

PRESS RELEASE

52nd Congress of the Spanish Association of Dermatology and Venereology

Symposium

CILAD-AEDV: A 'band of brothers' medical societies network works hand in hand in the face of rising infectious diseases

Omar Lupi Da Rosa (Federal University Rio de Janeiro -UNIRIO- Brazil, CILAD president), José Luis López Estebaranz (Alcorcón University Hospital, Madrid) and Ramón Pigem (Clinic Hospital Barcelona) were in charge of the joint CILAD-AEDV symposium, but it was in fact a network of research teams from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Brazil, Panama... and even U.S. academic institutions (Texas, in cooperation with Brazilian specialists) who emerged as actual protagonists of the session. Neither diseases nor science know barriers, as it became clear, and the spirit was one of unison as CILAD president referred to the other medical societies as "siblings" (or 'brothers').

Mariel Isa Pimentel, from the Dominican Society of Dermatology, discussed differential diagnoses of infectious skin diseases. She initially shared a series of hypopigmented lesions caused by pityriasis versicolor (caused by an overgrowth of fungus naturally found in 90% of the population) in patients of colour, cautioning that hyperpigmentation can also occur, even though less frequently, "making differential diagnosis quite complex". Progressive macular hypopigmentation would be one of the differential diagnoses, worth paying attention to "due to the fact that it is a quite common but frequently misdiagnosed infection", the speaker noted.

Misdiagnose can affect patients "for years" in cases of hypopigmented mycosis fungoides, she added.

Her dissertation was mainly based on images of patients, including cases of seborrheic dermatitis "which can also be a difficult differentiated diagnose". Occasionally, controversy remains about the cause of the condition, as is the case of purpuric pityriasis rosea, also particularly complex in patients of colour (sometimes showing patterns similar to those of drug-induced skin lesions) and occasionally linked to mycoplasma pneumoniae.

Malassezia-induced folliculitis, particularly when disseminated, has been linked to immunosuppression, becoming a relevant clinical issue to be considered. The differential diagnose would be acne, but the lack of typical comedonal lesions can be a clue in these clinical scenarios.

Crusted or Norwegian scabies and atopic dermatitis are other differential diagnoses addressed in the session, based on a case eventually confirmed as mycosis fungoides in its hyperpigmented variation.

A series of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma have been documented¹ with parapsoriasis, inflammatory vitiligo and other conditions as potential confounders.

Palmo-plantar macular hyperpigmentation has been found to be quite similar to lesions caused by secondary syphilis, also misdiagnosed as drug-induced when variations are observed in red, non-pruritic rash.

Another case imitating drug-induced reaction was displaying superficial and deep dermis with moderate inflammatory infiltrate in which epithelioid macrophages and giant cells forming granulomas stood out, suggestive of histoplasma sp. later confirmed by molecular biology. "Histoplasmosis is to be considered, particularly in immunocompromised patients", the speaker noted.

Again, the need to work in a collaborative environment was at the centre of the discussion, when addressing the differential diagnosis of nose widening, since otorhinolaryngology services can see chronic rhinitis whereas an underlying infection can be the cause of necrotic lesions (immunosuppressed patient, combined with cocaine use).

Omar Lupi Da Rosa, president of the Ibero-Latin American College of Dermatology (CILAD) was in charge of the presentation focused on viral diseases of the 21st century "which are, in fact, the most important diseases of the 21st century", he started.

The basis of the presentation was the study by his own research team on the topic.²

He explained the increase in arboviruses-caused infections due to combined factors including disorganised population growth, lack of planned urbanisation, inadequate waste management, deforestation, intense migration/travel and increased international travel.

Arboviruses include chikungunya, mayaro, dengue 1, 2, 3 and 4, yellow fever, zika, West Nile fever and oopoochawa among the most relevant. The wide experience of Brazilian experts in this field is due to the fact that one third of these pathogens originated in the Amazon rainforest. Transmission for numerous of these diseases is via *Aedes aegypti* & *Aedes albopictus* (dengue, chikungunya and zika), based on locations which are difficult to control, and bites occurring during the day.

Chikungunya is symptomatic in more than 70% of cases, with fever and disabling articular pain which can evolve to a chronic course. According to the 2013 CDC estimate, this infection "can become a health issue in the Caribbean and South

America due to the combined presence of mosquitoes and high temperatures, he warned, but Africa and India, together with other tropical regions, are affected, too.

Even though it did not reach America until 2014, it is an endemic condition in the region now. Suspected or confirmed cases rapidly escalated to 1.3 million in 44 countries or territories in 2015.

Rash is a common symptom, together with hyperpigmentation of the face, “something that may be interesting to mention in Mariel Isa’s upcoming presentation” (in reference to her speech at the melasma session of the AEDV on the next day).

Maternal-fetal (vertical) transmission can cause sepsis, abortion, myocarditis, exanthema and meningoencephalitis. Clinical manifestations vary widely and can affect the eyes, joints, ulcers (differential diagnose with herpes simplex). He shared a dramatic case of maternal-fetal (vertical) transmission with a number of differential diagnoses. He regretted the lack of a vaccine

Zika, on the other hand, also was first identified in Africa and is currently endemic in Brazil, where it has become a public health concern. It has multiple symptoms, but is asymptomatic in 70-80% (the opposite to chikungunya), numerous eye manifestations and paediatric cases, only two cases of haemorrhagic manifestations, both causing the death of the patients. The intense pruritus is what initially allows the differentiation from dengue, among others. The first association of zika with Guillain Barré syndrome (adults) and microcephaly (new-borns) were described by Brazilian researchers, he added.

The speaker’s team worked with researchers from the University of Texas in the edition of two books on tropical dermatology which is now being updated to its latest version, still ongoing.

Dengue would be the topic of the following part of CILAD president dissertation, “the most relevant, as is it the most frequent of these”. In Brazil, 1.5 million were diagnosed “only considering 2015”. Symptoms can affect the eyes, mouth, skin. Many grade 4 cases have been diagnosed in the country. This infection is particularly complex to manage and differential diagnosis with zika, among others.

Oropouche, isolated in nature in Brazil in 1960, is a Latin-American born condition with a conglomerate of manifestations which overlap other infections.

Considered together, the epidemic potential of arboviruses, which are jumping from animals to humans “in a progressive manner” is significant. One of the clues is the shift in transmission, which is now urban, and the new mosquito types acting as vectors.

Omar Lupi Da Rosa welcome the audience to follow-up the next meetings to know the latest advances in the field, namely TeraCILAD meeting in Mexico City from

November 20th to 2nd 2025, World Congress of Dermatology (WCD) in Guadalajara (Mexico) 2027 and ICD 2029 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). He cordially invited attendees to the XXV CILAD meeting in Porto, from October 27th to 31st 2026 where “as sibling societies will come together for a better future”.

Coincidentally, Mariel Isa had ended her dissertation with a cordial invite to the next TeraCILAD and, of course the meetings in Porto (CILAD 2026) and Guadalajara.

María Goreti discussed in this session the basics of Mohs surgery to treat skin cancer, from its history and initial uses in humans to indications, patient selection criteria, comparison with conventional surgery and the importance of complete excision with tumour-free margins at the core of the procedure. She extended the invitation to the CILAD meeting in Porto.

Cordial invites were also shared by José Manuel Ríos Yuil, from Panama's Dermatology Association, in charge of the presentation about acne in dark skin patients, one of the most frequent causes of consult in the specialty, and José Luis López Estebaran, CILAD president from 2022 to 2024, who addressed the topic of fractional radiofrequency in dermatology. López Estebaran added the upcoming meeting on latest advances in dermatology, to be held in Madrid on June 13th 2025 “where we will wait for you to join us and keep growing”. So did Ramón Pigem and Juan Ferrando Barberá, from Clinic Hospital in Barcelona.

Ferrando, whose liaisons with international teams have been a constant in his career, received a special award acknowledging his contribution to the specialty.

REFERENCES

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- 2-Kollipara R, et al. Emerging infectious diseases with cutaneous manifestations: fungal, helminthic, protozoan and ectoparasitic infections. J Am Acad Dermatol 2016;75(1):19-30.