

International Forum for the Study of Itch (IFSI)

IFSI, 2200 Silas Creek Parkway Suite 7B, Winston-Salem NC 27103 USA



IFSI NEWSLETTER December 2022

Dear IFSI Members,

This newsletter gives you an update about developments in our society.

World Congress on Itch (WCI) 2023

Preparations for the 12th World Congress on Itch are in full progress. The congress will be held as a face-to-face meeting in Miami, Florida, USA, from November 5-7, 2023. The Local Organizing Committee around chair person Gil Yosipovitch works hard to set up a successful event. So a first version of the preliminary program is already online on the WCI website: <https://www.itchworldcongress2023.com>

The content of the program will be broad and comprises different aspects of "itch" including e. g. pediatrics, ethics, allergology and veterinary medicine. The Young Investigator Council (YIC) of IFSI will organize an own 2-hour session during the WCI with interesting presentations and discussions. The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of IFSI will get a separate time-slot for their program on Sunday afternoon, November 5, 2023. The program will be updated on the WCI website step by step.

Online registration will open in January 2023 and the deadline for abstract submission is fixed on August 1, 2023.

All posters will be electronic posters.

Travel grants for young scientists will be awarded again this time (basic research, clinical research). Information on how to apply will follow as soon as possible. IFSI will finance at least five travel grants.

International Societies for Investigative Dermatology (ISID) 2023

The International Societies for Investigative Dermatology meeting will be held in Tokyo, Japan, as a face-to-face event on May 10-13, 2023: <https://isid2023.org>

Deadline for submission of abstracts is on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 11:59 PM (Eastern Time US): <https://isid2023.abstractcentral.com>

The time slot for the IFSI sponsored satellite meeting is 12:00-15:00 JST (3:00-6:00 GMT, 5:00-8:00 CET) at May 10, 2023, just before the opening ceremony. Most of the participants and speakers will come from Japan. IFSI board member Hiroyuki Murota from Japan will take care of the organization of the IFSI satellite meeting and will serve as a chairperson. IFSI supports the satellite meeting with 5000 USD.

Board of Directors:

Officers:

President:
Elke Weisshaar, MD
Heidelberg, Germany

Vice-President:
Ethan Lerner, MD
Boston, USA

Secretary:
Hiroyuki Murota, MD
Nagasaki, Japan

Treasurer:
Alan Fleischer, MD
Cincinnati, USA

Directors:

Earl Carstens, PhD
Davis, USA

Thomas Mettang, MD
Wiesbaden, Germany

Matthias Ringkamp, MD
Baltimore, USA

Martin Schmelz, MD
Mannheim, Germany

Sonja Ständer, MD
Münster, Germany

Jacek Szepietowski, MD
Wroclaw, Poland

Kenji Takamori, MD
Tokyo, Japan

Gil Yosipovitch, MD
Miami, USA

Contact:

Elke Weisshaar, MD
University Hospital Heidelberg
Occupational Dermatology
Department of Dermatology
Vossstr. 2
D-69115 Heidelberg
Germany

Internet: <http://www.itchforum.net/>

IDEOM: workgroup Itch

“IDEOM” means: International **D**ERmatology **O**utcome **M**easures.

Aim of the “IDEOM: workgroup Itch” is the addressing of definitions, psychometrics, outcome measures (longtime perspective) and – reserved for later – of the classification of itch. Brian Kim is the leader of the IDEOM itch group and Sonja Ständer, IFSI board member, acts as his deputy.

During the IDEOM Annual Meeting in June 2022, the Itch workgroup met with relevant stakeholders, including patients. During this meeting, the current definition of itch was debated and criticised. Specifically, the patients mentioned that the emotional component referring to quality of life impairment was missing. As this is relevant for chronic itch states, a more precise definition of the different itch stages is desirable. Furthermore, compulsive and delusional disorders, such as excoriation disorder and delusions of parasitosis, respectively, are often conflated with chronic pruritus. As a new and comprehensive definition is a global endeavour and shall, in the best case, have an international significance, the initiators aim to involve all relevant associations (IFSI, Japanese Itch Society, EADV Task Force Pruritus, IASP itch group, IDEOM Itch workgroup) and other stakeholders.

In this context all IFSI members were already invited to help defining a new itch definition and to participate in an electronic survey in November 2022.

The working plan of the “IDEOM: workgroup Itch” is as follows:

- Invite members to join and to register for this activity: until the end of November 2022
- Collection of suggestions and discussion in regular meeting: January to September 2023
- Delphi-Consensus conference (online or at WCI Miami): November 2023
- Post-consensus harmonization and voting: December 2023
- Publication: Q1 2024

For more information to the “IDEOM: workgroup Itch” click here:
<https://www.dermoutcomes.org/itch.html>

Journal “ITCH”

IFSI continues the cooperation with Wolters Kluwer also in 2023.

We would like to remind all IFSI members again to submit manuscripts for your ITCH journal <https://journals.lww.com/itch/pages/default.aspx>

Reviews of any length, commentaries, small clinical or observational studies are welcome, not only research studies. You are encouraged to reach out directly to our editor, Ethan Lerner, elerner@mgh.harvard.edu.

With best wishes for 2023!

Elke Weisshaar
President

Ethan Lerner
Vice-President

Alan Fleischer
Treasurer

Hiroyuki Murota
Secretary