



History

Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists Kerala (1973–2021)

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ABSTRACT

From its humble beginnings, the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) Kerala, the first state branch of the IADVL, has grown in leaps and bounds. IADVL Kerala is not just the first branch. It also has several other firsts to its credit. The first annual conference of the association under the banner of the IADVL at Thiruvananthapuram in 1975 and the first South-Zone Regional Conference in 1990 at Kochi are some of the firsts. The state branch has always been at the forefront of all academic and IADVL activities. The branch undertakes community service projects and delivers information through print, radio, and visual media as a regular feature to increase patient and public awareness. Dermatology Clubs and Societies in different towns and cities are not only active academically, but are also socially committed. The continuing medical education series paved the way for the birth of the “Kerala Journal of Dermatology, Venereology, and Leprology” which metamorphosed into the highly acclaimed “Journal of Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases”, a great achievement indeed, destined to catch attention worldwide. The Kerala IADVL has had a glorious past. Kerala has produced some of the finest dermatologists and the tradition continues. We have as our wealth, a committed younger generation that has already made its presence felt in the national and international scenario. Since the inception of the Kerala branch, the committed office bearers who struggled selflessly with single-pointed devotion have been our asset. Activity levels have steadily soared to unimaginable heights.

Keywords: Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists, Kerala, History, Journal of Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

INTRODUCTION

Kerala always had highly academic dermatologists with excellent clinical acumen who practiced dermatology very scientifically. They rendered high standards of patient care with very logical prescriptions, though the therapeutic armamentarium was limited. I was told that in the late sixties, with the wholehearted support and guidance of Dr. B.M. Ambady [Figure 1], the dermatologists and venereologists of Kerala would meet at regular intervals in various cities of the state for academic discussions.^[1] He would take all the trouble to drive down from Thiruvananthapuram, pick up others on the way, and come for the meetings at Kozhikode and other places.^[1] Such was the deep sense of commitment he felt toward the specialty and to the small group of dermatologists. They were destined to be the towering personalities of the future, Prof. T. Gopinathan, Prof. C. Gangadharan, Prof. B. K. H. Nair, Prof. P. Sugathan, and Dr. Krishnan Nair among others.^[1,2]

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INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF DERMATOLOGISTS AND VENEREOLOGISTS (IADV) KERALA

Kerala along with the South Canara district of Karnataka has the distinction of having the first State branch of the IADV. It was called the southwestern branch of IADV. It was formed in January 1971 at the annual general body meeting of the IADV held at Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore. The branch was inaugurated on May 29, 1971, at the Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, in the presence of His Excellency V. Viswanathan, then Governor of Kerala.^[3]

Dr. T. Gopinathan [Figure 2] was the Founder-President. The other office bearers were Dr. C. Gangadharan (Vice President), Dr. B. K. H. Nair (Honorary General Secretary), Dr. P. Sugathan (Honorary Joint Secretary), and Dr. V. Krishnan Nair (Treasurer). There were only seven members. In the subsequent years, members belonging to the South Canara district of Karnataka left the IADV Kerala branch and joined their parent body, the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu branch. Kerala is not only the first state branch, but also has several other firsts to its credit. Since its inception, the state branch [Figure 3] has always been at the forefront of all IADVL activities.^[3] Table 1 shows the members of IADVL Kerala who rendered valuable services as office bearers of National IADVL.^[1-4]

NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF THE IADVL IN KERALA

The 3rd National Conference of the Association (the first annual conference under the banner of the IADVL, independent of the Association of Physicians of India) was held in 1975 at Thiruvananthapuram under the



Figure 1: Dr. B. M. Ambady, 2nd President of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists.

Chairmanship of Dr. B. M. Ambady.^[1] Dr. C. Gangadharan was the Organizing Secretary and Dr. B. K. H. Nair, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee.^[3] The Honorable Governor of Kerala at that time, his Excellency N. N. Wanchoo inaugurated the conference. Dr. Ambady was instrumental in providing the status of a State Guest to the first National President of the IADVL, Dr. B. N. Banerjee, who was put up at the Government guest house and provided with a State car as well, which was a unique gesture that was never repeated in the history of the IADVL.^[3] Prof. M. Sukumaran, the Principal of the Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, in his inaugural address proudly mentioned the international recognition of a new disease “Mudichood” described by Dr. P. Sugathan.^[5] IADVL Kerala hosted three more national conferences in 1985, 2002, and 2018, respectively [Table 2], and is chosen to host the mid-year conference of National IADVL at Kozhikode, in 2023.^[3] IADVL Kerala also hosted five south zone conferences in the years 1990, 1995, 2000, 2012, and 2019, respectively [Table 3].^[3]

OTHER CONFERENCES

The IADVL Kerala has helped in organizing conferences of sister societies such as the Association of Cutaneous Surgeons of India, Cosmetology Society of India, and the Indian Society of Pediatric Dermatology.^[3]



Figure 2: Dr. T. Gopinathan, Founder-President of Indian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists (IADV) Kerala and Past President (1982), Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists.



Figure 3: Office bearers of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) Kerala.

Table 1: IADVL Kerala members who have served as key office bearers of National IADVL.

Official designation (National IADVL)	Name of IADVL Kerala member	Year
President	Dr. B. M. Ambady	1975
	Dr. T. Gopinathan	1982
	Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe	2005
Vice President	Dr. Soman Peter	2002
Honorary General Secretary	*Dr. T. Gopinathan	1972
Honorary Treasurer	Dr. A. D. Dharmaratnam	1984-1985
	Dr. K. Feroz	2020-2021
Honorary Joint Secretary	Dr. S. V. Rakhesh	2020-2021
	Dr. K. B. Anuradha	2020

IADVL: Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists. *On January 28, 1973, at a joint meeting of the IADV (Indian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists) and the DSI (Dermatological Society of India) at Udaipur, a unanimous decision was taken to amalgamate these two bodies into one. This paved the way for the birth of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL). Dr. T. Gopinathan served as the Honorary General Secretary of IADV.

AMBADY ORATION

Soon after the passing away of Dr. B.M. Ambady, Mrs. Ambady donated a sum to the National IADVL for starting

an “Oration” in his memory. The “Ambady Oration” is the most prestigious oration given by the IADVL to a dermatologist. The first Ambady Oration was delivered in February 1976 at the National IADVL Conference held at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. The speaker was Dr. V. Ramalingaswamy from the AIIMS.^[1,4]

CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF IADVL

Members of IADVL Kerala have made significant contributions to the Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology, and Leprology (IJDVL) and Indian Dermatology Online Journal (IDOJ), the official publications of National IADVL.

IJDVL

We have had Keralites who have been the Chief Editors of the IJDVL, the first being Dr. Rachel Mathai.^[6] Although not a member of the IADVL Kerala at that time, she was very much part of the same. She headed the department of dermatology at Christian Medical College, Vellore. She meticulously edited and published the IJDVL with unfailing regularity. She toiled hard and nurtured the journal for 7 years from 1977 to 1983 with scarce resources and more importantly at a

Table 2: National Conferences of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists hosted by IADVL Kerala.

National conferences of IADVL	Venue and year	Organizing team	Remarks
3 rd National Conference	Thiruvananthapuram, 1975	Organizing Committee Chairperson Dr. B. M. Ambady Organizing Secretary Dr. C. Gangadharan Scientific Committee Chairperson Dr. B. K. H. Nair	The conference was held on the premises of Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. Scientific deliberations were excellent. Dr. Ambady, the Organizing Committee Chairman, well known for his hospitality, gave personal attention to each delegate. Most of the delegates were taken to his palatial residence for tea before the Conference. He even got made dinner sets with the IADVL logo from the government-owned Kerala Ceramics Ltd. Kollam for a nominal price. All the delegates were taken to the Kovalam Beach, Kanyakumari, and the Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial. Dr. P. Ramachandran Nair, who was a connoisseur of food, meticulously planned the menu and other details.
13 th National Conference	Lisie Hospital, Kochi, 1985	Organizing Committee Chairperson Dr. P. Ramachandran Nair Organizing Secretary Dr. Soman Peter Scientific Committee Chairperson Dr. K. Pavithran	The conference won accolades for the scientific content, organizational skills, and exotic food. Dr. Sony Varkey, Chairman of Food Committee was highly applauded and particularly so for the famous "Kayikkante Biryani." It was the first time the staff from the "Kayikkante Biryani" outlet served the delegates in their traditional attire of baniyan and lungi instead of being attired in pants and shirts.
30 th National Conference	Hotel Le Meridien, Kochi, 2002	Organized by Cochin Dermatological Society. Organizing Committee Chairperson Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe Organizing Secretary Dr. P. V. Mathew Scientific Committee Chairperson Dr. K. Pavithran Scientific Committee Secretary Dr. S. Criton	3243 delegates including dermatologists from eight foreign countries attended. A huge fund of Rs. 2,000,000 was given to the National IADVL, providing funds for the journal and other Association activities at the National level and setting the trend for future conferences to contribute larger amounts to the National IADVL. A quiz program was conducted for all the participants including spouses, which in turn paved the way for the GSK Quiz (Dr. S. Criton was the quiz master for the first 2 years and he remains the only person to hold this distinction twice) and later the IGNQPP GLAXO QUIZ for postgraduates.
46 th National Conference	Hotel Le Meridien and Hotel Crown e Plaza, Kochi, 2018	Organizing Committee Chairperson Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe Organizing Secretary Dr. M. M. Faizal Scientific Committee Chairperson Dr. S. Criton Scientific Committee Secretary Dr. Geethu Gangadharan	4500 national and 250 international delegates attended. Widely appreciated conference for its excellent scientific content and organizational skills.

IADVL: Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists; GSK: GlaxoSmithKline; IGNQPP: IADVL – GSK National Quiz Program for Postgraduates

time when the editor was solely responsible for selecting the papers for publication.^[6,7]

Dr. K. Pavithran, Professor of Dermatology, Medical College, Kozhikode, took over as the Chief Editor from 1997 to 2002.^[8,9]

Dr. Najeeba Riyaz and Dr. M. P. Binitha were his Assistant Editors. It was during his time that color photographs were printed along with the articles instead of the earlier practice

of printing on separate pages of color plates. Submissions and proofreading were still done on hard copies. Although Dr. Pavithran took over at a time when it was financially difficult for the IJDVL, at the end of his term, the journal was in a reasonably sound financial position with savings of Rs. 600,000/-.^[8] At present, Dr. Feroze Kaliyadan is one of the Associate Editors.^[10] There are members from the Kerala IADVL serving as Section Editors and Content Editors.^[10]

Table 3: South zone conferences of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists hosted by IADVL Kerala.

South zone conferences of IADVL	Venue and year	Organizing team		
		Organizing committee chairperson	Organizing secretary	Scientific committee chairperson
1 st South Zone Conference	Kochi, 1990	Dr. M. G. Subramoniam	Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe	Dr. S. Criton
5 th South Zone Conference	Kozhikode, 1995	Dr. P. Sugathan	Dr. M. P. Binitha	Dr. Laxmi V. Nair
10 th South Zone Conference	Thiruvananthapuram, 2000	Dr. T. V. Gopalakrishnan	Dr. K. Yogiraj	Dr. B. K. H. Nair
17 th South Zone Conference	Wayanad, 2012	Dr. Laxmi V. Nair	Dr. Najeeba Riyaz	Dr. K. Pavithran
23 rd South Zone Conference	Thiruvananthapuram, 2019	Dr. K. Yogiraj	Dr. T. J. Rema Devi	Dr. G. Nandakumar

IADVL: Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists

IDOJ

At this juncture, we need to admire and acknowledge the visionary zeal of Dr. T. Gopinathan that marked the birth of the Indian Dermatology Online Journal.^[2,11] Casual chats on ACAD_IADVL inspired him to moot the idea of a journal in electronic format which would provide a platform for practitioners to publish the rich clinical material available in the Indian subcontinent. Dr. K. T. Ashique was elected as the Deputy Editor of the IDOJ, the second official journal of the IADVL in 2009, and is presently the Associate Editor.^[11-14] He was instrumental in its growth at all stages from its infancy to its present status as a journal indexed by reputed agencies.^[11-14]

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER NATIONAL IADVL VENTURES

The first postgraduate (PG) clinics for final-year dermatology residents, under the aegis of the National IADVL were organized by IADVL Kerala, at Kozhikode (October 21–22, 2017). It was well attended and well-conducted. The faculty included heads of the departments and professors from various medical colleges in the state and different parts of India.^[3]

The IADVL Kerala wholeheartedly supported and took part in the “IADVL Chalo Gaon Ki Ore,” a National IADVL project started in 2015, that took dermatology services to remote villages.^[3]

In 2019, National IADVL organized “Charmarath,” a pan-India dermatology awareness program, which received active participation from IADVL Kerala.

The branch has always implemented the activities related to IADVL Task-force Against Topical Steroid Abuse, IADVL Task-force Against Recalcitrant Tinea, and IADVL Task-Force against Quackery.^[3,4]

IADVL KERALA INITIATIVES

In addition to the contributions to National IADVL initiatives, IADVL Kerala has initiated several novel projects over the years. The cooperation of various Dermatology

Clubs and Societies, which are constituted in different parts of the state (all of them affiliated to IADVL Kerala) has ensured the successful implementation of these projects. The members of these Dermatology Clubs and Societies meet regularly and conduct continuing medical education (CME) programs and academic activities of high caliber. The Derma Clubs are also socially committed and conduct public camps and information campaigns to dispel fears, myths, and prejudices about skin and sexually transmitted diseases.

The first club (Trivandrum Derma Club) was formed in 1990. Later, other Dermatology Clubs were started at Kochi, Thrissur, Kollam, Kozhikode, Kottayam (East Zone Derma Club), Palakkad, Kannur, and Malappuram [Table 4].^[3]

PUBLICATIONS OF IADVL KERALA

Since 1986, the IADVL Kerala had been publishing booklets and CME series [Figures 4a and 4b] edited by Dr. K. Pavithran. In 2004, it was upgraded to a journal titled “Kerala Journal of Dermatology, Venereology, and Leprology” [Figure 4c]. Dr. K. Pavithran was the Founder Editor and Dr. S. Criton was the Editor till 2017, further Dr. M. Radhamony took over for a brief period.^[3]

At the annual state conference of IADVL Kerala held at Thrissur in 2018, it was decided to start a new journal which is published both online and in print, to keep up with the demands of the era. Dr. K. Abdul Samad was elected as the Editor in Chief. Subsequently, the new Journal was named “Journal of Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (JSSTD).” It has a very active editorial board and is published by “Scientific Scholar” once in 6 months (January–June, and July–December). The first issue of JSSTD was released on April 28, 2019 [Figure 5].^[3,15,16]

JSSTD is well acclaimed by the dermatology fraternity. Articles are published ahead of print since November 2020 to ensure faster dissemination of knowledge. In November 2021, the first editorial board successfully completed its tenure and a new editorial board was constituted with Dr. Sarita Sasidharanpillai as the Editor in Chief.^[3,17,18]

Table 4: Dermatology clubs constituted by IADVL Kerala members.

Name of club	Date of formation)	Founder-President and Secretary	Contributions and achievements
Trivandrum Derma Club	1990	Under the initiative of Dr. B. K. H. Nair, Dr. T. V. Gopalakrishnan, and Dr. M. L. D. Unnithan	Annual IADVL Kerala Conference and CME (2012), workshops by SIG Dermatology, SIG Dermato-surgery and SIG Aesthetics, Impact program on Biologicals (2019), South-Zone Conference of IADVL (2019).
Cochin Dermatological Society	1990	Dr. M. G. Subramoniam, Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe	Three National conferences (1995, 2002, and 2018), several state-level conferences, and academic programs.
Thrissur Dermatology Club	1991	Dr. T. S. Balaraman, Dr. S. Criton	Annually conducts Dr. Abdul Latheef Memorial Gold Medal Examination for MBBS students of the state since 2006, annual state conference of IADVL Kerala (2009), mid-year state conference of IADVL Kerala (2005, 2016 and 2018), regular CMEs, and hands-on training programs.
Kollam Derma Club	1996	Dr. P. T. Pillai, Dr. Col. Pavithran	Mid-year state conference of IADVL Kerala (2005, 2011, and 2020), annual state conference of IADVL Kerala (2014), IADVL state-level CME on "Dermoscopy" (2017), workshop on "Flaps and Sutures" (2018), SIG Laser esthetic workshop (2019), CUTIFEST 2019 (the annual family get-together and CME session of the IADVL Kerala).
Malabar Dermatology Club	1997	Dr. T. Gopinathan, Dr. Laxmi V. Nair	First Laser Workshop in Kerala (2001), an International Scientific Congress on "Pigmentary Disorders" ("DERMACHROME 2008"), an International Congress on "Pigmentary Disorders and Aging" conducted in association with ASPCR and ACSI ("CHROME AGE ASIA 2011"), National conference of ACSI (2014), National CME on psoriasis (2015), "SKINERGY," a CME (2017) in association with IADVL Kerala and IADVL Practice Management Cell and "Malabar Bonhomie" (2020) a CME jointly organized by IADVL and Dowling Club, UK. Constructed a house for a flood-affected family and the keys were handed over on November 29, 2020.
East Zone Dermatology Club	1999	Dr. P. P. Mohandas, Dr. James Joseph	Four state-level meetings of the IADVL (2006, 2008, 2010, and 2013), a mega CME (2006), a live dermatosurgery workshop (2008), an annual state conference of IADVL Kerala (2020), a mid-year state conference of IADVL Kerala (2019 and 2021).
Palakkad Dermatology Club	1999	Dr. S. S. Nair, Dr. Sasi	Hosted quarterly meeting of IADVL Kerala (2000), and mid-year state conference of IADVL Kerala (2008 and 2017).
Kannur Derma Club	2000	Dr. M. P. Ashraf, Dr. M. Anoop	Annual state conference of IADVL Kerala (2010 and 2015), mid-year state conference of IADVL Kerala 2006, hands-on workshop on "Sutures."
Malappuram Dermatology Society	2020	Dr. V. P. K. Gopinath, Dr. E. K. Jaleena	Annual state conference of IADVL Kerala (2021), CME on "Leprosy."

IADVL: Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists, SIG: Special Interest Group, MBBS: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, CME: Continuing medical education program, ASPCR: Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research, ACSI: Association of Cutaneous Surgeons of India, UK: United Kingdom

Dr. Sarita needs special mention for her untiring efforts to see the timely fruition of each issue of the journal.

ACADEMICS

On the academic front, the branch has always been at the forefront. The branch periodically conducts CME programs which are accredited by the Medical Council of India. It also provides a platform for postgraduates to present papers and encourages them by awarding medals

and prizes. Workshops are conducted in association with IADVL Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on psoriasis, dermatopathology, research methodology, dermatosurgery, lasers, etc.^[3]

MID CUTICONS (mid-year State Conference) and CUTICONS (annual State Conference) of IADVL Kerala are always an academic bonanza and held across the length and breadth of Kerala often with the helping hands of the regional dermatology clubs.^[3]

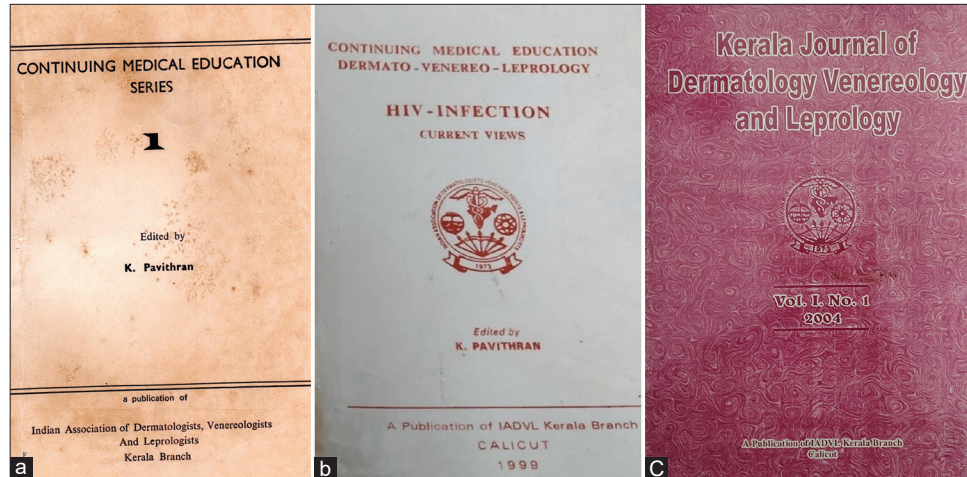


Figure 4(a): First issue of continuing medical education series published by Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) Kerala; (b): another issue of continuing medical education series; (c): volume 1, issue 1 of Kerala Journal of Dermatology, Venereology, and Leprology.

The start of the pandemic in 2020 saw the beginning of the Online Academic Cell – A CME series. Three series of CMEs are conducted regularly in rotation – Practitioners forum for practicing dermatologists, What’s new in Dermatology to keep up with the latest advances, and Online PG clinics for dermatology residents.^[3,19]

Research projects: Research facilitation cell was constituted in 2020 to assist dermatology residents and members of IADVL Kerala in research activities, such as formulating research proposals and protocols and providing information about funding agencies and publication opportunities in national and international journals. The cell consists of an eminent team of epidemiologists and dermatologists.^[3]

A faculty database was created for conference organizers.^[3]

A faculty enclave was constituted and the recommendations of the enclave regarding UG (undergraduate) and PG curriculum and facilitating the practice of dermatology in Kerala were published in JSSTD.^[20-22]

SPECIAL/UNIQUE PROJECTS

Office of the IADVL Kerala branch

The IADVL Kerala branch is a registered society since 2013. The branch has a state-of-the-art office on the 14th floor at the Indian Medical Association (IMA) House, Kochi. This was purchased in 2016 with a contribution of about Rs. 2,150,000/- raised through generous contributions from various regional clubs and the IADVL members. The project was partly funded by the State Branch. The office was inaugurated on February 28, 2016, by Dr. V.P. Kuriyipe and the President of the IADVL Kerala, Dr. S. Rajiv [Figure 6]. Dr. Kuriyipe and Dr. Varghese Mathew deserve special

mention for their untiring efforts toward the completion of this project on time. The IADVL Kerala remembers with gratitude the contribution of its members to this project (minutes of IADVL Kerala meetings).^[3]

Chief Minister’s Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF)

IADVL Kerala showed its commitment to society by contributing Rs. 1,150,000 and Rs. 100,000 to the CMDRF in 2019 and 2020 respectively (minutes of IADVL Kerala meetings).^[3]

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

IADVL Kerala conducts outreach camps in various districts in association with district medical officers.^[3]

Government liaison activities

Meetings are regularly held with Kerala State Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) Control Society, State Leprosy Officer, and the Leprosy wing of the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) in connection with community service projects.^[19]

Observing days

The branch has always demonstrated its commitment to serving society by observing days such as leprosy day, women’s day, skin health week, vitiligo day, psoriasis day, world AIDS day, and urticaria day. The branch conducts CMEs and awareness campaigns in association with dermatology clubs and other institutions at various places in the state.^[3]

Events such as quiz competitions for UG students, short films, distribution of pamphlets, public rallies, and street



Figure 5: Launch event of Journal of Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (JSSTD).

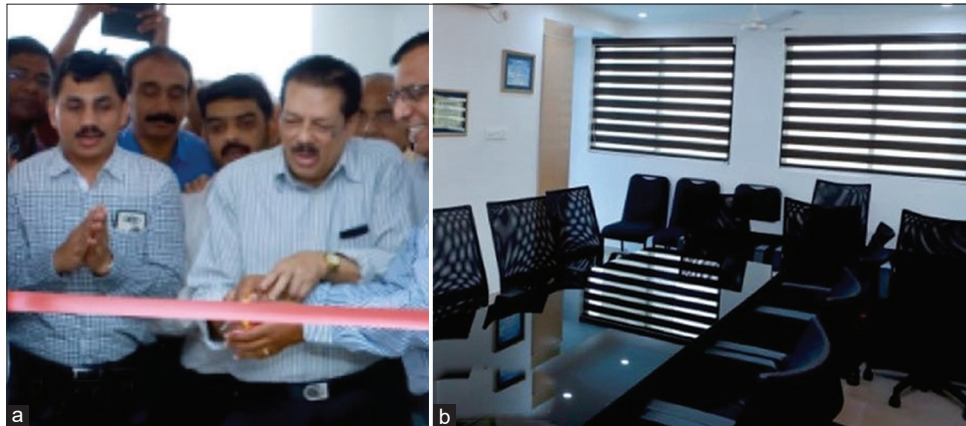


Figure 6: (a) Inauguration of the new office of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) Kerala at IMA (Indian Medical Association) House, Kochi; (b): new office of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) Kerala.

plays are conducted. Write-ups and interviews in print and visual media are regular features every year.^[3]

Posters/pamphlets are displayed on the association website, as well as in clinics, dermatology departments of various institutions, on social media, and on WhatsApp groups.^[3]

Social service

2017 saw the implementation of two projects, one to address the dermatoses among migrant workers throughout

the length and breadth of Kerala. Periodic medical and dermatology camps were organized by IADVL Kerala and various clubs in collaboration with the DHS, labor department, and dermatologists from the government health sector.^[3]

A camp was conducted at Lakshadweep in collaboration with Iqraa Hospital, Calicut, and the Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Agatti, to attend to the dermatological issues of the population.^[3]

The same year also witnessed CUTIFEST, the first ever family meet of IADVL Kerala.

Leprosy eradication campaign

In December 2018, IADVL Kerala was requested to be a part of the Leprosy Eradication Campaign named “Ashwamedham.” It was flagged off on December 5, 2018, at Thiruvananthapuram by the Chief Minister Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan, and the Health Minister Mrs. Shailaja. The branch has continued with a flagship project to screen the population of Malappuram District for early diagnosis of “Leprosy” in association with the Malabar Dermatology Club, Department of Dermatology, Government Medical College, Kozhikode, and the DHS, Government of Kerala. The second phase of the “Leprosy Eradication Campaign” began in 2020. Many members of our association took part in the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign. Members also took part in the “eradication of leprosy through self-reporting and awareness campaigns” as part of the “Ashwamedham” leprosy eradication program 2021.^[3]

Community dermatology

At the National conference held at Pune in 2020, Dr. Sribiju M. was appointed as Chairman of SIG Community Dermatology; later, he was requested to be in charge of the Community Dermatology activities of the state branch.^[3,4]

District-level coordinators for the community dermatology initiative were identified to coordinate district-level activities of community dermatology (such as observation of IADVL days and organization of skin camps and skin health awareness classes for vulnerable population) in consultation with district branch office bearers.

Awareness programs through online, print, and audio-visual media

IADVL Kerala has a media cell and various subcommittees whose responsibilities are well defined.^[3]

The media cell projects the public awareness activities of IADVL Kerala. A master plan was charted out to fill the void that exists in the quality of online videos to improve public awareness in the field of dermatology.^[3]

The cell ensures the regular functioning of the YouTube channel (IADVL Kerala Charmorogyam), a vibrant Facebook Page @iadvlkerala, and other social media handles of IADVL Kerala. It coordinates with the state executive committee, state academy, and various cells of the state and presents our views and activities to the public. The cell prepares the handouts and posters for various daily activities. The print wing of the media cell is in charge of the print version of the Kerala patient information magazine in line with “Nammude Arogyam” of IMA (Indian Medical Association). The first video on “vitiligo” was posted on our Facebook channel on June 25, 2020 (Vitiligo

day). “Charmorogyam” has presently more than 60 videos in the regional language, related to skin diseases.^[3]

IADVL Kerala coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) relief activities

Kerala is one of the states which has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The exponential rise in the number of COVID cases has caused a high demand for medical supplies in the local hospitals and medical colleges. In an attempt to help the government and the public in combating the pandemic, an exhaustive project of Rs. 1,400,000/- was prepared by IADVL Kerala along with the various Dermatology Clubs and Societies. The COVID care hospitals in need were identified and provided with essential medical supplies and medical equipment. Part of the project fund amounting to Rs. 693,824/- has been utilized on a war footing with the help of various Dermatology Clubs and Societies.^[19] The project received financial assistance from National IADVL, under the “presidential community program.”

Around 1000 3M N95 masks were distributed at a reduced price throughout Kerala to our members as per orders received. The distribution of the masks was undertaken by members of Community Dermatology (minutes of IADVL Kerala meetings).

WEBSITE

The IADVL website (www.iadvl.org), which we are so proud of today was first created by Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe, Dr. P. V. Mathew, and Dr. S. Criton in 2001 before the 30th National Conference of the IADVL held in 2002 at Kochi, Kerala.^[3] Once the conference was over, the website was retained as the official website of National IADVL. In those days, <25% of the IADVL members were computer savvy. Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe embarked on an ambitious project of one laptop for every dermatologist in the country (minutes of IADVL Kerala meetings). Initially, it received a tremendous response, but only around 400 dermatologists purchased laptops. However, this sensitized all the members and gradually the number of hits to the IADVL website increased.^[3]

Official website of IADVL Kerala (www.iadvlkerala.org) started functioning in 2009, when Dr Jacob Thomas and Dr.K.. Muhammed were the President and the Honorary Secretary respectively. The website was modified and revamped by Dr. K. Feroz and later by Dr. K. T. Ashique, both of whom rendered valuable services as web administrators. At present, the site is under the able supervision of Dr. Gopikrishnan Anjaneyan. The website is mobile-enabled, can be easily accessed from smartphones even in low bandwidth data connections, and includes a special members’ area with all educational videos and recordings of CME programs.^[3]

Table 5: National level IADVL honors and awards received by members of IADVL Kerala.

Award	Awardees	Year
IADVL best branch award	Dr. M. G. Subramaniam (President, IADVL Kerala)	1990
	Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe (Honorary Secretary, IADVL Kerala)	
	Dr. James Joseph (President, IADVL Kerala)	2008
	Dr. George Kurien (Honorary Secretary, IADVL Kerala)	
	Dr. M. P. Ashraf (President, IADVL Kerala)	2011
	Dr. K. Muhammed (Honorary Secretary, IADVL Kerala)	
	Dr. T. Salim (President, IADVL Kerala)	2018
	Dr. K. Feroz (Honorary Secretary, IADVL Kerala)	
Special appreciation award for year-round scientific activity	Dr. N. Asokan (President, IADVL Kerala)	2020
	Dr. David Pudukadan (Honorary Secretary, IADVL Kerala)	
Special appreciation award for year-round internal administration and activity	Dr. S. Rajiv (President, IADVL Kerala)	2016
	Dr. K. Feroz (Honorary Secretary, IADVL Kerala)	
Ambady Oration	Dr. George Kurien (President, IADVL Kerala)	2022
	Dr (Major). V. Sandeep Lal (Honorary Secretary, IADVL Kerala)	
Dr. K. C. Kandhari Award for lifetime achievement in the field of dermatology and teaching	Dr. T. Gopinathan	1980
	Dr. Najeeba Riyaz	2017
	Dr. K. T. Ashique	2020
Dr. Sehgal Award	Dr. B. K. H. Nair	1988
	Dr. T. Gopinathan	2001
Legendary dermatologist and teacher par excellence award	Dr. T. Gopinathan	2009
	Dr. P. Sugathan	2010
Glaxo Oration	Dr. K. Pavithran	1982
IADVL lifetime achievement award	Dr. V. P. Kuriyipe	2017
Dr. L. K. Bhutani Award	Dr. Jacob Thomas	2021
IADVL Systopic Oration	Dr. K. Ajithkumar	2022
IADVL Canixa Oration	Dr. N. Asokan	2021
	Dr. S. Pradeep Nair	2022
Dermapractice Award	Dr. M. P. Ashraf	2021
	Dr. T. Salim	2016
President's Appreciation Award	Dr. S. Rajiv	2018
	Dr. K. B. Anuradha	2019
	Dr. K. Feroz	2022
	Dr. S. V. Rakhesh	2022
	Dr. S. Criton	2014
	Dr. Najeeba Riyaz	2021
Best Teacher South Zone	Dr. N. Asokan	2022

AWARDS AND HONORS INSTITUTED FOR IADVL KERALA MEMBERS

Smt. Vijayamohini, the wife of Dr. B. K. H. Nair, instituted the annual BKH Nair Award in 2006 for the best original research work by a young researcher (below 45 years).^[3] In 2019, Dr. Rathish T. Pillai instituted the “Dr. PT Pillai Life Time Award,” in the honorable memory of his late father Dr. P. T. Pillai (a legendary dermatologist). In addition, IADVL Kerala has instituted various awards to honor the accomplishments of members. They include “The IADVL Kerala Oration,” (which was instituted in 2013), “IADVL Kerala Best PG Thesis Award,” “IADVL Kerala Best Teacher Award,” and “IADVL Kerala Best Practitioner Award.”^[3]

CONCLUSION

Kerala IADVL has had a glorious past. Kerala has produced some of the finest dermatologists. In the initial years, the State Conferences were simple affairs without any pomp and show, but the discussions by the stalwarts were par excellence. The tradition continues. Since the inception of the Kerala Branch, the office bearers have struggled selflessly for the Association and have done a fine job year after year. Activity levels have steadily soared to unimaginable heights. National IADVL has acknowledged the contribution of our members from time to time and many of our members have received recognition at the national level [Table 5].^[3,4] Several of our members have won best paper awards for their publications in IJDVL and IDOJ. Our members have served as “Coordinators,”

“Convenors,” and “Academy Members” of SIGs of IADVL. It is beyond the scope of this article to individually mention them. The Kerala IADVL recognizes their contributions. We have had excellent quiz masters at the state and national levels and many of our promising residents have won prizes at the national level quiz competitions under various categories for successive years and have done us proud.

We have a committed younger generation that has already made its presence felt in the national and international scenario. I am sure that they will take the Association to enviable heights in the future. Our present stalwarts and future generations of dermatologists will dynamically continue the glorious tradition of the IADVL Kerala and continue to render service to society.

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Dr. Laxmi V. Nair is on the editorial board of the Journal.

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