



**SID Launches its *Burden of Skin Disease Co-Morbidities Project*
at Bethesda, Maryland Conference**

Washington, DC – October 24, 2008 - The Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) launched its initiative on *The Burden of Skin Disease Co-Morbidities* at a highly successful invitational scientific conference in Bethesda, Maryland on October 15 and 16, 2008. The purpose of the multi-year *Co-Morbidities* project is to explore connections between chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular and psychiatric disease and many skin conditions. The goal of the Bethesda conference was to establish the framework for the project.

Detailed information on the conference and the project can be found at <http://www.sidnetcommunity.org/como.htm>.

The conference, reflecting the nature of the project itself, was groundbreaking, assembling nationally renowned researchers and clinicians in psychiatry, oncology, cardiology and dermatology from the academic, governmental and industry sectors.

Nearly 100 invitees participated in the one and one-half day event, which was structured to facilitate consensus on the beginnings of a research agenda focused on examining skin disorders that co-occur with certain chronic diseases.

"Emerging research has begun to demonstrate an association between certain chronic diseases and skin disorders," said Lowell Goldsmith, MD, MPH, SID's Senior Scientific and Medical Advisor, "the pivotal question for the research community is whether this relationship is coincidental or causal."

To fully explore that question SID plans to develop a number of project components over the course of the next two years. These will include a series of technology-based information-sharing initiatives to facilitate collaboration between researchers in dermatology and chronic disease specialties, expansion of an online co-morbidities knowledge base that SID has already initiated, sponsorship of a follow-up symposium to report progress toward meeting the goals of the project at SID's 2009 annual meeting in Montreal, Canada, and a potential 2010 conference modeled on the 2008 conference to explore other disease "pairings".

"Based on anecdotal on-site commentary and the written evaluations of meeting participants this launch conference, which is hopefully the first step in an expanded process, was an enormous success," said Robert Swerlick, MD, SID Secretary Treasurer and a member of the Project Steering Committee.

In addition to SID, the conference was supported through educational grants from Abbott Immunology, Amgen/Wyeth, Centocor, and OSI Pharmaceuticals.

For more information on the Co-Morbidity Project, visit the website at: <http://www.sidnetcommunity.org/como.htm>

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.

Administrative Office: 526 Superior Avenue East, Suite 540 • Cleveland, OH 44114-1900 USA

216.579.9300 • 216.579.9333 (fax) • www.sidnet.org

Washington, DC Office: 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20036 USA

202.841.7475