa Mathieu, MD**

*Dermatologist, coordinator of the Hair Disorders Unit at Brugmann University Hospital and in the Dermatology and Research Institute. Brussels, Belgium. Co-founder of the Belgian Hair and Nail Research Group.*

In Europe, medicinal products are approved through a centralized procedure coordinated by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), granting a marketing authorization valid across all Member States. In contrast, pricing and reimbursement decisions are determined at the national level, resulting in significant disparities in patient access to innovative therapies. This divergence is particularly evident in the treatment of alopecia areata (AA), a condition that is still considered “purely cosmetic” by the authorities in some countries.

To date, only two Janus kinase inhibitors have received European marketing authorization for severe alopecia areata: baricitinib (JAK1/JAK2 inhibitor, approved for patients with severe AA  $\geq 18$  years old) and ritlecitinib (JAK3 and TEC family kinase inhibitor, approved for patients with severe AA  $\geq 12$  years old). Despite shared regulatory approval, reimbursement policies for JAK inhibitors vary widely across European countries (Table 1), reflecting differences in national health technology assessments, budgetary considerations, and eligibility criteria. While some countries have established structured reimbursement pathways, others rely on individual funding requests or have yet to grant public reimbursement, leading to inequities in care. This reimbursement landscape remains dynamic, with several countries currently evaluating funding for baricitinib and/or ritlecitinib, underscoring the need for ongoing monitoring as national decisions continue to evolve across Europe.

**Table 1: Current Status of the Reimbursement of JAK Inhibitors for Alopecia Areata in Different European Countries (as of January 2026)**

*(To date and as far as we have figured out, no publicly available data or officially communicated evidence has been identified regarding the reimbursement status of baricitinib or ritlecitinib for the treatment of alopecia areata in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, or Iceland.)*

Countries that authorize reimbursement for baricitinib (with specific conditions):	Countries that do NOT authorize reimbursement for baricitinib:	Countries that authorize reimbursement for ritlecitinib (with specific conditions):	Countries that do NOT authorize reimbursement for ritlecitinib:
Spain Italy France Netherlands Belgium	Germany United Kingdom Portugal Poland Greece Austria Denmark Norway Ireland Hungary Romania Bulgaria	Spain Italy France United Kingdom Denmark Norway	Belgium Germany Sweden Portugal Ireland Poland Greece Austria Hungary Romania

*\*This text is part of a scientific article that is currently under review in a scientific journal.*

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## SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES

### **Meeting Highlight: 1st International Congress PROHair (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)**

On November 3-4, 2025, the 1st International Congress—“PROHair: Modern Diagnosis and Therapy of Hair Diseases”—took place in Tashkent. The event was organized by the Association of Trichologists and Trichoscopists of Uzbekistan (O'zTTA), led by Dr. Ilkhom Rakhimov, with Dr. Tatiana Silyuk (former EHRS board member) serving as the scientific organizer.

This meeting marked a significant milestone as the first major world trichology event in Central Asia, aiming to bridge the gap between international expertise and local specialists. Although not an official EHRS meeting, our society was strongly represented. Several EHRS members were invited as key speakers, contributing to a high-level scientific program that covered the latest updates in hair diagnosis and therapy. We congratulate Dr. Rakhimov, Dr. Silyuk, and the O'zTTA on a successful debut and look forward to continued collaboration with our colleagues in Uzbekistan.



### **Upcoming Major Event: 14th World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR 2026)**

The next World Congress for Hair Research is fast approaching! It will be held from May 28-31, 2026, in Seoul, South Korea, at the COEX Convention & Exhibition Center.

This meeting is particularly significant for our society as EHRS members will play a prominent role in the scientific program, with many of our colleagues serving as invited speakers and session chairs. It is a fantastic opportunity to see European research showcased on the global stage.

We strongly encourage all EHRS members to attend. Registration is currently open (regular rate applies until April 30). We look forward to a strong European presence in Seoul!

## Save the dates!



10th - 12th June 2027

**22nd European Hair Research Society Meeting**

Dublin, Ireland



23th - 26th May 2028

**15th World Congress for Hair Research**

Madrid, Spain



# 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/>**

## PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR THE 14TH WORLD CONGRESS ON HAIR RESEARCH | SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | MAY 28-31, 2026

The 14th World Congress on Hair Research (WCHR) will be held at COEX in Seoul. The WCHR Organizing Committee is now finalizing the scientific program and has recently updated the lineup of invited international speakers. Abstract submission is now closed. We have received a total of 740 general abstracts and 48 clinical cases. In parallel, extensive promotional efforts are being carried out through a combination of online and offline platforms to encourage broad international participation. Members of the Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS) are also actively promoting the 14th WCHR during their lectures and presentations at various academic meetings. Attendees of scientific conferences worldwide may encounter WCHR promotional banners or brochures. We sincerely encourage your continued interest and participation in the upcoming WCHR for its success.

The 14th WCHR will showcase the latest scientific advances and clinical insights in hair research. Seoul will serve as a vibrant hub for the global research community, offering IFHRS members a unique opportunity to share insights and expand their professional networks. We strongly encourage all IFHRS members to register and actively participate in the upcoming WCHR.

**Our First Speaker Reveal is Here!**



**Ji Won Oh**  
Yonsei University  
Korea



**Angela Christiano**  
Columbia University  
USA



**Maksim Plikus**  
University of California, Irvine  
USA

• Amos Gilhar, Israel	• Andrew Messenger, UK
• Andrey Panteleyev, Russia	• Bark-Lynn Lew, Korea
• Bianca Maria Piraccini, Italy	• Chang-Hun Huh, Korea
• Claire Higgins, UK	• Cheng-Ming Chuong, USA
• Cheng Zhou, China	• David Saceda-Corrado, Spain
• Desmond Tobin, Ireland	• George Cotsarelis, USA
• Isabella Doche, Brazil	• Jerry Shapiro, USA
• John T. Seykora, USA	• Lidia Rudnicka, Poland
• Manabu Ohya, Japan	• Maria Kasper, Sweden
• Maria Hordinsky, USA	• Moon-Bum Kim, Korea
• Michela Starace, Italy	• Paradi Mirmirani, USA
• Ohsang Kwon, Korea	• Ramon Grimalt, Spain
• Ralf Paus, USA	• Regina Betz, Germany
• Rodney Sinclair, Australia	• Sergio Vano-Galvan, Spain
• Sung-Jan Lin, Taiwan	• Wenyu Wu, China
• Wilma Bergfeld, USA	• Won Soo Lee, Korea
• Yuliya Ovcharenko, Ukraine	• Yutaka Shimomura, Japan

**More speaker reveals are on the way!**

The current lineup of invited speakers as of December 2025.



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

(Continued next page)



## 2025 ACADEMIC EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *The 23rd KHRS Hair Forum 2025 | Daejeon, South Korea | August 2025*

The KHRS Hair Forum is a summer academic meeting held annually and is distinguished by its inclusive and highly interactive format, open to everyone engaged in hair research. The Forum provides a venue for participants to share and discuss their research findings, as well as to openly exchange ideas regarding ongoing projects. In 2025, the Hair Forum was successfully convened on August 23 in the scenic city of Daejeon. The event featured high-quality scientific presentations and lively discussions, while also strengthening collegiality and collaboration among members of the hair research community.



Group photo from the Hair Forum 2025

### *The 11th Continuing Hair Education Conference | Seoul, South Korea | November 2025*

The 11th Continuing Hair Education Conference hosted by the KHRS was successfully conducted on Sunday, November 22, 2025, at Konkuk University Hospital in Seoul. Under the official theme, "Welcome Back to School," the conference featured lectures addressing fundamental topics in hair research, with the aim of enhancing interest and reinforcing the knowledge base of young physicians and residents who had recently returned to hospital practice following the strike involving Korean young doctors. Beyond the informative lectures, the meeting was further enriched by lively discussions and exchanges between clinicians and researchers, contributing to a highly productive and engaging conference.



Group photo from the Continuing Hair Education Conference 2025

### *SHSR-KHRS Friendship Seminar | December 2025*

During the 33rd Meeting of the Society for Hair Science Research (President: Prof. Manabu Ohyama), the SHSR-KHRS Friendship Seminar was convened to celebrate and further strengthen the close relationship between the Japanese and Korean academic societies. Two representatives from the KHRS participated in the event: Prof. Chang Hun Huh (Vice President, KHRS, and Co-Chair of the 14th WCHR) and Dr. Ik Jun Moon (Secretary of International Relations, KHRS). They delivered presentations entitled "Updates in the Treatment of Androgenetic Alopecia" and "Primary Cicatricial Alopecia: Recent Advances in Etiology and Treatment," respectively. The seminar provided an excellent opportunity to further deepen the collaborative ties between the SHSR and the KHRS.



Group photo from the SHSR-KHRS Friendship Seminar

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### ***KHRS Public Outreach Through Social Media Engagement***

In 2025, with the goal of promoting accurate public understanding of hair disorders in Korea, the KHRS made regular appearances on the well-known YouTube channel, “Medical Channel After the Rain.” Over a total of six sessions, informative lectures and Q&A segments were conducted on topics such as alopecia areata and androgenetic alopecia. The experience of interacting with viewers in real time—addressing their questions and helping to correct misconceptions and prejudices surrounding hair loss disorders—was both meaningful and rewarding. Building on these sessions, the KHRS conveyed the important message that hair disorders should be properly diagnosed and treated by hair specialists, which was met with a positive public response.



### Thumbnails of YouTube videos featuring KHRS members

## NOTABLE RESEARCH

S Lee, JE Kim, B Lew, et al. **Efficacy and safety of low-dose (0.2 mg) dutasteride for male androgenic alopecia: a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group phase III clinical trial.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2025 Aug;37(4):183-190.

**Summary:** This randomized controlled trial assessed the efficacy and safety of low-dose dutasteride (0.2 mg) in men with androgenetic alopecia (AGA), addressing concerns related to the drug's long half-life and adverse effects. A total of 139 male patients were randomized to receive 0.2 mg dutasteride, placebo, or 0.5 mg dutasteride once daily for 24 weeks. At week 24, the increase in vertex hair count was significantly greater in the 0.2 mg dutasteride group than in the placebo group. Improvements in hair growth were consistently confirmed by both investigator assessments and independent panel evaluations. Across all efficacy measures, 0.2 mg dutasteride demonstrated comparable effectiveness to the 0.5 mg dose. The incidence of adverse events was low and similar between the 0.2 mg dutasteride and placebo groups. Despite the limited sample size, the results support low-dose dutasteride as an effective and well-tolerated treatment option for male AGA.

H Lee, JW Lee, S Park, et al. **Comparative analysis of temperature-controlled cryotherapy versus intralesional triamcinolone acetonide injection for alopecia areata: an intrasubject split-lesion pilot study.** *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2025 Jun;39(6):e505-e507.

**Summary:** This intrasubject, split-lesion pilot study evaluated temperature-controlled superficial cryotherapy compared with intralesional triamcinolone acetonide (TA) injection for patchy alopecia areata. Fifteen patients received four different treatments within a single alopecic lesion: negative control, 10-second cryotherapy, 20-second cryotherapy (both with two freeze–thaw cycles), and TA injection. After six sessions at 2-week intervals, hair regrowth was assessed based on the percentage increase from baseline. Cryotherapy with a 20-second duration and TA injection both demonstrated statistically significant improvement compared with the negative control, whereas 10-second cryotherapy did not. Adverse events were mild and resolved without intervention, and most patients preferred cryotherapy using the temperature-controlled device. Although limited by a small sample size, the findings indicate that adequately timed, temperature-controlled cryotherapy may serve as a viable treatment option for alopecia areata.

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J Lim, D Kang, H Moon, et al. **The role of T-helper 17 cells and regulatory T cells in acute diffuse and total alopecia: the increased function of regulatory T cells may explain the favorable prognosis.** *J Dermatol.* 2025 Jul;52(7):1138-1145.

**Summary:** Acute diffuse and total alopecia (ADTA) is a variant of alopecia areata characterized by acute diffuse hair loss and a favorable prognosis. This study examined the roles of T-helper 17 (Th17) cells and regulatory T cells (Tregs) in ADTA and their potential contribution to its clinical outcome. Scalp and serum samples from 24 patients with ADTA and 12 healthy controls were analyzed using quantitative PCR, immunostaining, and cytokine assays. Patients with ADTA showed significantly increased lesional IL-2, IL-10, and IL-23A levels, with stage-specific cytokine changes observed during progressive and recovery phases. Immunostaining demonstrated a notable presence of Th17 cells and Tregs around hair follicles, along with reduced serum IL-15 levels in the progressive stage. These findings suggest enhanced Treg activity in ADTA, which may help explain its favorable prognosis and distinguish it from classical alopecia areata.

Y Cho, JW Lim, YN Yoon, et al. **New onset of hair loss disorders during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic: a Korean nationwide population-based study.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2025 Aug;37(4):250-258.

**Summary:** This nationwide, population-based study investigated the risk of hair loss disorders in patients with COVID-19 and individuals vaccinated against COVID-19 using the Korean National Health Insurance Service database from 2021. Large-scale COVID-19 infection and vaccination data were integrated, and associations with hair loss disorders were analyzed using multivariate logistic regression. COVID-19 infection showed a modest association with total alopecia, although this relationship was not significant after propensity score matching, and no significant associations were observed with alopecia areata or telogen effluvium. In contrast, COVID-19 vaccination was significantly associated with increased risks of total alopecia, alopecia areata, and telogen effluvium. Despite these associations, the authors emphasize that the clinical benefits of vaccination in reducing COVID-19-related morbidity and mortality outweigh the risk of hair loss, which is generally mild and reversible. The findings highlight the importance for physicians to balance awareness of potential adverse effects with clear communication regarding the overall benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

HU Park, KB Chung, HW Jang, et al. **Validating hair diameter diversity in androgenetic alopecia via hair diameter distribution analysis.** *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2025 Oct;93(4):1151-1153.

**Summary:** This study evaluated hair diameter diversity (HDD) as a quantitative indicator of hair miniaturization in androgenetic alopecia (AGA) using hair diameter distribution analysis. A total of 240 Korean male patients were classified by vertex severity (V0–V3), and phototrichograms from the vertex and occiput were analyzed to identify statistical breakpoints in hair diameter distributions. Increasing AGA severity was associated with a progressive downward shift in vertex hair diameter, while the occiput remained relatively stable except in advanced cases. Breakpoints exceeded the conventional 20% HDD threshold in early and advanced AGA stages, supporting its diagnostic validity, whereas normal-appearing scalps showed lower values. Occipital involvement in severe AGA suggested that miniaturization may extend beyond the vertex. Overall, the findings support HDD  $\geq$  20% as a reliable marker of AGA and demonstrate that distribution-based analysis provides a more individualized and objective assessment of disease severity.

**Tatiana Silyuk, MD, RHRS Immediate Past President** | [tatianasiliuk@gmail.com](mailto:tatianasiliuk@gmail.com) | <https://rhhs.pro/>

**Corresponding author: Andrey Panteleyev, PhD, RHRS President** | [a.a.pantel@gmail.com](mailto:a.a.pantel@gmail.com)

Dear fellow hair researchers, friends and colleagues!

The highlight of 2025 for the Russian Hair Research Society was the 10th RHRS Anniversary Congress, which was held in St. Petersburg on July 2-4 and brought together 393 participants from many cities across Russia and Russian-speaking countries (Figure 1). The Congress marked a significant milestone in the development of our society, which has grown from a small group of enthusiasts into the largest national association in the fields of hair diseases, hair follicle biology, and haircare. A special history wall was installed in the exhibition area to introduce the history of the development of RHRS (Figure 2). It's worth noting here that, since its very beginnings, our society has functioned and developed in close collaboration and with the active support of our colleagues in many countries around the world (it's no wonder the RHRS's slogan is "Together with world trichology!"). And here we owe a special debt of gratitude to Prof. Abraham Zlotogorsky, who was of great help and support in the early stages of the RHRS's formation.

The opening ceremony of our Anniversary Congress was not only solemn and captivating but very warm and touching as well. It featured poetry and songs presented by doctors and medical students, culminating in a costumed waltz performed by RHRS members (Figure 3). We are grateful to the many colleagues from various countries and cities around the world who sent video greetings congratulating us on the RHRS's anniversary. Your support is very important to us, and we appreciate your kind words and wishes!

The three-day long scientific program of the Congress featured 84 lectures and presentations on three main topics: hair aging and graying in menopause, antiandrogens and 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors, and finally, JAK inhibitors. Extensive sessions were also held on scalp itching and trichodynia, minoxidil use, and a special interdisciplinary session with experts in urology and sexology discussing potential side effects of finasteride and dutasteride use in trichology practice. We express our gratitude to our international colleagues including Drs. Angela Christiano, Isabella Doche, Chang-Hun Huh, Daniel Melo, Paradi Mirmirani, Antonela Tosti, and Jianzhong Zhang for their outstanding contribution to the scientific program of the Congress in the online format. The Round Table session of the Congress covered 13 clinical topics and provided participants with the opportunity to discuss complex issues encountered in everyday trichology practice, as well as challenging and interesting clinical cases, in an informal setting (Figure 4).



Figure 1. Attendees of the 10th RHRS Anniversary Congress



Figure 2. History wall displaying the development of the RHRS





Figure 3. Photos from the opening ceremony of the 10th RHRS Anniversary Congress



The Congress's social program included a Welcome Reception in an exciting (but now traditional) format: a nighttime boat ride over the Neva River for watching the opening of the St. Petersburg's drawbridges. The event ran from 11:30PM–2:30AM and was a mesmerizing spectacle during the White Nights! The Congress Gala Dinner was held in a cozy restaurant with an outdoor terrace overlooking the canals in the heart of St. Petersburg. The dress code was dark blue and gold, which were the official Congress colors (Figure 5).

During 2025 our Society also organized six webinars and seven offline educational courses focused on androgenetic alopecia, phototrichogram analysis, hair disease treatment, trichoscopy, alopecia areata, and cicatricial alopecia. We also had a five-day long basic course.

The 2025 RHRS activities concluded with a one-day Winter Conference in Moscow entitled, "Antiandrogens in the Treatment of Hair Diseases." The Conference was busy and inclusive, featuring many outstanding presentations (here we would like to thank Drs. Isabella Doche, Sergio Vano, Paulo Ramos, and Young Lee for sharing their experience with antiandrogen use) (Figure 6).

The Conference lasted for 14.5 hours, and talks and discussions were so interesting and captivating that all participants lost track of time. Nevertheless, to make this event more comfortable for the attendees we decided to expand our traditional Winter Conference to a two-day format in 2026 and beyond.

Looking back on 2025, we are happy to note that RHRS membership continues to grow steadily as we reached 450 active members by year end.

We look forward to the New Year with hope and optimism and wish everyone a productive and successful 2026!

See you all in Seoul, Sitges, and Rio!



Figure 4. The Round Table session of the Congress



Figure 5. Welcome Reception dark blue and gold dress code—the official Congress colors



Figure 6. Photos from the one-day Winter Conference, "Antiandrogens in the Treatment of Hair Diseases"





# The Society for Hair Science Research (Japan)

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

A happy and prosperous new year from the SHSR!

In collaboration with the SHSR, the Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA) first published the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Alopecia Areata* (AA) in 2010, followed by a minor revision in 2017. Probably because both versions were published only in Japanese, their presence has not been recognized worldwide. As reported in the SHSR's January newsletter in 2025, the new version of JDA's *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Alopecia Areata 2024* was published at the end of 2024. This revision was based on the request from the SHSR to the JDA in response to the official approval of Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKis) for the management of severe AA in Japan and other new findings regarding AA. The formulation committee consisted of SHSR members. In this newsletter, the SHSR is pleased to announce the release of *Japanese Dermatological Association's Clinical Practice Guidelines for Alopecia Areata 2024: A Complete English Translated Version* (Figure 1), which is available as an open access file (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1346-8138.17859>). The key findings and contents described in this version are not largely different from those in recent guidelines or expert consensus from other countries/groups; however, it is unique in that it lists domestically used medications (anti-histamines, cepharanthine, etc.) in clinical questions and, as mentioned in the January 2025 version of SHSR newsletter, it features "AA-cube," a schematic diagram explaining the strategy for treating AA (Figure 2). This is an illustration of a 3D cube with an X-, Y-, and Z-axis, which individually represent age, severity, and disease phase, comprehensively indicating recommended treatment options (box) for a condition determined by each axis.

From autumn to winter, we experience the peak season for academic meetings in Japan (and perhaps overseas as well). Same as other sister societies, dissemination of updated information on hair disease pathophysiology and management to general dermatologists represents an important mission of the SHSR. At two major conferences—the 89th Annual Meeting of the Tokyo Division of JDA (Figure 3) and the 55th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Cutaneous Immunology and Allergy (both at Keio Plaza Hotel, Shinjuku, Tokyo, 11/15-16, 11/28-30, 2025 respectively)—hair disease sessions focusing on recent diagnosis and management were presented by the SHSR's representative rising stars: A. Prof. Masaki Uchiyama (Tokyo Medical

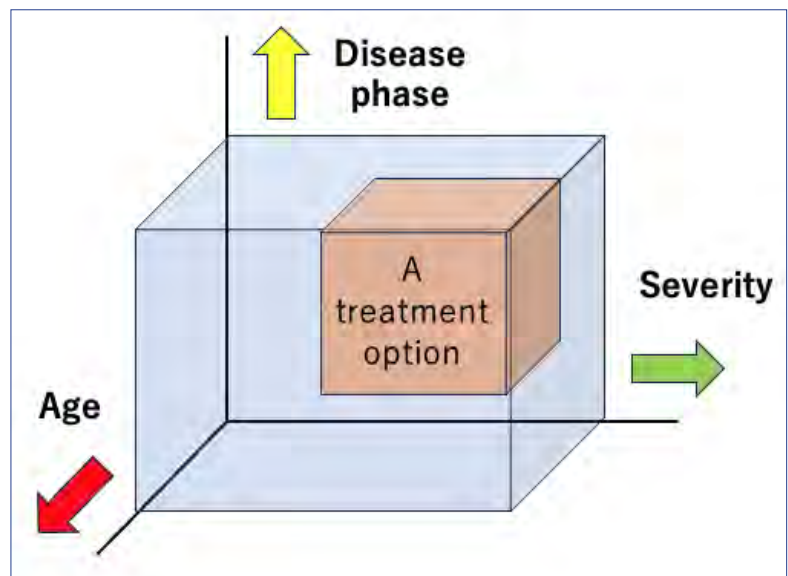


Figure 2. Concept of alopecia areata (AA) cube. An orange cube indicates a recommended intervention.

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Figure 3. The Hair Disease session attracted a large audience at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Tokyo Division of JDA (Chaired by Prof. Rie Ueki [Juntendo Univ.; right] and this author).



Figure 4. A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise presented at the plenary session of the 50th Annual Meeting of the JSID.

program of the conference, we usually have the Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS)-SHSR Friendship Seminar. This year, A. Prof. Hisayoshi Imanishi (Osaka Metropolitan University) and Prof. Yoshiyuki Amoh (Kitasato Univ.) gave their talks, “Clinical and Mechanistic Insight into Lymphocytic Primary Alopecia” and “The Potential of Hair-Associated Pluripotent (HAP) Stem Cells for Regenerative Medicine,” respectively, representing the SHSR. From the KHRS, Dr. Ik Jun Moon (Hae Dermatology Clinic, Seoul, Korea) and Prof. Chang Hun Huh (Seoul National Univ. Bundang Hospital) gave the lectures entitled, “Primary Cicatricial Alopecia: Advances in Etiology and Treatment” and “Update in the Treatment of AGA,” individually, from which all attendees learned a lot about the latest information (Figure 8). This seminar also provided a perfect opportunity to promote WCHR 2026 to the SHSR membership.

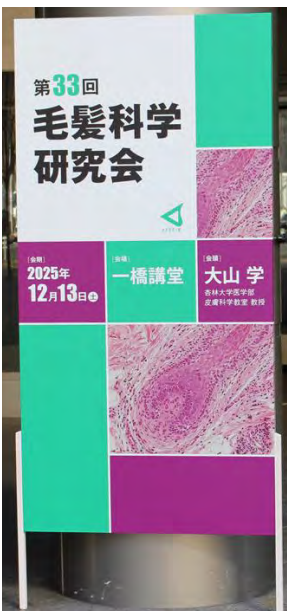


Figure 5. Signage placed at the entrance at the 33rd SHSR Academic Meeting.



Figure 6. SHSR Board of Directors met prior to the main meeting.

Univ.), A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise (Kyorin Univ.; the SHSR manager), A. Prof. Reiko Kageyama (Hamamatsu Medical Univ.), and A. Prof. Ryota Hayashi (Niigata Univ.). Both sessions attracted large audiences; of note, according to the congress official, the former session gathered the biggest audience at the congress.

Needless to say, moving hair science forward is the most pivotal mission of the SHSR. Currently, the SHSR has an advantage in this regard, as this author is concurrently serving as the president of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID). From December 5-7, 2025, the 50th Annual Meeting of the JSID was held in Kofu, Yamanashi, a scenic city near Mt. Fuji. The JSID is a charter member of the International Societies for Investigative Dermatology (ISID) and quite a few scientists attended the conference from overseas. Analogous to the SID and ESDR, the selection of the presentations in the JSID annual meetings is abstract-driven and competitive. It is noteworthy that A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise successfully obtained a plenary talks slot and presented the results of her recent investigation on the early diagnosis of scarring alopecia adopting a novel diagnostic tool (3D high-frequency ultrasound; Figure 4).

SHSR makes it a rule not to hold its official academic meeting in the year of the WCHR, which means we did hold our annual meeting this year. Under the presidency of this author, the 33rd Academic Meeting was held on December 13 at Hitotsubashi Hall of the National Center of Sciences Building, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (Figure 5).

Following the SHSR Board of Directors meeting (Figure 6), the main meeting commenced (Figure 7). The concurrent sessions consisted of a well-balanced mixture of basic and clinical hair science, combined with informative sponsored sessions on the treatment of severe alopecia areata with JAKis, basic scientific evidence to support the use of topical minoxidil to accelerate recovery from telogen effluvium, and regenerative medicine to treat pattern baldness using cultured dermal sheath cup cells. As the core

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Those who know this author should be aware that I prioritize social networking. To help “boost” interactions, we had a small dinner party for those involved in the KHRS-SHSR Friendship Seminar at a quiet and traditional Japanese restaurant in the Kagurazaka area of Tokyo (Figure 9). Additionally, the post-congress social event was held in an unique place—a renovated book store (as the congress venue locates a famous book town). This author is sure that the readership will appreciate how the attendees enjoyed interacting with each other through viewing the photos below (Figure 10).

Of course, SHSR activities are not limited to those described above. Our members are actively and continuously involved in hair science and research to move our field forward in collaboration with domestic/international colleagues and are committed to helping hair disease patients. This author wishes to see the outcomes of such activities at WCHR 2026.

See you very shortly in Seoul!



Figure 7. This author, as President of the 33rd SHSR Academic Meeting, gave the opening remarks.



Figure 8. Photo taken after the KHRS-SHSR Friendship Seminar (from the left: Prof. Amoh, Dr. Moon, A. Prof. Imanishi, this author, and Prof. Huh).



Figure 9. Photo taken at a Japanese restaurant (top leftmost: A. Prof. Yohei Natusaki [Kurume Univ.]; top second to the rightmost: Prof. Yutaka Shimomura [SHSR secretary general; Yamaguchi Univ.]—these two scholars gave lectures at the last KHRS meeting.



Figure 10. **A:** SHSR members enjoyed social networking at “Tomita bookstore,” a former bookstore now renovated into dining space (left); **B:** rightmost: Prof. Ryoji Tsuboi, former SHSR president.

# UHRS Ukrainian Hair Research Society

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

Dear colleagues,

In 2026, the Ukrainian Hair Research Society (UHRS) proudly celebrates its first decade—**10 years of scientific dedication, clinical insight, and community building**. Founded by Ukrainian dermatologists and trichology enthusiasts with a shared vision to promote hair research as a clinically significant and multidisciplinary field within modern medicine, our society now unites more than 750 active members, representing one of the most dynamic national hair research communities <https://uhrs.org.ua/en/>.

A defining milestone and a powerful catalyst for UHRS growth was its official invitation by the IFHRS Board in 2019 to join the global trichology family—a moment that marked Ukraine's integration into the international hair research community and opened a new era of scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Even in the face of war and uncertainty, the **UHRS continues to rise**—upward and forward—accelerating its mission through original research, participation in international scientific projects, organization of national congresses, advancement of clinical guidelines, co-creation of professional literature, and amplification of Ukrainian trichology expertise across the world through strategic international partnerships.

## NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

From January 31–February 1, 2026, in the city of resilience and freedom—Kyiv—we will open a new season with the flagship **UHRS Congress 2026**, inviting the professional community to immerse together in the of modern hair science and to define a strategic vector for future professional development (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/uhrs-congress-2026>). “**National Guidelines. Global Expertise. New Era.**” is more than a slogan. It is the personal formula of the Congress—a synthesis of Ukrainian clinical experience with global expertise.

UHRS Congress 2026 will bring together:

- Ukraine's national evidence-based clinical practice;
- international standards from the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America;
- contemporary treatment protocols for alopecia areata; and
- innovations in clinical, regenerative, and rehabilitative trichology.

A key focus of the Congress will be the presentation of updated national clinical guidelines for alopecia areata, reflecting the dedicated work of the UHRS expert committee.

Alongside Ukrainian experts, internationally recognized specialists and invited top speakers have expressed their readiness to share the valuable pearls of their professional experience, including Dr. Dmitri Wall (Ireland), Dr. Rodrigo Pirmez (Brazil), Dr. Matilde Iorizzo (Switzerland), Prof. Chang-Hun Huh (Korea), Prof. Maria Fernanda Gavazzoni (Brazil), Prof. Nino Lortkipanidze (Georgia), Dr. Ruta Barkauskaite (Lithuania), Prof. Akaki Tsilosani (Georgia), and Prof. Maria Hordinsky (USA).

As always, the UHRS Congress will combine tradition with innovation—featuring integrated masterclasses, interactive sessions, and live



Updated National Clinical Guidelines for Alopecia Areata (2026), reflects the dedicated work of the UHRS expert committee.

(Continued next page)



transcontinental broadcasts—and will serve as a platform for the professional growth of young specialists, as well as a source of both intellectual and financial support. A longstanding tradition of UHRS scientific events is the recognition of the country's leading clinicians. This year, the UHRS Board has established two travel grants to support participation in major international hair research meetings: WCHR 2026 in Seoul and WCT 2026 in Rio de Janeiro. These grants will be awarded to the winners of the interactive clinical–trichoscopic quiz and the annual Clinical Case Competition conducted on the UHRS Education platform <https://www.uhrs-education.com/>.

An essential part of the UHRS educational mission is charitable support. We express our deepest gratitude to our defenders for the gift of life, and it is a great honor for us to support our colleagues serving as military physicians.

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

The emergence of JAK inhibitors as a new therapeutic class for alopecia areata (AA) has become a key prerequisite for revising the *UHRS Guidelines 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 the clinical guidelines for AA treatment in Ukraine.

In recent years, AA in Ukraine has acquired a number of distinctive features related to the war, prolonged exposure to stressors of varying intensity, and significant environmental changes. According to epidemiological data collected in Ukraine between 2022 and 2024, the incidence of AA increased by **8.2%** compared with the pre-war period, both among military personnel and civilians living in active conflict zones. A higher prevalence of AA was observed among military service members. In addition, an increasing proportion of pediatric AA cases was noted, particularly among children aged **1 to 5 years**. The disease more frequently demonstrated a progressive course, with transitions from patchy forms to total and universal alopecia, was characterized by therapeutic resistance, and was associated with a wide spectrum of comorbid conditions—ranging from pronounced psycho-emotional disturbances to severe metabolic disorders. **Mental health spectrum disorders were diagnosed in 25.7% of AA patients.** These factors must be taken into account both when assessing disease course and prognosis and when determining therapeutic strategies, underscoring the relevance of developing new supplementary severity criteria for AA.

The above findings justified a critical re-evaluation of existing diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to AA, as well as of the tools and methods currently used in Ukraine and internationally. The presented clinical guidelines for AA management were developed based on an analysis of international and national protocols, the conclusions of the International Expert Consensus Group, and the *Ukrainian Clinical Guidelines for AA Management* (2021). They were adapted to the national pharmaceutical landscape and represent the outcome of scientific research conducted in Ukraine, which substantiated the need to further detail disease triggers and etiopathogenetic mechanisms, expand AA severity criteria, and revise therapeutic algorithms.

The core work on systematizing, unifying, and adapting contemporary knowledge on AA within the guidelines resulted in the development of two structured algorithms—**diagnostic and therapeutic**—providing a differentiated approach to patient management. These algorithms incorporate stratification by age, disease severity, clinical subtype, and disease activity stage, while also accounting for comorbidities, prognostic factors, and the impact on patients' psycho-emotional state and quality of life.

One of the key objectives of these clinical guidelines is to consolidate the collective experience of Ukrainian dermatologists in the study and management of alopecia areata. The implementation of a unified examination protocol enables optimized disease monitoring, facilitating refinement of national epidemiological data, more precise characterization of disease course, improved patient follow-up, and enhanced therapeutic decision-making. This framework also forms the foundation of the **National Registry of Alopecia Areata Patients in Ukraine**.

## UNITED BY SCIENCE, GUIDED BY PURPOSE

Our progress is driven not only by scientific curiosity, but by continuity of purpose, unity of professional values, and acceleration guided by a clear direction. Even in the most challenging times, we remain committed to science, integrity, and shared responsibility.

On behalf of UHRS members, we express our sincere gratitude to everyone who believes in Ukraine and continues to stand with us—supporting resilience, advancing knowledge, and bringing our shared victory closer.

## 2026 AND BEYOND

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

### 2026

#### 14th WCHR

May 28-31, 2026

Venue: North Wing of COEX

Seoul, Korea

Co-chairs: Chang-Hun Huh,  
Ohsang Kwon, & Moon-Bum Kim

Hosting Society: KHRS

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

### 2028

#### 15th WCHR

May 23-26, 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

© IFHRS, c/o AHRS, 675 Tollgate Rd., Suite G, Elgin, IL 60123, USA

(New address as of Feb. 1, 2026)