

International Forum for the Study of Itch (IFSI)

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



NEWSLETTER June 2019

Dear IFSI Members,
We are pleased to inform you about past and future activities.

10th World Congress on Itch

Planning is moving ahead for our biennial congress, which takes place in Sydney, Australia November 17-19, 2019. Most importantly, the deadline for submission of Abstracts is June 30, 2019. We encourage you to submit an abstract, and register early for our congress. Abstracts may be submitted here:

<https://ifsi2019.com.au/abstract-posters/>

and registration here: <https://ifsi2019.com.au/registration/>

The early-bird registration fee is AUD\$1,000 for IFSI members, AUD\$650 for post-docs, residents and doctoral students, and AUD\$250 for full time students. More information about the congress is here: <https://ifsi2019.com.au/>

Travel grants

The deadline to apply for a travel grant to attend the 10th World Congress on itch is June 30, 2019. We currently offer 13 travel grants. Young scientists under the age of 35 have the opportunity to apply for an IFSI travel grant of US\$ 1500 per applicant. Please send a filled application form, a CV, scan of your passport and an abstract to Elke Weisshaar, MD (elke.weisshaar@med.uni-heidelberg.de) no later than June 30, 2019. See: <https://www.itchforum.net/events/>

Global Education Day

IFSI presented a symposium on Chronic Pruritus and Prurigo at the Global Education Day 2019 of the AAD (American Academy of Dermatology) meeting on Thursday, February 28th, 2019. There was an excellent turnout with more than 50 attendees. The symposium was generously sponsored by Galderma, Menlo Therapeutics and Trevi Therapeutics.

Itch Special Interest Group (SIG) in IASP

Many members of IFSI are also members of IASP, the International Association for the Study of Pain. Sarah Ross and Earl Carstens recently spearheaded an initiative to establish a special interest group (SIG) for itch which has now been accepted by IASP. The SIG is currently in the process of establishing a steering committee and applying to hold a symposium on itch (clinical and basic science) at the 2020 World Congress on Pain, to be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands August 4, 2019.

HOME VII (Harmonising Outcome Measures for Eczema)

HOME meeting was held from April 8-10, 2019 in Tokyo. Toshiya Ebata as an official representative of IFSI gave a presentation on the update of itch measurement on behalf of the SIG, which is lead by Sonja Ständer. As the result itch intensity was decided to be a separate outcome measure in the symptom domain and NRS-11 for peak itch in last 24 hrs (Yosipovitch 2019) was recommended.

Board of Directors:

Officers:

President:
Earl Carstens, PhD
Davis, USA

Vice-President:
Elke Weisshaar, MD
Heidelberg, Germany

Secretary:
Toshiya Ebata, MD
Tokyo, Japan

Treasurer:
Alan Fleischer, MD
Cincinnati, USA

Directors:

Thomas Mettang, MD
Wiesbaden, Germany

Hiroyuki Murota, MD,
Nagasaki, Japan

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

Jeffrey D. Bernhard, MD
Massachusetts, USA
(Honorary Board Member)

Ethan Lerner, MD
Boston, USA
(Associated Board Member)

Membership Application Forms,
Please send to:
Elke Weisshaar, MD
University Hospital Heidelberg
Department of Dermatology
Occupational Dermatology
Vossstr. 2
D-69115 Heidelberg
Germany

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



Pain, Itch and Touch Social at Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting

Plans are moving ahead to hold a Pain, Itch and Touch social at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), October 19-23, 2019 in Chicago USA. This will be the 4th year in which a social that includes itch is sponsored by SfN.

Teaching activities: EADV Itch course

The EADV (European Academy of Dermatology and Venerology) itch course was held in Brussels, Belgium 11 – 13 April 2019. Teachers were the IFSI members Jacek Szepietowski, Sonja Ständer, Laurent Misery, Adam Reich and Elke Weisshaar. See: <https://www.eadv.org/eadv-school/261>

New Itch filter at Pain Research Forum

The pain research forum is an excellent source of information about pain and also itch. You can now check the latest articles about itch by clicking on "Itch" on the lower left side of this page: <https://www.painresearchforum.org/papers>.

With best wishes!

Earl Carstens
President

Elke Weisshaar
Vice-President

Alan Fleischer
Treasurer

Toshiya Ebata
Secretary