

NEWSLETTER

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Message from the IFHRS Chair & Executive Secretary

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Dr. Wilma Bergfeld

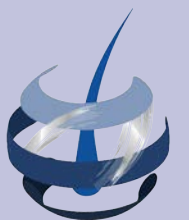


Victoria Ceh

Since our last newsletter, there has been much activity of the Federation. Most noteworthy was our flagship World Congress for Hair Research that took place in Seoul, Korea, over the dates May 28-31, 2026. The Korean Hair Research Society is to be commended! The Congress was fabulous and successful in so many ways, from the science and presentations that heightened our knowledge and discovery to the friendship and hospitality that made the visit so special and enjoyable. We especially want to thank the Congress Co-Presidents, Drs. Chang-Hun Huh, Ohsang Kwon, and Moon-Bum Kim, for their leadership and for their team's tireless efforts. You will find post-Congress highlights throughout this issue.



IFHRS Board, May 28, 2026, Seoul, Korea



IFHRS

International Federation
of Hair Research Societies

In This Issue

American Hair Research Society	5–10
Australasian Hair and Wool Research Society	11–12
Chinese Hair Research Society	13–15
European Hair Research Society	16–20
The Korean Hair Research Society	21–23
Russian Hair Research Society	24–26
The Society for Hair Science Research (Japan)	27–28
Ukrainian Hair Research Society	29–31

It's never too early to start planning for the next WCHR. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 15th World Congress for Hair Research, May 23–26, 2028, in Madrid, Spain.

At the IFHRS Board meeting in Seoul, the two bidding teams for the 2030 WCHR—Shanghai Bid Team and Singapore Bid Team—impressed us with excellent and compelling presentations. In the end, the Shanghai Bid Team received more votes and was selected for the 2030 World Congress for Hair Research. Congratulations to both teams. We look forward to Shanghai for WCHR 2030!

The IFHRS Board agreed to the following out-year hub rotation of the WCHR:

- 2028 European Hub – Madrid (city confirmed)
- 2030 Open Hub – Shanghai (city confirmed)
- 2032 Americas Hub
- 2034 European Hub
- 2036 Asia-Pacific Hub
- 2038 Open Hub

The IFHRS Board formalized its own governance further by establishing an Executive Committee comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair (new position), and Immediate Past Chair, each with 3-year terms. Dr. Bergfeld's term as Chair will conclude in Sept. 2026 at which point she will rotate to Immediate Past Chair, and a new Chair and Vice Chair will commence their terms. Ms. Ceh will stay on as the Executive Secretary providing the management.



Participants of the IFHRS Board Dinner, May 27, 2026, Seoul, Korea







John T. Seykora, MD, PhD, AHRS President | seykora@penntestmed.upenn.edu | www.americanhairresearchsociety.org

Hello to all our AHRS members and our sister societies! It was great to see everyone at our meetings and the World Congress for Hair Research in Seoul.

The AHRS had a very active first half of 2026 with a total of six in-person meetings and online educational activities. The AHRS administration team and our members worked tirelessly to organize these activities and make them happen. Thank you all for your efforts and expert input that made these successful. Special thanks go to the AHRS staff, led by Victoria Ceh, whose efforts are key to the success of our webinars and our recent Alopecia Summit. I also would like to thank the AHRS Board of Directors for generously sharing their time and expertise in support of our mission and commitment to educational excellence.

2026 PAST EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

AHRS Scientific Live Webinar

Organized by Dr. Paradi Mirmirani, the AHRS hosted an exciting webinar, "Regenerative Medicine for Hair Follicles – How Close Are We." There were 100 registered attendees for this webinar, which explored the latest scientific advances and therapeutic insights in hair follicle regeneration, with the primary topics of discussion including tissue engineering and biofabrication.

After introductory comments from Dr. Mirmirani, Dr. Luis Garza, from the Department of Dermatology at Johns Hopkins University, spoke about the current state of biology with regard to follicular stem cells, organoids, and follicular neogenesis. Dr. Jeffrey McBride, from the Department of Dermatology at the University of Oklahoma, covered the role of exosomes in clinical and translational regenerative therapies. The topics of tissue engineering and biofabrication were discussed by Drs. Mason Lei and Cheng-Ming Choung of University of Southern California. A panel chaired by Drs. Neil Sadick, Mason Lei, and Cheng-Ming Choung led a discussion on how close we are to achieving hair follicle regeneration. After the presentations and discussion, we had a Mentorship Grant Awardee presentation from Dr. Raymond Ezzat (Mentor: Dr. Maryanne Senna) entitled, "Standardizing Hormonal Studies in Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia: A Systematic Review and Reporting Framework."

AHRS Scientific Session at the AAD Annual Meeting

The AHRS hosted its Scientific Session at the AAD Annual Meeting with 128 in-person attendees. We had two outstanding scientific lectures: one from Dr. Elise Olsen entitled, "Inflammation and Pattern Hair Loss: Another Piece of the Puzzle," which discussed the potential role of chronic inflammation in AGA and related hair disorders. The second lecture was from Dr. Amy McMichael entitled, "Updates in the Genetics of CCCA: New Pathogenic Variants." Both presentations stimulated high-level discussions on their topics. We also presented the 2026 AHRS Mentorship Grant Awards to the following awardees and mentors:

1. **Nadia El Kadi**, MD, MS, PhD Student; Mentor, **Neil Sadick**, MD, FAAD. FAACS, FACP, FACPh: "**Collaborative Multicenter Trichoscopic Standardization for Scalp Analysis in Individuals of African Descent**"
2. **Itisha Jefferson**, BS, Medical Student; Mentor, **Maria Hordinsky**, MD, University of Minnesota: "**Clinical & Research Mentorship in Hair Disorders**"
3. **Aliza Khuhro**, BS, Medical Student; Mentor, **Melissa Piliang**, MD, Cleveland Clinic: "**Clinical Patterns and Histologic Features of Syphilitic Alopecia in the Modern Era**"



Dr. Elise Olsen presents "Inflammation and Pattern Hair Loss: Another Piece of the Puzzle"

4. **Sidney Leno**, MD, Research Fellow; Mentor, **Valerie Callender**, MD, FAAD, Callender Dermatology & Cosmetic Center, Callender Center for Clinical Research: **“Metabolic Risk Stratification of Primary Cicatricial Alopecia (PCA) Subtypes”**
5. **Nina Modanlo**, MS, Medical Student; Mentor, **Paradi Mirmirani**, MD, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center: **“Generative-AI as a Digital Support Tool for Individuals with Hair-Pulling Disorder: Assessing Utility, Limitations, and Inclusiveness”**
6. **Ugwumsinachi Nwaubani**, MS, MB, Medical Student; Mentor, **Antonella Tosti**, MD, University of Miami: **“Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in the Non-Invasive Diagnosis and Prognostication of Hair Disorders”**
7. **Nadia Talebi**, BS, BA, Medical Student; Mentor, **Mariya Miteva**, MD, University of Miami L. Miller School of Medicine: **“Correlation of Trichoscopic Patterns and Histopathologic Features in Alopecia: A Digital Archive Project”**
8. **Payton Trimark**, BA, Medical Student; Mentor, **G. Cheyana Ranasinghe**, MD, FAAD, Cleveland Clinic Department of Dermatology: **“Connecting Manifestations of Alopecia in the Clinic and Under the Microscope”**



2026 AHRs Mentorship recipients

The Mentorship Program is made possible in part by the generous donations to the AHRs Grant Fund, which supports mentorships and research. We are grateful to the many AHRs members who have made voluntary donations.

To close out the meeting, there were short updates about NAAF from George Gondo and SAF from Mia Littlejohn.

The AHRs would also like to thank our sponsors—AbbVie, Cosmo, Lilly, Nutrafol, and Veradermics—who made this meeting possible.

AHRs Meeting at SID

The AHRs conducted its Annual General Meeting and Scientific Meeting at the Society for Investigative Dermatology Annual Meeting in Chicago on May 15, 2026. We had approximately 70 attendees with a poster session and a reception followed by our business meeting and scientific session. The poster session included 12 interesting and varied studies that generated much scientific discussion:

1. Lensing, et al. **“Transcriptomic and Functional Profiling Reveals Effector Regulatory T Cell Enrichment in Alopecia Areata. Maddison”**
2. Willett, et al. **“Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia (CCCA) Is Predominantly Mediated by a Th1 Immune Response, with Regional Pstat6 Suppression in B and T Cells, Histiocytes, and Plasma Cells: A Spatial Proteomics Study”**
3. Minghuan Xu, et al. **“Baseline Anti-Gliadin Antibody Positivity Is Associated with Clinical Efficacy of Ritlecitinib in Moderate-to-Severe Alopecia Areata: A Chinese Retrospective Cohort”**
4. Chen T, et al. **“Enlarged Black Dots: An Effective Trichoscopic Sign to Distinguish Trichotillomania from Alopecia Areata”**
5. Tolete C, et al. **“Cumulative Atopic Disease Burden Is Associated with Increased Risk of Alopecia Areata: A TriNetX Cohort Study”**



Networking and poster viewing of selected abstracts

6. Aymen A and Alrez A. **"Temporal–Phenotype Signatures of Alopecia Associated with GLP-1–Based Therapies: A PRISMA-ScR Scoping Review"**
7. Reina Deol, et al. **"Successful Treatment of Recalcitrant Alopecia Areata Universalis with Dual Janus Kinase Inhibition Using Baricitinib and Ritlecitinib"**
8. Linowiecka K, et al. **"Stem Cell Senescence and Epigenetic Dysregulation Are Central Pathomechanisms in Taxane-Induced Alopecia"**
9. Paz M, et al. **"Distinct Immune Signatures in Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia Reveal Heightened Pro-Inflammatory Signaling and Reduced Inhibitory Immune Regulation Compared with Lichen Planopilaris"**
10. Hu B, et al. **"Single-Cell Transcriptomic Profiling Reveals Distinct Immunopathogenic Programs in Alopecia Totalis/Universalis Compared to Patchy Alopecia Areata"**
11. Broadley D, et al. **"Rapamycin Mitigates Senescence-Associated Hair Follicle Aging in a Translational Ex Vivo Screening Platform"**
12. Vattigunta M, et al. **"Tacrolimus Increases the Hair Follicle Epithelial Stem Cell Pool and Promotes Human Scalp Hair Follicle Growth"**

This was followed by our business meeting, which highlighted our growing membership across the Americas and new academic activities, including our first online journal club in June. Our session closed with three outstanding oral presentations highlighting the breadth and quality of scientific work in hair research:

1. **"The prostaglandin F2 α Analog Bimatoprost Activates Secondary Hair Germ Cells to Promote Hair Growth Through Two Distinct Signaling Pathways"** You J, et al.
2. **"ZNF750 Safeguards the Upper Hair Follicle by Preventing Spontaneous Inflammatory Skin Disease"** Batzorig U, et al.
3. **"Dkk4 Fine-Tunes Wnt Activity for Hair Follicle Patterning and Initiation"** Teshima H, et al.

AHRS Scientific Session at RADLA in Buenos Aires

AHRS conducted a Scientific Session at Reunión Annual de Dermatólogos Latinoamericanos (RADLA)/ Annual Meeting of Latin American Dermatologists, on May 19, 2026, which was organized by Dr. Jorge Larrondo. The outstanding program featured the following presentations:

1. Dr. **Jorge Larrondo** (Chile) – "Practical Pearls in Trichoscopy and Scalp Histopathology"
2. Dr. **Hugo Martinez** (Mexico) – "Self-Inflicted Hair Disorders: What Every Clinician Should Know"
3. Dr. **Esteban Covian** (Argentina) – "Light Based Therapies in Alopecia Areata: Current Evidence and Clinical Applications"
4. Dr. **Aldo Gálvez** (Perú) – "Senescence and the Hair Follicle: The Lifestyle Connection"
5. Dr. **Gisela D'Atri** (Argentina) – "The Art & Strategy of Hair Transplantation: From Design to Results"



AHRS Session Program Presenters at RADLA 2026

Closing remarks and question-and-answer session were led by Dr. Jorge Larrondo, and all of the speakers are to be congratulated for conducting an outstanding session.

AHRS at the World Congress for Hair Research 2026

The AHRS had a busy schedule at WCHR 2026, participating in the IFHRS meeting and the Congress itself. The many members who made the trip to Seoul enjoyed a spectacular meeting that covered the latest advances in hair biology and therapeutic innovations for alopecia.

On Wednesday morning, Drs. Seykora and Mirmirani represented the AHRS at the IFHRS meeting. One highlight of this meeting was hearing the presentations for hosting the WCHR in 2030 from the Shanghai and Singapore contingents. Both groups gave outstanding presentations and made compelling cases, but in the end, Shanghai was



Ms. Victoria Ceh, AHRS Executive Director, at the AHRS booth in Seoul

awarded the WCHR for 2030. Congratulations to Shanghai! The AHRS looks forward to participating in that meeting.

The AHRS was offered the opportunity to speak at the opening ceremony, and Dr. Seykora gave a presentation highlighting the history and growth of the AHRS across the Americas. The AHRS also hosted a session on Saturday, May 30, with the 2026 AHRS Lecture Honoring Dr. George Cotsarelis. The award was presented by Dr. Seykora who described the remarkable impact of Dr. Cotsarelis on hair biology and research over the past three decades. Lecturer, Dr. Maksim Plikus, presented, "Niche Signals that Tame Hair Follicle Stem Cells." This lecture was well received and stimulated much thought about the function and biology of hair follicle stem cells and the plasticity of mesenchymal stem cells in skin. Given the strong positive response, Dr. Seykora conducted a follow-up interview with Dr. Plikus about his time in the Cotsarelis lab and how it shaped his career. This podcast interview can be heard at: <https://youtu.be/2ZU39wfjupg>.

David A. Whiting, MD Leadership and Research Award

The AHRS also presented the 2026 David A. Whiting, MD Leadership and Research Award to Dr. Angela Christiano. The award was presented by Dr. Etienne Wang, who highlighted Dr. Christiano's remarkable contributions to the field of hair genetics and biology, as well as her profound impact on generations of trainees. We congratulate Drs. Cotsarelis and Christiano on their achievements; the AHRS is fortunate to have such luminaries as members of our society.

Travel Grants Awarded

The AHRS also took part in the closing ceremonies and presented five travel grants; recipients Angela Anaeme, Itisha S. Jefferson, Jarish Cohen, Marc Hill, and Raymond Z. Ezzat all had presentations at the meeting. The AHRS booth, staffed by Victoria and her AHRS team, remained busy during the Congress.

Inaugural AHRS Journal Club

The AHRS instituted an online journal club to promote discussions pertaining to the latest advances in hair biology and alopecia therapeutics. The first AHRS Journal Club was well attended by approximately 50 people and featured presentations from Simona Alomary, "Single-Cell Transcriptomics Reveals Hair Growth Retardation Mediated by Aberrant Connective Tissue Sheath Contraction in Male Androgenetic Alopecia," and Nicole Baker, "Randomized Controlled Trial of the Topical JAK Inhibitor Delgocitinib Cream in Patients with Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia." Thank you to Simona and Nicole for stellar presentations. Both articles stimulated thoughtful discussion on some of the latest advances in hair biology and therapies for scarring alopecias.

Stay tuned for announcements for our next journal club, scheduled for the fall.

UPCOMING AHRS ACTIVITIES

1. **October 27, 2026 – AHRS at CILAD** | Porto, Portugal
2. **November 7, 2026 – AHRS Live Scientific Webinar** | "Skin Deep: Stem Cells at the Nexus of the Niche, Physiology, and the External Environment" | Ya-Chieh Hsu, PhD
3. **TBD** – AHRS Journal Club, online
4. **PENDING CONFIRMATION: Saturday, December 5, 2026, 9:00AM–11:00AM CST – AHRS 2026 Spotlight Webinar** | "Alopecia Areata Treatment Strategies: Going Beyond JAKs – Getting to Know the TEC Family Kinases"

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



Dr. John Seykora, AHRS President (left), and 2026 AHRS Lecture Honoree, Dr. George Cotsarelis



Dr. John Seykora, AHRS President, 2026 David A. Whiting Award recipient, Dr. Angela Christiano, and Dr. Etienne Wang



2026 AHRS Travel Grant Awardees—Dr. Raymond Ezzat (left), Itisha Jefferson (third), and Angela Anaeme (right)—with Dr. John Seykora, AHRS President (second)

From Mentorship to Multisystem Biology: Maksim Plikus on the Expanding Frontiers of Hair Research

After his fascinating presentation as the AHRS Honorary Lecture in Seoul, we felt a follow-up interview with Dr. Maksim Plikus was in order. With a newborn baby at home, Dr. Plikus graciously agreed to share some of his time for a phone interview. Speaking with AHRS President Dr. John Seykora, Dr. Plikus reflected on his formative years in the lab of Dr. George Cotsarelis at the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his postdoctoral training and first began to define his independent scientific identity.

What emerges from this informal conversation is a view on how scientific mentorship, unexpected opportunities, and interdisciplinary curiosity can reshape an entire research trajectory.

Joining the Lab of Dr. George Cotsarelis: Bold Science and Unexpected Opportunity

Dr. Plikus described joining Dr. Cotsarelis' lab as both an intellectual and personal decision—driven by admiration for the lab's leadership in hair biology and its reputation for groundbreaking discoveries. He specifically pointed to the influence of paradigm-defying work emerging from Dr. Cotsarelis' group at the time, including studies conducted by Dr. Mayumi Ito on wound-induced hair neogenesis, which had begun to reshape understanding of the limits of the regenerative abilities in adult mammalian tissues.

One moment, however, stood out more than others: an early-career conference experience where Dr. Cotsarelis unexpectedly invited him, at the time an early-stage PhD student in Dr. Cheng-Ming Chuong's lab, to speak after a last-minute cancellation. That opportunity, Dr. Plikus recalled, was formative—not just for visibility, but for confidence.



Dr. George Cotsarelis (left) with Dr. Maksim Plikus

From Hair Biology to a Broader Regenerative System

Dr. Plikus noted that for his postdoctoral training he was eager to try something at the “edges” of hair science—not just like a pure hair biology, but “collaborative projects” between follicles and surrounding tissues. In Cotsarelis' lab he was handed a project that would push him beyond his previous expertise: adipose tissue biology and its interaction with hair regeneration. The work built on emerging observations that wound-induced hair regeneration was followed by the formation of new adipocytes in the skin—an unexpected link between hair follicle growth and fat tissue dynamics. To pursue it, he collaborated with leaders in adipose biology, including Dr. Patrick Seale and Dr. Mitchell Lazar at the University of Pennsylvania, expanding his technical toolkit and conceptual framework.

That experience, he explained, fundamentally shifted how he views biological systems. Rather than treating the hair follicle as an isolated unit, he now sees it as part of a broader, interconnected regenerative ecosystem involving mesenchymal cells, immune signaling, and adipose tissue.

Building a Lab: Freedom, Rigor, and Responsibility

Transitioning to his independent laboratory at UC Irvine, Dr. Plikus carried forward much of the mentorship philosophy he experienced under Dr. Cotsarelis. He emphasized a balance he tries to maintain in his own group: early intellectual freedom for trainees, paired with rigorous checkpoints before major conclusions or publications. In his view, the most effective laboratories are not those that tightly control discovery, but those that allow exploration while maintaining scientific discipline at critical stages.

Additionally, as Principal Investigator, Dr. Plikus emphasized that you need to be 100% behind everything that comes out of your lab—you need to take full responsibility.

The most effective laboratories are not those that tightly control discovery, but those that allow exploration while maintaining scientific discipline at critical stages.

Expanding Beyond Traditional Boundaries

While much of his early independent work remained rooted in murine hair and adipose regeneration, Dr. Plikus described how his research has progressively expanded into adjacent and sometimes unexpected areas. His lab has pursued questions in human hair biology that are difficult if not impossible to model in rodents, including years-long scalp hair growth cycles, and human-specific patterns of hair morphology.

Dr. Plikus also highlighted newer directions, such as melanocytic nevus—associated hair overgrowth and comparative evolutionary studies of hair loss across species—including cetaceans, where nearly complete skin hairlessness provides insight into gene regulation of hair follicle development. Beyond skin, his group has explored skeletal tissue development, including that of head cartilages—work that has broadened into craniofacial morphogenesis and skeletal lineage identity.

The Next Frontier: Human-Specific Hair Biology

Despite the expansion into multiple systems, Dr. Plikus returned repeatedly to a central theme: the need to better understand human hair biology on its own terms. He pointed to fundamental unanswered questions: why scalp hair can grow for years without stopping, how follicles cyclically transition between growth states, and why hair morphology varies so widely across the human body and between human ancestral groups. These are questions, he noted, that traditional animal models cannot fully capture.

Instead, he sees the field moving toward a new era enabled by multi-omics, spatial transcriptomics, and computational biology—tools that can finally bridge species differences and allow direct interrogation of human tissue systems. For Dr. Plikus, this convergence marks a turning point: a shift from modeling biology in animals to directly decoding human biological complexity.

Closing Reflections

In closing, Dr. Plikus returned to the influence of his mentor, emphasizing the lasting impact of working under Dr. Cotsarelis—not only scientifically, but in shaping how he mentors his own trainees.

The field of hair biology, he suggested, remains wide open. Despite decades of progress, many of the most fundamental questions remain unanswered—yet increasingly accessible to study with modern technologies. For emerging hair scientists, he framed this not as a limitation, but as an invitation.



POST-CONGRESS AHRS PODCAST

Featuring Keynote Maksim Plikus and President John Seykora



<https://youtu.be/2ZU39wfjupg>



Australasian Hair and Wool Research Society

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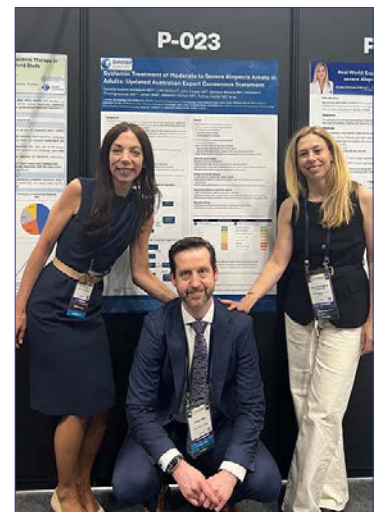
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Many society members have been fortunate enough to attend the recent World Congress for Hair Research in Seoul, Korea. Both scientific and social programs were enjoyed by all, and member contributions were represented across presentations, symposiums, poster walks, and e-posters. Three fortunate society members were awarded travel grants to attend the meeting: Drs. Daniella Kushnir Grinbaum, Anabel Stevenson, and Emadodin Darchini-Maragheh. Prof. Rod Sinclair was kept busy presenting many excellent presentations. The AHWRS would like to thank all those from the KHRS involved in organizing an exceptional meeting.

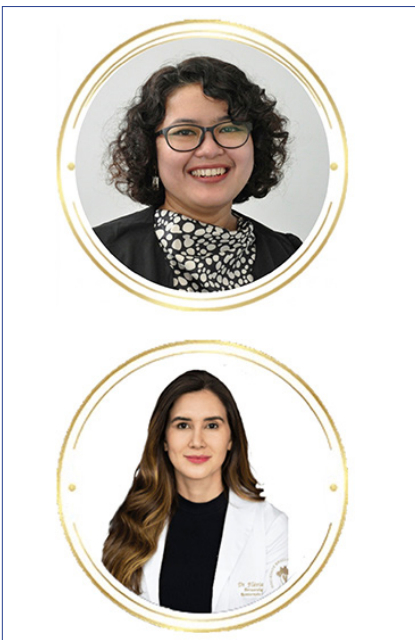
Over the past 9 years, the AHWRS has provided scholarships for more than 20 hair fellows, from over 10 different countries, at Sinclair Dermatology in East Melbourne. Each fellow sees more than 75 hair patients per week. Candidates are exposed to a wide range of hair disorders and are offered the opportunity to participate in a broad group of industry-sponsored clinical trials involving a comprehensive range of both therapeutics and diseases (AGA, AA, LPP). In addition, they have the opportunity to participate in research projects and to attend hair transplant sessions and weekly journal club and tutorials. The goal is to train dermatologists who can then return home and become leaders in the field of hair disorders; however, some choose to continue their careers in Australia. Over the past 6 months, 2 dermatologists have completed the programme: Dr. Agnes Ita Sari from Indonesia and Dr. Flavia Rodrigues Dias from Brazil.



Drs. Kushnir Grinbaum and Stevenson receiving travel award



Drs. Eisman, Wall, and Kushnir Grinbaum at poster presentation



Fellows completing programme: Dr. Agnes Ita Sari (top) and Dr. Flavia Rodrigues Dias



Members of AHWRS

As the leading Australian dermatology researcher, Prof. Rod Sinclair has been involved in numerous international publications, as well as many relevant to the Australian population. Some recent publications from members of the AHWRS are listed below:

1. Sinclair R, Yang CC, Chung WH, Dhurat R, Ganjoo A, Khunkhet S, Lin J, Parthasaradhi A, Shin HT, Shin K, Suchonwanit P, Tan KT, Tang JJ, Wu W, Yap FB, Yip L, Yong A, Zhou C. **Epidemiology, diagnosis and management of alopecia areata: An Asia-Pacific modified delphi expert panel recommendations.** *Int J Dermatol.* 2026 Feb 16. doi: 10.1111/ijd.70335. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41699409.
2. Dias FR, Yong SS, FitzGerald H, Sinclair RD, Bhoirul B. **Expanding the therapeutic landscape of minoxidil for androgenetic alopecia: topical, oral and sublingual formulations.** *Front Pharmacol.* 2026 Jan 21;16:1718208. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2025.1718208. PMID: 41695992; PMCID: PMC12898826.
3. Tang GT, Leemaqz S, Bhoirul B, Eisman S, Kasprzak M, Sicinska J, Sinclair R, Cheung AS. **Treatment of androgenetic alopecia in transgender people receiving testosterone therapy with sublingual minoxidil: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial.** *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2026 May 14:S0190-9622(26)02655-1. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2026.05.020. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42140362.
4. Asfour L, Blume-Peytavi U, Bokhari L, Kasprzak M, Seise M, Sicinska J, Sinclair RD. **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.** *Clin Exp Dermatol.* 2026 Jan 27;51(2):220-225. doi: 10.1093/ced/llaf361. PMID: 40747681.
5. FitzGerald H, Rodrigues Dias F, Sinclair R. **Congenital hypotrichosis with hair and dental ectodermal features responsive to sublingual minoxidil.** *Clin Exp Dermatol.* 2026 May 9:llag202. doi: 10.1093/ced/llag202. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42108230.
6. Tang GT, Kazmi A, Bhoirul B. **The current terminology of male and female pattern hair loss may be obsolete.** *Clin Exp Dermatol.* 2026 Feb 28:llag105. doi: 10.1093/ced/llag105. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41765862.
7. Frewen J, Wall D, Sinclair R. **SALT score cards: Facilitating SALT score calculation in alopecia areata.** *Australas J Dermatol.* 2026 Jun;67(4):253-254. doi: 10.1111/ajd.70062. Epub 2026 Feb 16. PMID: 41693578.
8. Sinclair R, Eisman S, Yip L, Hitschfeld M, Williamson A, Stratton G, Lohan C, Lee CMY, Kapoor K, Pereira CDF. **Alopecia areata prevalence in Australia: Insights from a nationally representative cross-sectional survey study.** *Australas J Dermatol.* 2026 May 11. doi: 10.1111/ajd.70137. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42108949.
9. Awad A, Kho YC, Asfour L, Sladden M, Prakash S, Nirenberg A, Fakih A, El Sayed F, Bhoirul B. **Paediatric-onset folliculitis decalvans and lichen planopilaris phenotypic spectrum: Is it a different disease?** *Exp Dermatol.* 2026 Jan;35(1):e70197. doi: 10.1111/exd.70197. PMID: 41496469.
10. Darchini-Maragheh E, Moussa A, Thomas M, Bokhari L, Jones L, Sinclair R. **The most impactful aspects of living with alopecia areata among patients commencing systemic treatments: Evaluating patients' perspectives to guide therapy.** *Clin Exp Dermatol.* 2026 Mar 9:llag112. doi: 10.1093/ced/llag112. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41802892.



Chinese Hair Research Society

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PAST EVENTS UPDATES

International Exchange at the 14th World Congress for Hair Research

Hundreds of experts and scholars from CHRS participated in the 14th World Congress for Hair Research (Figure 1). During the congress, more than 20 leading Chinese hair experts joined Prof. Bianca Maria Piraccini and Prof. Michela Starace at the China–Europe Hair Summit for in-depth discussions on frontier topics in alopecia management, clinical practice, and the development of specialized hair disorder clinics. On May 28, 2026, Shanghai, China, successfully won the bid to host WCHR 2030 under the theme “AI in Hair Science” and the slogan “First Time in China, One World in Hair.” This milestone reflects the growing global presence of Chinese dermatology and the expanding integration of artificial intelligence, precision medicine, and hair science.



Figure 1. CHRS participated in the 14th World Congress for Hair Research and the China – Europe Hair Summit during WCHR 2026.

The 9th West Lake Hair Conference

The 9th West Lake Hair Conference was successfully held in Hangzhou, March 6–7, 2026 (Figure 2). The meeting brought together more than 100 leading hair specialists from across China for in-depth discussions on advances in alopecia and hair follicle biology, novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for hair loss, and emerging progress in hair regenerative medicine. It further strengthened regional academic collaboration and promoted the translation of scientific discoveries into clinical practice.



Figure 2. The 9th West Lake Hair Conference in Hangzhou

What's New in Hair Research: Sino-US Online Academic Exchange

On March 10, 2026, the online meeting "What's New in Hair Research," jointly organized by SIA and ACMED, was chaired by Prof. Wenyu Wu of Huashan Hospital, Fudan University. Prof. George Cotsarelis from the University of Pennsylvania delivered a lecture on therapeutic approaches to hair regeneration, Prof. John Seykora discussed pathologic and biologic insights into cicatricial alopecia, and Prof. Mingxing Lei from Chongqing University presented recent advances in tissue engineering and biofabrication. The meeting attracted 2,651 online views and provided a high-level platform for international academic exchange (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Online Sino-US academic exchange: What's New in Hair Research

ACADEMIC UPDATES

The Chinese Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Alopecia Areata (2026 Edition), led by Prof. Wenyu Wu from Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, and Prof. Cheng Zhou from Peking University People's Hospital, was officially published in the inaugural issue of *Skin*.¹ In parallel, the "Expert Consensus on Systemic Treatment Activation and Grading Evaluation for Alopecia Areata known as STAGE-AA," led by Prof. Cheng Zhou from Peking University People's Hospital with national hair-disease working groups, proposed an evidence-based Chinese framework for alopecia areata severity grading and timely activation of systemic treatment.² Chinese hair specialists jointly released the "Chinese Expert Consensus on Hair Biopsy and Pathology" (2026 Edition) in the *Chinese Journal of Dermatology* in May 2026.³ Together, these documents update diagnostic standards, disease severity assessment, therapeutic pathways, and long-term management strategies, providing practical guidance for standardized hair disease care in China.

Regarding research on alopecia areata, Prof. Cheng Zhou's team from Peking University People's Hospital characterized ophiasis in 150 patients and proposed a three-subtype classification with prognostic and therapeutic implications.⁴ Prof. Wenyu Wu and Jinran Lin's team from Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, reported that short-term omalizumab may serve as a rescue option for disease flares during JAK inhibitor maintenance, particularly in patients with an atopic background and elevated IgE.⁵ Prof. Jing Chen's team from Henan Provincial People's Hospital reported rapid and sustained hair regrowth with upadacitinib in a real-world alopecia areata cohort.⁶

In androgenetic alopecia, Prof. Ying Luo's team from Guangdong Provincial Dermatology Hospital found that increasing microneedling frequency as an adjunct to 2% minoxidil did not improve outcomes in women with androgenetic alopecia.⁷ The Beijing Friendship Hospital team compared platelet-derived products for female pattern hair loss and reported that i-PRF and CGF were superior to PRP in increasing nonvellus target area hair count.⁸

In lymphocytic cicatricial alopecia, a multicenter prospective cohort pilot study from The Affiliated Wuxi People's Hospital, Nanjing Medical University, showed that sequential small-molecule therapy combining tofacitinib, apremilast, and crisaborole achieved an overall LPPAI improvement rate of 85.5%, with marked improvement in 93.5% of patients and only mild adverse reactions.⁹

Additional mechanistic and translational studies further underscored China's growing contribution to hair medicine in the first half of 2026. Researchers from Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, used single-cell and spatial transcriptomics to show that aberrant connective tissue sheath contraction contributes to male androgenetic alopecia.¹⁰ The Beijing Tsinghua Changgung Hospital team demonstrated that female-pattern hair loss is associated with aberrant B-cell and cytotoxic T-cell activation and reduced Treg activity.¹¹ Researchers from Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, reported that rutin promotes hair follicle regeneration by stabilizing β -catenin through GSK3 β inhibition.¹²

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND PATIENT EDUCATION

From May 18–28, more than 100 CHRS member institutions organized patient education activities and free medical consultation services for patients and community residents about hair and skin care and health (Figure 4).



Figure 4. “5.18 I Love Hair Day” provided public education and free medical consultations activities at China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Peking University People’s Hospital and Beijing Tongren Hospital.

UPCOMING 2026 ACTIVITIES

10th Annual Meeting of the CHRS | Changzhi, Shanxi Province | September 4–6, 2026

The 10th Annual Meeting of the CHRS will be held this coming September. Historically known as Shangdang, Changzhi lies at the foot of the Taihang Mountains and is known for its deep cultural heritage and distinctive historic architecture. Visitors may explore Bagong Mountain Grottoes, Guanyin Hall with its Ming Dynasty colored sculptures, and Zhangze Lake National Urban Wetland Park, known as the Sky Lake of Taihang. We look forward to welcoming colleagues to Changzhi for this premier event in hair research.

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European Hair Research Society

Sergio Vañó-Galván, MD, PhD, EHRS President | drsergiovano@gmail.com | <https://ehrs.org/>
Maria Kasper, PhD, EHRS Secretary; Claire Higgins, BSc, PhD, EHRS Immediate Past President

Following WCHR 2026 in Seoul, Korea, the European Hair Research Society (EHRS) has renewed its Board of Directors. For the next three years, Dr. Sergio Vañó-Galván will serve as President of the EHRS, with Dr. Maria Kasper as Secretary, Iain Sallis as Treasurer, and Drs. Marisa Mathieu, Marta Bertolini, Michela Starace, and Andrei Doroshkevich as Board Members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Board of Directors, led by Dr. Claire Higgins, for their excellent work.

We would also like to congratulate Dr. Chang-Hung Hu and his team not only on the success of the WCHR, but also on their outstanding hospitality and attention to every detail, which made us feel right at home!

Additionally, we would like to remind you of the upcoming EHRS scientific conferences that you won't want to miss: 22nd Annual Meeting of the EHRS, Dublin, Ireland, June 10–12, 2027, and WCHR 2028, Madrid, Spain, May 23–26, 2028.



EHRS newly installed Board of Directors



EHRS past and new Board of Directors members gather during WCHR 2026.

PAST EVENTS UPDATES

World Congress for Hair Research 2026

John Ebling Lecture

Dr. Gill Westgate delivered an amazing keynote lecture during the WCHR 2026 in Seoul (see reprint following this message). Dr. Westgate is internationally recognized for her outstanding contributions to hair and skin science. Throughout a distinguished career spanning industry, academia, and consultancy, she has played a pivotal role in advancing scientific understanding of hair biology, follicle function, and skin physiology. Her work has significantly influenced both dermatological research and cosmetic science, earning her a reputation as one of the leading experts in the field.

A founder and former President of the International Federation of Hair Research Societies (IFHRS), as well as former Secretary and President of the EHRS, Dr. Westgate has consistently demonstrated scientific leadership and commitment to the global hair research community. She is a frequent invited speaker at international conferences and has authored numerous scientific publications and book chapters.



John Ebling Lecture (l to r): Drs. Claire Higgins, Gill Westgate, and Sergio Vañó-Galván

A particular highlight of her career was being selected to deliver the prestigious John Ebling Lecture, one of the highest honors awarded by the European Hair Research Society. Established in 1993 in memory of the internationally renowned zoologist John Ebling, this lecture recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to hair research.

Jurgen Schweizer Prize

Every year at an EHRS or WCHR meeting, the Jürgen Schweizer prize is awarded for the best basic research oral presentation. The prize recipient must have submitted an abstract for presentation at the meeting and should also be a **PhD student or postdoctoral researcher**. The prize is given in honor of Prof. Jürgen Schweizer, who has made an enormous contribution to the cutaneous research field with his singular work on human hair follicle-associated keratins. This year at the WCHR in Seoul, the prize was given to Ms. Anna Rhodes, for her talk, "Human Hair Follicle Outer Root Sheath Cells Influence Differentiation and Specialization of Sensory Neurons In Vitro and In Vivo." Anna is a PhD student in the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College London.



Jürgen Schweizer prize during the WCHR 2026 (l to r): Maria Kasper (Prize Committee Chair), Anna Rhodes (Jürgen Schweizer prize recipient) and Claire Higgins (EHRS president).

WCHR 2026 Travel Grant Recipients

The WCHR 2026 travel grant recipients were (from left to right in photo):

- Sophie van Helmand
- Juan Jimenez Cauhe
- Nicole Cesarato
- Min Waye Chew
- Karoline Strobl (not pictured)

Congratulations to all!

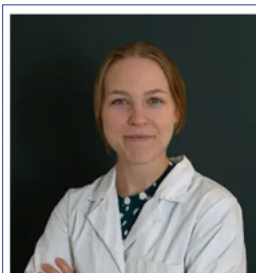


WCHR 2026 travel grant recipients with EHRS President Dr. Claire Higgins

EHRS Online Symposia

On April 29, 2026, the EHRS hosted a 1-hour online symposium to discuss JAK inhibitors, both in regard to basic research and also clinical application.

We had three great speakers. First was Dr. Karoline Strobl who discussed her recent publication about JAK-STAT signalling and inflammation in fibrosing alopecias. Next, Dr. Yuval Ramot presented on if there is a rationale for using JAK inhibitors to address the "silent" inflammation in female pattern hair loss. Lastly, Dr. Marisa Mathieu discussed the availability of JAK inhibitors as therapeutics for alopecia in Europe and regulations in different countries that affect accessibility for patients.



Karoline Strobl



Dr. Yuval Ramot



Dr. Marisa Mathieu

EHRS online symposium

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

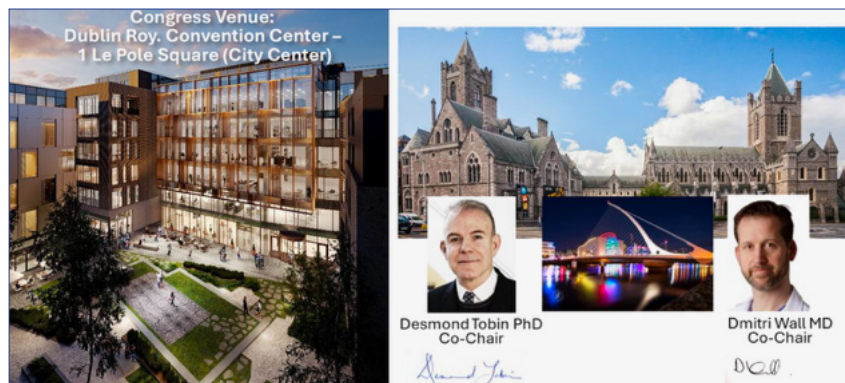
22ND Annual MEETING of the EHRS | DUBLIN, Ireland | June 10–12, 2027

The EHRS annual meeting is coming to Ireland for the first time June 10–12, 2027. Desmond Tobin & Dmitri Wall (& our all-Island local organizing committee) extend a *Céad míle fáilte* ("100,000 welcomes" in English) to basic/applied researchers and clinical colleagues and encourage you to join us in Dublin, the 841 AD Viking-established capital city of our "Emerald Isle."

Hair diversity is extraordinary in Ireland, due in part to our unique blend of ancient genetics—we seem to have every natural colour of hair in Ireland (apart from emerald!). The 22nd EHRS annual meeting will be held in newly opened (2023) Dublin Royal Convention Centre, 30 km from Dublin airport (note: Ireland is not in the Schengen area, but you do not need a visa if you are an EU/EEA citizen). The city-center meeting venue is within walking distance to all the key historical and cultural sites (and hotels) of our designated UNESCO City of Literature.

June in Dublin typically has mild, pleasant weather with long days (sunrise ~5AM; sunset ~10PM), featuring high temperatures of 16–20°C and lows near 10°C. June is generally sunny, but variable, so make sure to bring a light raincoat and umbrella to keep your locks dry.

Our proposed EHRS Meeting themes include: A) Community Theme – Building Hair Research Capacity across Europe; B) Hair Science – Basic including: United Colours of Hair; The Aging Scalp; and Hair Science – Clinical including: Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia, Hair in Menopause, and AI in hair and scalp clinical science Trichoscopy, in addition to the usual full range of topics covered. We look forward to welcoming new and old friends to Dublin (from the Irish Gaelic Dubh Linn, which translates to “black pool”) for the perfect synthesis of European basic and clinical hair research science.



22nd Annual Meeting of the EHRS to be held in Dublin, Ireland in 2027.

WCHR 2028 | MADRID, SPAIN | MAY 23–26, 2028

Save the date! We now have the dates and venue for the WCHR 2028 in Madrid: it will take place May 23–26, 2028, at the Meliá Castilla Hotel, right in the heart of Madrid. May is a fantastic time to visit Madrid, and the hotel's location—very close to the Five Towers and the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium (Real Madrid football club)—will allow you to enjoy not only the latest scientific advances but also the magic of Madrid.

Together with Dr. David Saceda (co-chair of the conference) and Dr. Ángela Hermosa (conference secretary), we are already working on the scientific program to include not only the latest developments in clinical and basic research in hair disorders but also highly practical sessions that will be extremely useful for day-to-day practice with patients with alopecia. You can stay up to date by visiting the conference's official website: www.hair2028.org

Following the great success of the WCHR 2026 in Korea, we face the challenge of maintaining the same high standards of scientific excellence and networking for our conference. You're all invited!

Big hugs to you all!

Sergio Vañó-Galván



WCHR 2028 Madrid organizing committee



WCHR 2028 Madrid Save the Date

JOHN EBLING LECTURE: My Life in Hair | Gillian Westgate (University of Bradford, UK)

Being awarded the John Ebling Lecture for 2026 and preparing my talk “My Life in Hair” gave me enormous pride and pleasure. Condensing 40 years of hair research into a short talk was made possible by recalling all the lovely people I met and worked with along the way, the many projects I have worked on and the many places I have had the privilege to visit—usually with the EHRS or WCHR conferences. This talk is really my way of saying thank you to those who have journeyed with me and to my family.

My career began in 1981 having joined Unilever Research in their basic skin science group at Colworth Laboratory. My project was to understand the role of basement membrane (BM) components in maintaining healthy skin which included the newly described Bullous Pemphigoid antigen (BPA), then considered a BM component. Working with Walter Gibson, I recognized that the BP antibody staining was punctate leading to our demonstrating that BPA was a component of the hemidesmosome. This focus on the extracellular matrix led to the first of my career-long collaborations with Andrew Messenger: studying ECM in human skin, the hair cycle, and in some of the first ever cultured human hair dermal papilla cells. It was back then that I met John Ebling who would wander into any discussion on our visits to Sheffield and without hesitation make a valuable contribution.

Inspired by some work published in the 1960s by Billingham and Silvers, the strange finding that the BP staining was much reduced in the hair bulb BM and finding the lack of MHC1 expression in the HF cells, I ventured into the now well-established concept of immune privilege in hair growth—a forerunner to the work of Ralf Paus and Marta Bertolini understanding the importance of immune privilege collapse in alopecia areata.

Bans on using animals in Unilever research coincided with the arrival of Terence Kealey and Mike Philpott into my life, Mike as a Unilever funded PhD student. This led to our developing the now well-described Philpott Model with guidance from Terence and my great friend and colleague Martin Green—now sadly not with us. In studies to characterize the media requirements I established that follicles grew best in serum-free media supplemented with Insulin and hydrocortisone. This collaboration started the understanding of the unusual metabolism of the hair follicle and tied in nicely with **her** idea for a new hair care brand, Organics. Together with Johann Wiechers and Paul Cornwell—both masters of skin delivery science—we supported the first ever root nourishing claims.

In 1997, supported by Unilever, I defended my PhD in Utrecht with a very memorable party afterwards and 1,000 copies of my little Thesis book were printed and copies sent around the world.

My Unilever career came to an abrupt halt in 2002 and then got started again in 2003 when I was asked back as a consultant to help run two huge workshops: one on hair greying and one on curly hair genetics. I was also given a budget, with Martin Green, to re-establish an external hair biology research programme for Unilever which set up my long-standing friendship and collaboration with Claire Higgins and Des Tobin.

As a result of the curly hair workshop, I helped collate and review the literature on how curly hair forms—guided by such wonderful hair biologists as Bruno Bernard. More recently, working with Gabriela Daniels, we reviewed and redefined textured hair by property rather than ethnic origin—something now generally accepted.

In 2007, I was invited by Des to establish the basis for a Skin and Hair Research Centre at the University of Bradford. This became the Centre for Skin Sciences, and in 2009, I joined CSS to lead the industry-academic collaboration activities—initially for 3 years—but I ended up staying for 13. This was a formidable scientific team led by Des with top hair researchers including Vladimir Botchkarev, Natasha Botchkareva, Val Randall, Julie Thornton, Andrei Mardaryev, Mike Fessing amongst many others—producing a vast number of research papers in a highly productive decade. My role was in the translational space between science and product development working with so many great collaborators in Aveda, Unilever, Boots, L’Oreal, Philips... to name a few.

A new area of hair science that I got involved in was the role of light on the hair follicle, initially on IPL-based hair removal models with Philips, then in a joint Bradford–Philips EU Marie Curie funded doctoral training programme studying visible light effects in hair follicles and wounds. This programme was very productive including the first description of the expression of cryptochromes and opsins in the hair follicle.

In 2015, I helped establish the foundations of a 10+-year collaboration with Estée Lauder/Aveda discovering the chronological ageing signature of the dermal cell populations in the female scalp. This has been a great example of industry academic collaboration and my time at Bradford was treasured working with Julie Thornton, Rachael Williams, Richard Baker and Alison Pawlus and Jeanna Zguris from Aveda.

The Korean Hair Research Society

Bark-Lynn Lew MD, PhD, International Relationship Director of KHRS | bellotte@hanmail.net | <http://www.khrs.or.kr/>

2026 PAST EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

14th World Congress for Hair Research 2026

The 14th World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR 2026) was successfully held May 28–31, 2026, at COEX in Seoul, Korea. Hosted by the International Federation of Hair Research Societies (IFHRS) and organized by the Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS), the Congress was led by Congress Presidents Prof. Chang-Hun Huh, Prof. Ohsang Kwon, and Prof. Moon-Bum Kim. This was the first WCHR held in Korea in 12 years since the Jeju meeting, and it marked the largest WCHR to date, bringing together 1,418 registered participants from 60 countries, with 1,673 participants in total, including media and industry representatives. Under the theme “Awakening the Soul of Hair Science,” WCHR 2026 reflected the growing global momentum in hair science and hair disorder research.

The scientific program featured 54 official scientific sessions, 209 lectures and presentations, and 760 free papers, including 298 poster presentations and 462 e-posters. A total of 207 speakers, chairs, and panelists contributed to the program, covering a broad range of topics across clinical, translational, and basic hair research. Major highlights included recent advances in alopecia areata, cicatricial alopecia, androgenetic alopecia, hair follicle biology, regenerative medicine, organoid and stem cell research, digital health, trichoscopy, and emerging therapeutic strategies. In particular, sessions on difficult-to-treat hair disorders and novel approaches in regenerative medicine generated lively discussion and reflected the rapidly expanding future of the field.

WCHR 2026 also provided an important platform for young investigators and early-career researchers. Outstanding academic contributions were recognized through various awards, including The Jürgen Schweizer Prize, The Byung In Ro Prize, WCHR 2026 IFHRS Travel Grants, Best Clinical Case Awards, and official recognition for Poster Walk presenters. These awards highlighted the strength and diversity of current hair research, from fundamental hair follicle biology to clinically relevant studies aimed at improving patient care.

Beyond the scientific sessions, WCHR 2026 offered a valuable opportunity to strengthen international collaboration among researchers, clinicians, and industry partners from Asia, Europe, the Americas, and beyond. The Congress also showcased Korean culture through special events and networking programs, adding a memorable local flavor to the global scientific gathering. The KHRS was deeply honored to host this landmark meeting in Seoul and sincerely thanks all participants, speakers, chairs, sponsors, and organizing committee members who contributed to the success of WCHR 2026.

The next World Congress for Hair Research will be held in 2028 in Madrid, Spain, where the global hair research community will continue to build on the enthusiasm and collaborations fostered in Seoul.



WCHR 2026 by the numbers



KHRS members celebrating the successful completion of WCHR 2026 in Seoul.

2026 Alopecia Areata Foundation Hope Festival

The 2026 Alopecia Areata Foundation Hope Festival was held January 17–18 at Lotte Resort Sokcho in Gangwon-do, Korea. Hosted by the Korea Alopecia Areata Patient Association and supported by the KHRS and Pfizer Korea, the event brought together patients with alopecia areata and their families. The festival included a celebratory performance, an appreciation award ceremony, an educational lecture on the latest treatments for alopecia areata, and an art program for children. The event provided an opportunity to share updated medical information, offer emotional support, and strengthen solidarity among patients and families living with alopecia areata.



2026 Hope Festival

KHRS Session at the 77th Annual Spring Meeting of the Korean Dermatological Association

The KHRS participated in the 77th Annual Spring Meeting of the Korean Dermatological Association, held April 16–17, 2026, at Songdo Convensia in Incheon, Korea. During Focus Session 1, Prof. Hyun-Sun Park of Seoul National University Hospital presented a lecture entitled, “De-Escalation of JAK Inhibitor in Alopecia Areata.” The lecture addressed the clinically important issue of reducing or discontinuing JAK inhibitor therapy after remission, reviewing recent evidence on relapse risk, durability of response, and individualized tapering strategies in alopecia areata.



Prof. Hyun-Sun Park presenting on JAK inhibitor de-escalation in alopecia areata.

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th KHRS Hair Forum | Daejeon, Korea | August 22, 2026

The 24th KHRS Hair Forum is scheduled to be held August 22 at the auditorium of the Regional Rheumatoid and Degenerative Arthritis Center, Chungnam National University Hospital, in Daejeon. This Hair Forum will provide an interactive platform where participants can freely share ongoing studies, ask clinical questions, and share fresh research ideas inspired by daily practice, while fostering lively discussion and future collaboration among clinicians and researchers interested in hair science.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

JW Lee, HT Shin, Y Lee, DY Kim, J Park, GS Choi. **Clinical efficacy and safety of baricitinib in patients with alopecia areata in Korea.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2025 Oct;37(5):307-313. doi: 10.5021/ad.25.059.

Summary: This retrospective multicenter study evaluated the real-world efficacy and safety of baricitinib in 117 Korean patients with alopecia areata who received oral baricitinib 4 mg daily for at least 36 weeks. SALT scores significantly improved from baseline at all time points. By week 36, 55.4% of patients with baseline SALT > 50 and 48.9% of those with baseline SALT > 95 achieved SALT ≤ 20. Patients with less severe baseline disease showed greater improvement, with higher rates of SALT 75, SALT 90, and SALT 100 responses. Adverse reactions were mostly mild to moderate and manageable. These findings support baricitinib as a well-tolerated and effective real-world treatment option for Korean patients with treatment-resistant alopecia areata.

JW Shin, K Paik, JI Na, BL Lew, CH Huh. **Long-term efficacy and safety of low-level laser therapy for androgenetic alopecia: A 12-month prospective trial.** *Dermatol Ther.* 2026 Jan 8. doi: 10.1155/dth/6621458.

Summary: This 12-month prospective, open-label study evaluated the long-term efficacy and safety of a home-use helmet-type low-level laser therapy (LLLT) device in 68 patients with androgenetic alopecia. Participants used the device three times weekly for 20 minutes over 48 weeks. Hair density significantly increased from 99.2 to 124.2 hairs/cm², and mean hair shaft thickness improved from 65.1 to 74.9 μm. Improvements were observed across sex and disease severity subgroups. At week 48, 59% of participants were rated as improved on global photographic assessment,

and more than 85% reported treatment satisfaction. No device-related adverse events were observed. These findings support home-use LLLT as a safe, well-tolerated, and practical long-term treatment option for patients with androgenetic alopecia.

JM Shin, B Go, YJ Seo, CD Kim, KE Jung, Y Lee. **The clinical efficacy and mechanism of action of alitretinoin in the treatment of alopecia areata.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2026 Apr;38(2):129-135. doi: 10.5021/ad.25.090.

Summary: This retrospective study evaluated alitretinoin in 21 patients with alopecia areata, either as monotherapy or add-on therapy. SALT scores significantly improved in both groups, particularly in patients with baseline SALT scores below 50, and adverse events were generally mild. In vitro, alitretinoin suppressed inflammatory cytokines, reduced STAT1/STAT3 activation, and downregulated MHC class I expression in stimulated outer root sheath cells. These findings suggest that alitretinoin may be a safe and potentially useful option for selected patients with mild to moderate alopecia areata.

H Hwangbo, A Pu, W Tan, E Dotse, H Sun, X Gan, YG Park, Y Lai, SJ Park, I Choi, IR Oh, KT Chow, SH Moon, HW Kim, BC Park, K Ban. **Cell-free therapy for alopecia via the secretome of hiPSC-derived dermal papilla cells.** *J Tissue Eng.* 2026 May 19;17:20417314261449597. doi: 10.1177/20417314261449597.

Summary: This study developed human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived dermal papilla cells (hiPSC-DPCs) and evaluated their conditioned medium as a cell-free therapy for alopecia. hiPSC-DPC conditioned medium accelerated anagen re-entry and hair regrowth in mice, promoted hair-shaft elongation ex vivo, and enhanced proliferation and migration of dermal papilla cells and keratinocytes. It also showed anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective, and anti-androgenic effects by modulating growth factor-related pathways and suppressing androgen receptor activity. These findings suggest the therapeutic potential of the hiPSC-DPC secretome as a regenerative cell-free approach for alopecia.

JH Lim, DH Kang, H Moon, SH Kwon, BL Lew. **The role of inflammasome in the pathogenesis of alopecia areata: NLRP3 and its cascade contribute to the onset and early stage of alopecia areata.** *Ann Dermatol.* 2026 Jun;38(3):202-209. doi: 10.5021/ad.25.184.

Summary: This study investigated the involvement of the NLRP3 inflammasome pathway in the pathogenesis of alopecia areata (AA) using scalp tissue and serum samples from 144 patients with AA and 22 healthy controls. Lesional interleukin-1 β expression was elevated in AA across disease stages, while CXCL10 and serum interferon- γ levels were particularly increased during the progressive stage. Immunostaining showed strong NLRP3 and caspase-1 expression in the outer root sheath during the initial and progressive stages, but not in the recovery stage. These findings suggest that NLRP3 inflammasome activation may contribute to the onset and early progression of AA.

MEMBER AWARDS

Prof. Doyoung Kim Receives The Byung In Ro Prize at WCHR 2026

Prof. Doyoung Kim of the Department of Dermatology, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Korea, received The Byung In Ro Prize for the best clinical research presentation at the 14th World Congress for Hair Research, an award established by the KHRS to honor the legacy of Prof. Byung In Ro, the founding president of KHRS.

His presentation, entitled "Stepwise Conservative Baricitinib Tapering in Alopecia Areata Patients Who Achieved Remission," addressed an important and timely clinical question regarding treatment de-escalation in alopecia areata patients who respond well to JAK inhibitor therapy. The KHRS sincerely congratulates Prof. Kim on this meaningful achievement.



Prof. Doyoung Kim receiving The Byung In Ro Prize at WCHR 2026.

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

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you that the Russian Hair Research Society continues to grow and has entered 2026 with **449 active members**. In accordance with the plans during the first half of the year, we conducted several training courses and online webinars, including the following:

- February 3, 2026 | Webinar “World News: **JAK Inhibitors for Adult and Pediatric Alopecia Areata**” (140 participants)
- February 14–15, 2026 | Training course on **Androgenetic Alopecia** (13 participants from 8 cities)
- February 16–17, 2026 | Training course on **Phototrichogram** (11 participants from 7 cities)
- March 13, 2026 | Webinar “World News: **What’s New in AGA**” (190 participants)
- April 17–18, 2026 | Training course on **Trichoscopy** (33 participants from 20 cities)
- April 19–20, 2026 | Training course on **Hair Disorders Therapy** (33 participants from 21 cities)



Training course on Phototrichogram (left); training course on Hair Disorders Therapy (right)

A major highlight for the first half of the year was **RHRS participation in the World Congress for Hair Research (WCHR) 2026**. We'd like to thank the Korean Hair Research Society for their hospitality and support, and of course for the perfect Congress setup—this meeting will go down in RHRS history as a landmark event.



RHRS group at WCHR 2026

We are proud to announce that the **Russian delegation ranked 4th in attendance among all participating countries**, with 72 delegates. We sincerely thank the entire WCHR organizing committee and especially Congress Co-President Dr. Chang-Hun Huh for the kind invitation and such a unique opportunity for Russian doctors and researchers to be with the world hair science and trichology community not only mentally but also physically.

The cutting-edge scientific program, hospitable social events, flawless organization, and friendly atmosphere made WCHR the definitive hair science event of 2026. It was a great honor for our specialists to contribute to the main sessions and to present posters and talks. We are also grateful for the opportunity to have had a dedicated RHRS session in Russian.

We congratulate the KHRS on a highly successful Congress, and we wish the Korean Society continued success.

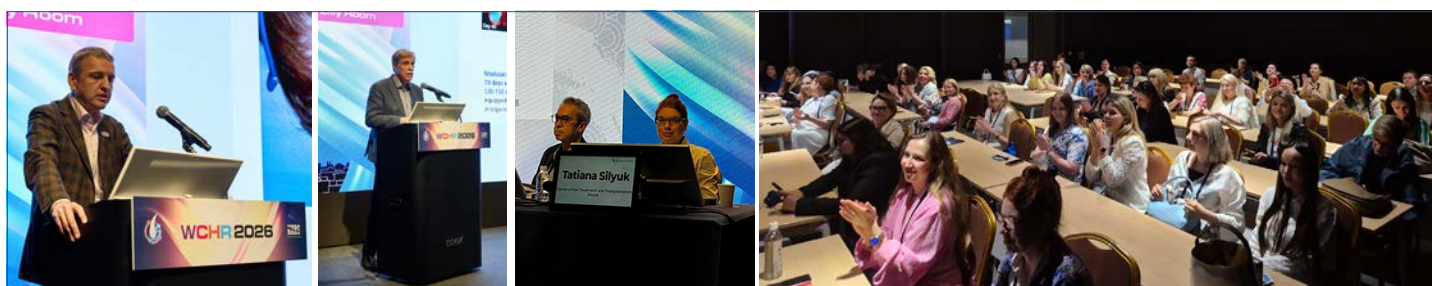
We are also pleased to announce that **Dr. Andrei Doroshkevich—current Vice President of the RHRS—was elected as a board member of the European Hair Research Society (EHRS)**. We congratulate him on this new appointment, and we are confident he will make a valuable contribution to European hair science and trichology.

14th WCHR 2026
May 28 (THU) - 31 (SUN), Seoul, Korea

Participation
1415 Registered Scientific Participants from 59 Countries.
1700 participants including exhibition visitors and Media

Country	# of Regi.	Country	# of Regi.	Country	# of Regi.	Country	# of Regi.
Argentina	2	Egypt	3	Mexico	9	South Africa	2
Australia	16	France	6	Moldova	1	Spain	27
Austria	1	Georgia	1	Morocco	1	Sweden	2
Bahrain	1	Germany	17	Nepal	3	Switzerland	6
Belarus	3	Greece	4	Netherlands	6	Taiwan	17
Belgium	3	Hong Kong	4	New Zealand	2	Tajikistan	2
Brazil	37	India	8	Panama	1	Thailand	16
Canada	9	Indonesia	15	Philippines	8	Turkey	3
Chile	2	Ireland	4	Poland	6	Ukraine	29
China	378	Israel	8	Romania	1	United Kingdom	46
Colombia	3	Italy	20	Saudi Arabia	3	United States	105
Costa Rica	1	Japan	61	Russia	72	Uzbekistan	8
Croatia	1	Kazakhstan	4	Serbia	1	Vietnam	1
Czechia	3	Kenya	1	Singapore	12	Korea	399
Denmark	1	Malaysia	4	Slovenia	5	Total	1,415

Official WCHR statistics



Photos from the main session and dedicated RHRS session in Russian (far right) at WCHR 2026

More recently we had another great (while domestic) event: the **Annual National Congress of the RHRS, which took place July 1–3 in St. Petersburg**, bringing together 386 participants.

The key highlights of the Congress focused on the following major themes:

- “Retinoids in Hair Disorders”
- “Photobiomodulation and Lasers”
- “JAK Inhibitors: What We Know and Can Do in 2026?”
- “Pediatric Trichology: Where Norm Ends and Pathology Begins”
- “A Deep Dive into Antiandrogens for Women”
- “Hair Disorders: What Occurs Beyond the Scalp?”

To cover these topics comprehensively, the scientific program featured 82 lectures and presentations delivered by 67 speakers from all over Russia.



Participants of the 11th Annual RHRS Congress

To promote interdisciplinary collaboration, our Congress also featured presentations given by oncologists, rheumatologists, endocrinologists, and general practitioners. In their presentations, these experts addressed side effects and clinical limitations of JAK inhibitors and retinoid use in clinical practice.

Despite being a domestic event, our Congress also featured international participation, which included pre-recorded lectures from world-leading experts: Antonella Tosti, Bianca Maria Piraccini, Rodrigo Pirmez, Daniel Fernandes Melo, Jeff Donovan, Jorge Larrondo, David Saceda Corralo, Ramon Grimalt, Yuval Ramot, and Hyung-Suk Kim. We are deeply grateful to each of them for sharing their expertise and supporting our event!

The “Round Tables with Experts” featured 16 discussion topics. This format generated strong interest among attendees, despite the early start time at 7:45AM.



Round Tables with Experts



Genetically modified and mutant mice from the laboratory of RHRS President Andrey Panteleyev became the unconventional highlight of the professional exhibition. These little guys demonstrated complete hairlessness and a unique ability of their skin to glow green under UV light. Our clinicians were finally able to see them live—rather than just on slides—and even touch them!

The Neva River boat cruise (which has become a welcome reception tradition) on July 1 and the Gala Dinner on July 2 provided an excellent opportunity for informal communication and building new connections.

Our Congress marked the end of the first half of 2026, but our educational courses and webinars will continue into the autumn–winter season of 2026. We are already preparing for the **“One Day of Power” Conference, scheduled for December 11–12, 2026, in Moscow**. Starting this year, it will expand into a two-day format, which will likely require a new name, and we are currently working on this.

We are also about to present the **Russian translation of the second edition of the book *Trichology: A Practical Guide* (#TricoHRC)**. This translation was made with the support of the Russian Hair Research Society and was **edited by Tatiana Silyuk**.

As we move into the second half of the year, the RHRS is full of plans and hope for the successful completion of 2026—both professionally and socially.



Genetically modified and mutant mice from the laboratory of RHRS President Andrey Panteleyev



Final session of the third day of the RHRS Congress



The Society for Hair Science Research (Japan)

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

2026 PAST EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

SHSR at WCHR 2026

To start, we would like to express our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the organizers of the World Congress for Hair Research 2026 (Seoul, Korea, May 28-31, 2026), especially Congress Co-Presidents, Prof. Chang-Hun Huh, Prof. Ohsang Kwon, and Prof. Moon-Bun Kim. This WCHR proved the Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS)'s dedication to the field of hair science. As the representative of a neighboring hair research society that has been closely connected with the KHRS, I would like to celebrate the great success of this memorable event that had widespread participation. Indeed, SHSR members not only actively participated in but also fully enjoyed WCHR 2026.

Thanks to the generous selection by the scientific committee, a few SHSR key researchers were able to show their presence at this fantastic meeting (Figure 1), which nicely merged basic and clinical hair science.

This author was given a chance to deliver the opening address representing the SHSR (Figure 2) and also to give remarks at the closing ceremony. With regard to the basic science presentations, Prof. Emi Nishimura (University of Tokyo), Dr. Hironobu Fujiwara (RIKEN), and this author gave a talk individually on the recent or ongoing research focusing on stem cell biology and mesenchymal cell investigation. Prof. Yutaka Shimomura (Yamaguchi University), Prof. Kazutoshi Harada (Tokyo Medical University), A. Prof. Masaki Uchiyama (Tokyo Medical University), and A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise (Kyorin University), and this author had a chance to present recent findings from clinical or translational research (e.g., genetic diseases, regenerative medicine, international guideline comparison, and imaging technology). Other SHSR colleagues, including Dr. Tatsuto Kageyama from Prof. Junji Fukuda's lab (Yokohama National University) and Dr. Kaori Yauchi from Prof. Rica Tanaka's lab (Juntendo University), presented their recent data at symposiums. Prof. Taisuke Ito (Hamamatsu Medical University), Prof. Rie Ueki (Juntendo University), Prof. Yasuyuki Amoh (Kitasato University), and this author chaired scientific sessions. The SHSR next-generation leadership, A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise, A. Prof. Masaki Uchiyama, and A. Prof. Ryota Hayashi (Niigata University) also contributed to Poster Walk sessions as moderators.

Fostering young investigators represents one of the key missions of the SHSR. To achieve this goal, the SHSR, in collaboration with the WCHR organizing committee and the International Federation of Hair Research Societies (IFHRS), provided travel grants to promising young investigators. For this WCHR, Dr. Moyuka Irimada (Tohoku University), Dr. Kaori Yauchi, Dr. Tatsuro Iwasaki (Kyorin University), Dr. Takahiro Suda (Yamaguchi University), and Dr. Yoshihiro Kawai (Shimane University) were awarded IFHRS travel grants (Figure 3).



Figure 1. SHSR members at WCHR 2026



Figure 2. This author delivered the opening address.



Figure 3. The SHSR IFHRS travel grant awardees, Dr. Tatsuro Iwasaki (left) and Dr. Yoshihiro Kawai (right)

This WCHR was full of entertainment, not limited to those demonstrated at the opening ceremony (Taekwondo show), the presidential dinner (musical), and the social event (music and dance!). Of note, the hand-drawn images of speakers (Figure 4) eloquently showed the great hospitality of the KHRS.

Networking and reuniting with colleagues and old friends, let alone scientific updates, are so important at international in-person meetings. Thanks to kind consideration, the SHSR was able to hold our board of directors meeting and the general assembly on-site. SHSR members also had the opportunity to enjoy the world-famous Korean barbecue (Figure 5).



Figure 5. SHSR members enjoyed the world-famous Korean barbecue.

Additional SHSR Activities

The activities of the SHSR extend beyond the WCHR. In collaboration with the Japanese Dermatological Association (JDA), selected members of the SHSR are working hard to update/disseminate the latest news from the field of hair science. For example, SHSR members organized an educational lecture at the last JDA annual meeting, which was held June 11–14, 2026, in Kyoto (Figure 6). In this session, novel approaches to managing hair loss disorders were introduced to general dermatologists, including the use of JAK inhibitors for severe alopecia areata in patients who relapse while receiving treatment and the application of dermal sheath cup cell transplantation for male and female pattern hair loss.

The SHSR does not typically hold its official annual meeting in years the WCHR takes place. This year, however, we hope to organize an opportunity to exchange ideas, possibly in the autumn.



Figure 4. A. Prof. Misaki Kinoshita-Ise (left) and Prof. Emi Nishimura (right) appreciated the hand-drawn images poster.



Figure 6. The SHSR contributed to the JDA annual meeting by organizing an educational seminar.

UHRS Ukrainian Hair Research Society

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

Dear colleagues,

The first half of 2026 has marked a remarkable chapter in the history of the Ukrainian Hair Research Society (UHRS). Over the past several months, we have successfully implemented national scientific initiatives, presented updated clinical guidelines, actively contributed to the 2026 World Congress for Hair Research, expanded our international educational platform, and strengthened scientific collaboration with colleagues across the globe. As we reflect on the first decade of UHRS, we realize that our greatest achievement cannot be measured by the number of congresses organized, publications produced, or projects completed. Instead, it is reflected in the scientific community we have built, the trust we have earned, and our shared belief that knowledge, when generously exchanged, has the power to improve patient care, inspire innovation, and unite professionals across borders. It is our pleasure to share with you the highlights of this remarkable journey.

2026 PAST EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

UHRS Congress 2026: National Guidelines. Global Expertise. New Era.

From January 31–February 1, 2026, Kyiv hosted the 6th UHRS Congress—a scientific event that marked an important milestone in the evolution of Ukrainian trichology (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/uhrs-congress-2026>). Bringing together more than 400 healthcare professionals, leading experts, and researchers from Ukraine, the United States, Brazil, Korea, Georgia, Switzerland, Lithuania, and Ireland, the Congress became one of the largest scientific meetings in the history of Ukrainian trichology. It served as a platform where Ukrainian clinical experience met global expertise, creating a shared vision for the future of hair medicine.

More than a scientific meeting, UHRS Congress 2026 became the platform where the *Updated National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Alopecia Areata* were officially introduced to the Ukrainian dermatology community (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/trichology-library>). Reflecting years of collaborative work by the UHRS expert committee, the *Guidelines* represent a new stage in the implementation of evidence-based medicine in Ukraine and further strengthen the integration of international standards into national clinical practice.

The scientific programme reflected the multidisciplinary nature of modern trichology,



Opening Ceremony of the 6th Congress of the Ukrainian Hair Research Society (left to right): Prof. Inessa Serbina, Vice President of UHRS; Prof. Yuliya Ovcharenko, President of UHRS; Dr. Kuzma Khobzei, Secretary General of UHRS



Presidential Report 2025: Prof. Yuliya Ovcharenko, President of the UHRS, presenting the society's annual report and key achievements



Official presentation of the Updated National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Alopecia Areata at the 2026 UHRS Congress

embracing advances in clinical diagnostics, regenerative medicine, pediatric trichology, psychotrichology, and contemporary therapeutic approaches. Integrated masterclasses, multidisciplinary discussions, interactive clinical sessions, and live transcontinental broadcasts created a dynamic educational environment that fostered meaningful dialogue between Ukrainian clinicians and internationally recognized experts.

In keeping with its long-standing commitment to fostering professional excellence, the UHRS awarded international travel grants through two of its long-standing educational initiatives. Drs. Anna Khaldieieva and Elina Dubrovskaya, winners of the interactive Clinical-Trichoscopic Quiz, received travel grants to attend WCHR 2026 in Seoul. Dr. Tetiana Boichuk, winner of the annual Clinical Case Competition conducted through the UHRS Education platform, was awarded a travel grant and will represent the UHRS at the upcoming World Trichoscopy Congress (WCT 2026) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished international and Ukrainian faculty for their trust, generosity, and outstanding scientific contributions. We are equally grateful to our partners for their long-term commitment and for sharing our belief that meaningful progress in medicine is built on enduring values, mutual trust, and strategic collaboration. Our deepest appreciation goes to every participant. Your presence is what transforms scientific meetings into a true professional community. By joining us despite the extraordinary circumstances under which Ukrainian physicians continue to live and work, you reaffirmed that our professional community remains vibrant, resilient, and united by a shared commitment to scientific excellence.



Presentation of the UHRS Travel Grant to Dr. Tetiana Boichuk, winner of the annual Clinical Case Competition, for participation in the upcoming World Trichoscopy Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

UHRS at WCHR 2026, Seoul

The World Congress for Hair Research 2026 in Seoul provided an important opportunity for the UHRS to contribute to the international scientific programme and to strengthen professional collaboration with colleagues from around the world. Participation in the WCHR continues to play a valuable role in fostering scientific exchange, presenting Ukrainian research, and advancing international partnerships.

The Ukrainian delegation presented original scientific research through both oral and poster presentations. Prof. Yuliya Ovcharenko delivered an oral presentation introducing new concepts and clinical perspectives in psychotrichology. Among the poster presentations, Drs. Liubov Mukomela and Lesia Stelmakh presented clinical case-based research, Dr. Kuzma Khobzei reported an original study on optimizing hair transplantation planning in patients with androgenetic alopecia using mathematical modeling, and Dr. Sofia Ovcharenko introduced the clinical and trichoscopic characterization of a newly described psychotrichological disorder, Accumulation Effluvium.

Behind each of these presentations stands years of collaborative work, continuous learning, mutual support, and a shared belief that Ukrainian trichology deserves to be heard within the global scientific community. Despite the extraordinary challenges our country has faced in recent years, we continue to advance scientific research, medical education, clinical practice, and international collaboration. Throughout this journey, professional relationships have evolved into something far more meaningful than scientific cooperation alone. They have become friendships built on trust, respect, and shared values.

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Members of the UHRS delegation at WCHR 2026 in Seoul

For this reason, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Korean Hair Research Society and the Organizing Committee of WCHR 2026 for hosting an outstanding World Congress that combined scientific excellence with genuine hospitality. We are especially grateful for the thoughtful support and special registration conditions extended to Ukrainian participants, which enabled many of our colleagues to take part in this important international scientific event. Your kindness and solidarity are deeply appreciated and will always remain an important part of the history of the UHRS.

UHRS EDUCATION: EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE BEYOND BORDERS

One of the most important directions of UHRS development continues to be the expansion of UHRS Education—an international educational platform created to make high-quality trichology education accessible regardless of geographical borders (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/>). During the first half of 2026, the platform continued to grow both scientifically and internationally, bringing together an expanding network of distinguished faculty from Europe, North and South America, and Asia. Today, UHRS Education has evolved into a collaborative learning environment where internationally recognized experts and Ukrainian specialists share insights and experience, discuss challenging clinical cases, and contribute to the continuous professional development of physicians. A major milestone this year was the launch of an international hair histopathology educational programme, developed in collaboration with Prof. Maria Fernanda Gavazzoni (Brazil) (<https://www.uhrs-education.com/kurs-z-histopatolohii>). The course combines practical clinicopathological experience with contemporary international standards, making highly specialized knowledge available to Ukrainian dermatologists in their native language.

Beyond educational programmes, the platform continues to support interactive learning through clinical case competitions, expert discussions, and multidisciplinary educational initiatives that encourage scientific thinking, clinical excellence, and international collaboration. As UHRS enters its second decade, education remains one of our society's greatest investments in the future. By sharing knowledge across borders, languages, and generations, we continue to build a professional community connected not only by science, but also by common values, curiosity, and mutual respect.



Leaders of the IFHRS member societies together at the Opening Ceremony of WCHR 2026 in Seoul

2028 AND BEYOND

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

2028

15th WCHR

May 23–26, 2028

Madrid, Spain

Venue: Melia Castilla Hotel

European Hub

Organizing Groups: EHRS

www.hair2028.org

2030

16th WCHR

Shanghai, China

Open Hub

Organizing Group: Association of China Medicine Education in Dermatology and Health Professional Committee (ACMED)



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