



# Celebrating the 30th Annual Meeting of the Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology (KSID)

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The Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology (KSID) held its 30th annual meeting in March of 2022. Founded in 1991, KSID prides itself in making leaps over the past 32 years. Upon holding the 30th KSID annual meeting, we would like to introduce the history of KSID over the past 32 years to skin researchers around the world.

## THE BEGINNING OF DERMATOLOGY IN KOREA

KSID is a society established for basic research in the field of skin diseases and skin biology, centered on Korean dermatologists. Therefore, in order to understand the history of KSID, it is necessary to first understand the beginning and development of Korean dermatology and the founding of Korean Dermatological Association (KDA).

The first dermatology department in Korea was established in 1907 at Daehan Hospital, a national hospital, by King Gojong, the King of Korea at that time<sup>1</sup>. Daehan Hospital consisted of 9 clinical departments including dermatology, and this was the first time in Korea that dermatology started as an independent specialized department. Unfortunately, however, Korea became a Japanese colony in 1910. Daehan Hospital was

renamed as “Hospital of the Japanese Government General of Korea” by the Japanese. The operation of the hospital was also shifted to a Japanese-centered one. Under the influence of the Japanese medical community that had accepted German medicine, dermatology was integrated into dermatology and urology during the Japanese colonial era. In 1917, Kung Sun Oh, who had received his MD degree at University of Louisville, US, and studied dermatology and urology at Tokyo Imperial University for a year, established the first Skin and Genitourinary Department at Severance Union Medical School (now Yonsei University)<sup>2</sup>.

## ADVANCES IN KOREAN DERMATOLOGY

Korea gained independence from Japan on August 15, 1945. Liberation from Japan marked a new era of building a new country in Korea. The medical community in Korea also set goals and exerted much efforts in developing education, research, and medical treatment. On November 10, 1945, four months after liberation, 48 Korean dermatologists and urologists gathered and founded the Korean Dermato-Urological Association. It can be said that the development of Korean dermatology by Koreans began from this point on. Professor Won-Seok Oh of Seoul National University was appointed as the first president.

Heavily influenced by the United States after independence from Japanese colonial rule, the perception that dermatology and urology should be separated with the introduction of the American medical system became dominant. In June 1946, the Departments of Dermatology and Urology were separated for the first time in Korea at Seoul National University College of Medicine, and an independent dermatology course was of-

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ferred. Since then, the dermatology department and the urology department have been treated separately in most hospitals.

Unfortunately, on June 25, 1950, five years after independence, the Korean War broke out. Korea suffered the ravages of the three-year Korean War, by which everything was horribly destroyed. On July 27, 1953, an armistice was reached, and the development of Korean dermatology continued. In June 1954, one year after the end of the Korean War, the Korean Dermato-Urological Association was separated into the KDA and the Korean Urological Association, whereby the first dermatologists' association was established. Professor Won-Seok Oh was elected as the first president of the KDA, and Professor Seong-Hwan Kim was elected as the vice president.

After the Korean War, the development of dermatology in Korea was inevitably slow due to economic difficulties. However, through the 1970s and 1980s, Korea achieved great economic growth. As a result, the number of medical schools and dermatologists in Korea increased, and dermatology began to progress rapidly in Korea. Korean dermatologists made a lot of effort to develop dermatology through international exchanges. Since 1979, Korean and Japanese dermatologists have jointly held the Korea-Japan Dermatology conference. From that time on, many papers by Korean dermatologists began to appear in foreign dermatology journals. Although the clinical level of dermatology was advancing substantially, the level of basic research was far behind. Dermatologists started to realize that the advancement of clinical dermatology would have its limits without the advancement of basic research. As a result, the need for an academic meeting for skin research in which basic scientists conducting skin research gather began to be raised.

## THE BACKGROUND FOR THE FOUNDATION OF THE KOREAN SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY

The necessity for establishing a dermatological research society had emerged among dermatology professors since the late 1980s, due to the following reasons.

First, after the Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) was founded in the United States in 1937, dermatology had made rapid progress as a field of natural science. This also triggered the establishment of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) in 1971 by the alliance of skin research societies in each country in Europe. In Japan, the

Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID) was founded in 1976. In addition, the tricontinental investigative dermatology meeting, jointly held by SID, ESDR and JSID, was being held every five years, with the first one having been held in Washington DC in 1989. In order to participate in this international trend of skin research, many Korean dermatologists started to voice the need for a skin research society in Korea as well.

Secondly, as the number of medical schools increased in Korea, the number of dermatology professors also increased. As many young dermatology professors returned to Korea after studying abroad, the physician-scientists doing skin research were increasing to the point of forming a group. The level of research papers in Korea was also rising by using various advanced research techniques learned while studying abroad. In order for further progress, researchers felt the need for a group of researchers to discuss their research findings and conduct collaborative research.

Lastly, many dermatologists shared the belief that joint research with basic scientists majoring in biology, immunology, biochemistry, and molecular biology was crucial for the advancement of dermatological science. To this end, the need for a society where not only dermatologists but also basic scientists interested in dermatology could equally participate was raised.

In response to this need, KSID was founded by dermatologists and basic scientists interested in skin research<sup>3</sup>. On March 23, 1991, the inaugural meeting was held at Renaissance Hotel in Seoul with 150 founding members participating (Fig. 1). Professor Young Pio Kim was appointed as the first President and Professor Jeong-Bok Lee as the Chairman



Fig. 1. Photo from the first annual meeting of the Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology in 1991.

of the board of directors.

The main purpose of KSID was to contribute to the advancement of dermatology by promoting basic and clinical research in dermatology. In order to revitalize basic research in Korean dermatology field, KSID has decided to promote the following projects: first, holding regular academic conferences and lectures; second, sharing research results through publication of KSID academic journal; third, promoting the advancement of KSID through exchanges and alliances with related academic organizations at home and abroad; and fourth, carrying out other various projects necessary to achieve the purpose of the society.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KOREAN SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY

**Annual meeting:** The KSID annual meeting has been held every spring since its foundation in 1991, and a symposium had been held in the fall. From the 9th academic conference in 1999, the fall symposium was no longer held, but the spring annual meeting was held for three days. On the last day of the three days, an educational program was organized to educate young dermatologists on basic research techniques to promote research. This educational program had the effect of greatly increasing the number of young skin researchers and continued until 2006. Since 2009, a two-day Research Camp has been held around the country every autumn. The Research Camp has established itself as a forum for young scientists and senior dermatologists to freely mingle and discuss their research results. The 13th Research Camp was held in October of 2022.

Since 2009, the annual meeting has adopted English as the official language for globalization of KSID. As a result, the number of foreigners attending the KSID annual meeting is continuously increasing. Over the past five years, an average of 34 lectures were annually received from abroad and the number of attendees from abroad averaged 55 each year, and these numbers are increasing continuously.

KSID became a full member of International Societies for Investigative Dermatology (ISID) in September 2016. Following Professor Jin Ho Chung, Professor Eung Ho Choi is currently active as a board member. Since ISID member societies must attend the ISID meeting once every 5 years instead of holding a domestic meeting in the year of the ISID meeting, no domestic annual meeting was held in 2018, in which year

the last International Investigative Dermatology meeting was held in Orlando, US. Unfortunately, the annual meeting was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, although 2022 marked the 32nd year since the KSID was founded, the 30th meeting was held that year.

KSID selects presentations after reviewing the submitted abstracts through peer review, and organizes the conference program so that individual researchers' research results can be actively presented in the form of free presentations or poster presentations. Programs for acquiring the latest knowledge are organized every year through invited lectures and symposia. Basic scientists studying skin biology participate actively in joint research with dermatologists. In addition, the participation of foreign guest speakers has been continually increasing, and a total of 17 special lecturers were invited to the 30th KSID conference in 2022.

**KSID members:** As of September 2022, 32 years after the foundation when 150 members were active, 486 full members (283 dermatologists and 203 basic scientists) are active. Also, 112 lifetime members are active. The number of attendees at the conference has increased every year, and an average of 272 domestic scholars and 55 foreigners have attended the conference over the past five years.

**Official journal:** On November 7, 1992, the first issue of KSID Newsletter was published, and 300 copies were issued twice a year. Then, in November 1994, the *Journal of the Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology* was published for the first time (Fig. 2A). It was issued twice a year until 1998, but from



**Fig. 2.** (A) The cover of the inaugural issue of *Journal of the Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology* in 1994 and (B) cover of *Annals of Dermatology*, the official journal of the Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology.

1999, it was issued four times a year. From 2010, the *Annals of Dermatology* published by KDA (since 1989) and the *Journal of the Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology* were published jointly, and since then, *Annals of Dermatology* is being published as the official journal of KSID (Fig. 2B). Currently, *Annals of Dermatology* is published in English six times a year, and 46 original articles were published in the past year from July 2021 to June 2022, and 113 articles from overseas were submitted. The acceptance rate was 20%. The impact factor is 0.722.

**Academic Award:** Since the 9th KSID annual meeting in 1999, the Uam Academic Award was established by endowment from and to commemorate Professor Young Pio Kim (1926-2013) who contributed immensely to the establishment and development of KSID. Uam Award is awarded to the researcher who was voted to have published the best paper in our official journal each year. In addition, since 2016, the KSID Award and the Young Researcher Award have been awarded. From 2019, the KSID-JSID-Taiwanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (TSID) Frontier Symposium has been held during the annual scientific meeting to promote academic exchange and networking among the three societies by operating a scholarship system that gives two researchers under the age of 45 from each of the 3 societies a chance to give a presentation at our annual meeting. In addition, the Travel Grant program, which allows young scientists from Asian countries to attend KSID and visit Korean academia for observation for about two weeks after the conference, was also implemented for 5 people from 2018 to the present. It is currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to resume soon.

## THE FUTURE OF THE KOREAN SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY

Korea is a country with a great potential, having achieved liberation from Japan in 1945 and the miracle of the Han River in the midst of the ruins of the Korean War in 1950. In addition to national events such as the 1988 Summer Olympic Games and the 2002 World Cup, Korean dermatologists also hosted the World Congress of Dermatology in 2011, which demonstrated the potential of Korean dermatology.

KSID has made great strides in the past 32 years. In particular, as a member of ISID since 2016, we believe that KSID has greatly contributed to the development of international skin research. The following efforts should be made by the Korean

skin researchers to achieve greater advancement of KSID.

First, support and efforts from KSID and KDA as well as academia and the government are needed so that young dermatologists can foster more interest in skin research and go on to become physician-scientists. In order to prevent young dermatologists from only paying attention to the economic benefits of clinical procedures such as skin care procedures, it is necessary to introduce a system in which professors actively motivate and incentivize young doctors who conduct basic research in academia and government.

Second, in order for KSID to make achievements in the world skin research, the Korean government should provide additional research funding in the field of skin research. More efforts are needed from dermatology professors and KSID members for this.

Third, KSID should actively cooperate for the advancement of ISID and make efforts on its own to continue being a competent member of ISID.

Fourth, KSID, together with skin research societies from other Asian countries, should create a cooperative network where Asian countries can help one another to improve the level of Asian skin research. The establishment of the Asian Society for Investigative Dermatology (ASID), similar to ESDR, is also considered necessary in the near future.

We wish for KSID's continued growth and thank our friends and colleagues, SID, ESDR, JSID, TSID, and ASID members, for the interest and love given over the past 32 years. Thank you.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors have nothing to disclose.

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