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National Skin Centre's Dermatology Update 2008

The biennial NSC Dermatology Update was held over a two-day period, from 12 to 13 April 2008. NSC played host to 360 delegates from 25 countries. This year's conference was particularly special as 2008 marks NSC's 20 years of excellence in Dermatology. The main dermatology track of the conference featured plenary lectures delivered by senior dermatologists from NSC, the NSC lecture delivered by Dr Richard Barlow, various symposia on interesting topics, as well as free paper sessions for trainees. Posters authored by local and foreign doctors were also on display. The four plenary lectures presented by senior consultants from NSC were *New Ideas in Immunology and Their Impact on Dermatology* by Dr Ng See Ket, *Sexually Transmitted Infections – New information on Management and Control* by A/Prof Roy Chan, *An Update on Lasers & Light Devices for Skin Rejuvenation* by Prof Goh Chee Leok, and *Psycho-Neuro-Immunology – Update for the Practising Physician* by A/Prof Giam Yoke Chin.

The 2008 NSC lecture on *Cosmetic Dermatology – Past, Present & Future* was delivered brilliantly by Dr Richard Barlow. Dr Barlow was the NHG/NSC Overseas Visiting Expert 2008 and is Consultant/Honorary Senior Lecturer in Dermatology, St John's Institute of Dermatology, St Thomas' Hospital London, UK. The four symposia featured updates on hair and pigmentary disorders; new perspectives in psoriasis, eczema and paediatric dermatology; approaches to the management of difficult skin diseases; and updates on procedural dermatology.

This year's event also featured an excellent Dermatopathology Symposium held simultaneously with the main scientific programme. This is the first time the Dermatology Update has featured a

concurrent track in Dermatopathology, with an eminent faculty of regional and international experts. The teaching faculty was graced by Dr Christian Sander from Asklepios Klinik St Georg, Hamburg, Germany, Dr Tan Suat Hoon from the National Skin Centre, Singapore, Dr Nopadon Noppakun from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, Dr Lorenzo Cerroni from Medical University of Graz, Austria, and Dr Sabine Kohler from Stanford University Medical School, USA. The comprehensive programme included courses in the histopathology of inflammatory diseases and neoplastic proliferations in the skin. These courses covered a wide range of entities including panniculitis, neutrophilic dermatoses, skin infections in the tropics, systemic diseases, blistering diseases, lymphoproliferative disorders and unusual skin tumours.

Free papers on case reports and case studies were presented by Dermatology trainees and medical officers. Awards for the best paper in each of these categories were also handed out to Dr Pan Jiun Yit and Dr Tee Shang-lan respectively, both registrars of the National Skin Centre.

This year's conference proved to be a success, providing local and overseas delegates with useful and informative updates in Dermatology and Dermatopathology. We trust that all delegates and faculty had a meaningful and fruitful meeting.

This article is contributed by Dr Audrey Tan, Consultant, National Skin Centre



Dr Richard Barlow (right) receiving a token of appreciation from Prof Goh Chee Leok (left) for delivering the NSC Lecture

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