



European Dermatology Forum

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Skin and sexually transmitted diseases pose a huge health problem to Europe. These include cancers, infectious diseases and inflammatory processes. Many skin diseases are very common, can be quite severe, and are often chronic, thus placing a burden on health care budgets. Early diagnosis and expert management can lower these costs, reduce morbidity and greatly improve the quality of life for patients. It is the responsibility of dermatologists to provide leadership in the management, prevention, teaching and research of skin diseases and their treatment.

The European Dermatology Forum (EDF) is a pan-European society of heads of academic departments and key opinion leaders in dermatology. It is dedicated to promoting the highest possible standards in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases and thereby improve and extend the lives of patients in Europe with significant skin and sexually transmitted diseases. The EDF aims to achieve this through a number of initiatives which include production of pan-European guidelines setting standards of care and representing the needs of dermatological patients to healthcare providers. A further key initiative is the publication of a White Book delineating the critical issues facing patients with skin diseases in Europe.

Building upon the success of the past two editions, the EDF has published an expanded and definitive text on dermatological issues and solutions that will aid in development and implementation of dermatology care programs across Europe. This book describes the burden of skin and sexually transmitted diseases to Europe and shows how service provision varies across the continent. It outlines the high impact diseases and their management and provides up-to-date information on key areas of clinical and scientific advance. A directory of national dermatological associations, European dermatology societies and patient organisations complete a valuable resource that will inform all those involved in delivery of healthcare to patients. These extend from dermatologists, to healthcare providers to the pharmaceutical industry and to politicians.

The White Book is titled: **THE CHALLENGE OF SKIN DISEASES IN EUROPE. The launch is taking place at the EDF annual scientific meeting to be held in Luzern, Switzerland on Saturday, January 23rd 2010.**

Professor Annamari Ranki, Chair of Dermatology at University of Helsinki and President of EDF states: *'In an era of ageing skin and ever increasing incidence of skin cancer, the EDF provides leadership to highlight the critical issues in providing cost-effective care for patients with devastating skin diseases. This is encapsulated in the EDF White Book which will provide a key point of reference for all health care decision makers.'*

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