



Dr Helmut Beltraminelli

PPRC-supported projects

Development of dermatopathological expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa: Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshi, Tanzania

I first started working at the RDTC as a volunteer in 2009 and since then have been coordinating the development of dermatopathology expertise in some African countries. This project is possible thanks to collaboration among numerous specialists from several countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa, Austria, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, UK.

EADV supports this multicentre initiative and the efforts are integrated in the ongoing initiatives of several specialists committed to promoting dermatology and dermatopathology in Africa (Prof H Grossmann, Prof R Hay, Dr C Fuller, Prof T Ryan, Prof B Naafs, Dr J Cuevas, Prof L. Requena, Prof M Möhrle, Dr G Metzler, Prof L Cerroni). The main goal is to develop dermatopathology services in specialised dermatology training centres in Africa.

Some recent examples of the project activities:

- Since 2009 funds have been raised for and invested in the project, mostly for fellowship-exchange programmes. These are in the form of grants from Basel University, IFD (Prof Hay), ISD, private Founding (Prof Naafs), as well as from EADV.
- Since 2009 there has been a regular

presence of dermatopathologists at the RDTC.

- Since 2011 there has been a new dermatopathology laboratory at the RDTC.
- Since 2011 there has been a dermatopathology curriculum at the RDTC with courses and workshops for local residents in dermatology.
- Publication of three peer-reviewed studies of dermatopathology activities at RDTC (Kiprono et al, Beltraminelli et al), other studies are currently ongoing.
- This project has so far given the opportunity to selected African physicians to increase their knowledge and expertise in dermatopathology outside Africa and enabled three African colleagues to successfully pass the International Board Examination of Dermatopathology (IBED) in Frankfurt, Germany: Dr D Zuriel, Kenya 2011; Dr S Kiprono, Kenya 2013; and Dr F Temam, Ethiopia 2015)
- In January 2015 and 2016 we organised the "African Dermatopathology conference", the third meeting is scheduled for January 2017. This two-day meeting covers the most important fields of dermatopathology. In 2015 we had five participants from three

African countries, in 2016 we had 37 participants from nine African countries and four continents.

- In July 2015 four African dermatopathologists participated to the 11th Summer Academy of Dermatopathology (ISDP Meeting) in Graz, Austria. This was possible thanks to Prof Cerroni and a grant from EADV.
- Currently we are offering a scholarship for training several dermatologists from Rwanda (Dr A Amani), Ethiopia (Dr A Workalemahu and Dr A Ayele), Egypt (Dr A Wagih), Tanzania (Dr L Kini, Dr A Mremi). The goal is the successful participation in the International Board Examination of Dermatopathology (IBED).

I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank EADV and all colleagues for supporting the African Dermatopathology Development Project. It is an immense pleasure to see the deep engagement of the African Fellows at the microscope and to follow the improvement of dermatopathology activities in the African continent. Thank you again on behalf of all Fellows. ●

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sections. To allow for consideration of the patient perspective, the steering group reinforced the expert panel members to pay particular attention to patient reported outcomes such as quality of life or alleviation of pain.

The expert panel involves 16 specialists (6 dermatologists) from 10 different European countries. Currently, the

'working phase' of the guideline is in progress – subgroups of the expert panel are working on the assessment of the literature, editing and drafting background texts, and preparing initial drafts for consensus recommendations. Future goals are the development of consented recommendations applying a formal consensus technique (nominal group technique), the conduct of an extensive internal and external

review, and publication of the finalised guideline. ●

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