



Eminent Scientists Gather to Explore Connections Between Skin Diseases and Cancer, Psychiatric Disease and Heart Disease and Recommend New Research Agenda

Society for Investigative Dermatology Launches Project on Skin Disease Co-Morbidities
at Scientific Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland October 15-16, 2008

Washington, DC – October 7, 2008 – The Society for Investigative Dermatology's *2008 Burden of Skin Disease Co-Morbidities Conference* convenes at the Marriott Bethesda North Hotel & Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland on October 15-16, 2008. The conference launches the **SID Project on Skin Disease Co-Morbidities**. This groundbreaking project is designed to facilitate collaboration among medical researchers and clinicians from different disciplines to better understand the relationships among concurrent diseases.

The Bethesda launch conference will focus on associations between;

1. Cancer treatment and dermatologic side-effects;
2. Dermatologic disease and psychiatric disease; and
3. Dermatologic disease and cardiovascular disease, with a focus on psoriasis.

Leading academic, government, and industry researchers in dermatology, oncology, cardiology and psychiatry will discuss the current state of scientific investigation in these areas and recommend an initial research agenda to gain further understanding of the connections between dermatologic and other diseases.

"Medical researchers have begun to identify possible interplay between a number of diseases," said Dennis J. Barbour, Esq., SID chief executive officer. "In the area of dermatology, evidence is increasing that there may be a relationship between many dermatologic conditions and other serious diseases including cancer, heart disease and psychiatric disorders. Through its initiative, SID is helping to move research in this area forward in a very significant way."

Lowell A. Goldsmith, MD, MPH, conference chair, states "this conference is an essential step for researchers as they develop new strategies to define and quantitate important relationships between skin diseases and disorders of vessels, the brain, the immune system and tumors."

On October 15, noted expert in the application of epidemiologic methods to the study of drug use and effects, Brian Strom, MD, MPH, of the University of Pennsylvania will deliver the keynote presentation.

SID has received generous support for the 2008 *Burden of Skin Disease Co-Morbidities Conference* from Abbott, Amgen, and OSI Pharmaceuticals.

Founded in 1937 and headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, with offices in Washington, DC the SID has over 1700 members worldwide and is dedicated to the advancement and promotion of the sciences relevant to skin health and disease through education, advocacy and scholarly exchange of scientific information. The SID publishes the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, the premier journal dedicated to research in cutaneous biology. The annual meeting of the SID attracts over 1500 participants who gather to exchange research and information about the latest scientific advances in the field of dermatology. For more information about the SID and its activities, please visit www.sidnet.org.

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