

History of IADVL- West Bengal State Branch

Arijit Coondoo, Koushik Lahiri

Prelude

Calcutta (now Kolkata), the capital of West Bengal and once the capital city of India, has been a witness to the birth and evolution of Dermatology in India for a century now. Many of the important events leading to the formation of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists have occurred in this city. It is one of the pioneer cities of India where Dermatology took its roots in the early part of the twentieth century and where the speciality was recognized as a distinct entity.

In 1921, under the guidance of Major Acton, a skin research department with various units (including Mycology) started functioning in the School of Tropical Medicine and Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases. Substantial progress was made in the field of leprosy research in a specialized department there under Drs. Muir, Roger, John Lowe and Dharmendra. Many of the founder fathers of Dermatology in India including among others Dr. G Panja, Dr. D Panja, Capt AN Gupta, Major AN Chakravarty, Major B Chakravarty hailed from this part of the globe. Their academic acumen and thirst for knowledge inspired them to publish the „Indian Journal of Dermatology“ from 1955 with Dr. G Panja as its first editor.

In 1940, the pioneers of Dermatology in India came together to form the „Bombay Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists“ with two chapters, one of them being in Calcutta. At the 2nd All India conference of this Association held in Calcutta in 1951 it was decided to merge the 3 chapters of the Association to form „The Indian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists“(IADV)

It was in Calcutta again that the „Dermatological Society of India“ (DSI) was formed in 1960 after the All India Dermatological Congress with Maj. AM Chakravarty as Chairman and Dr. J Mazumdar as the Organizing Secretary. Dr. KD Lahiri, the first Honorary General Secretary of DSI and Dr. S C Mitra, the first Honorary Treasurer both hailed from Calcutta.

On 20th August, 1972, representatives of the IADV and DSI met at Calcutta to decide upon the basic principles of amalgamation of the two societies – hence Calcutta may rightly claim its place in history as the city where the idea of IADVL was born – a process which ultimately culminated with the merger of the two Associations and the formation of IADVL on January 28, 1973. Here also Calcutta and West Bengal left their mark as one of the leading dermatologists of the state DR. BN Banerjee was elected as the first President of IADVL. Another member, Dr. SB Mondal, contributed a young dermatologist with a keen artistic sense, to take design of the logo of IADVL which till today stands as the prominent hallmark of the Association.

The sprouting seventies

IADVL, West Bengal state branch became fully functional from the very inception of IADVL in January 1973. The branch comprised members who were already quite experienced in running an Association, having all been active members of the DSI. A monthly clinical meeting was organized every month and this activity has continued uninterrupted for 45 long years. The „Indian Journal of Dermatology“ was taken over by IADVL, West Bengal State branch and became an organ of the Association. This flurry of academic activity was accompanied by a lot of organizational activities. In the early years the enthusiasm of the

Presidents and secretaries

Year	President	Year	Secretary
1973-75	Dr. Satya Charan Mitra	1973-75	Dr. Salil Kumar Panja
1976-77	Dr. Sukumar Ghosh	1976-77	Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja
1978-79	Dr. B C Karmakar	1978	Dr. M A Wali
1980-81	Dr. Birendranath Banerjee	1979-80	Dr. Sujit Kumar Das
1982-84	Dr. Salil Kumar Panja	1981-82	Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty
1985-86	Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja	1983-84	Dr. Sankarshan Chakraborty
1987	Dr. M A Wali	1985-86	Dr. Sunil Kumar Dey
1988-89	Dr. B Haldar	1987-89	Dr. Paritosh Kumar Banerjee
1990-93	Dr. Gpal Behari Mukherjee	1990-91	Dr. Gobinda Chandra Saha
1994-95	Dr. Kalyan Banerjee	1992-93	Dr. Sunil Kumar Dey
1996	Dr.(Brig) S P Chattopadhyay	1994-95	Dr. Paritosh Kumar Banerjee
1997	Dr. Animesh Chatterjee	1996	Dr. Gobinda Chandra Saha
1998	Dr. Amit Kumar Chaudhury	1997-98	Dr. Dwijendranath Gangopadhyay
1999	Dr. Gobinda Chandra Saha	1999-2000	Dr. Alope Kumar Roy
2000-01	Dr. Sunil Kumar Dey	2001-03	Dr. Koushik Lahiri
2002-04	Dr.Paritosh Kumar Banerjee	2003-04	Dr. Manabbrata Mazumdar
2004-05	Dr. Dwijendranath gangopadhyay	2004-05	Dr. Alope Kumar Roy
2005-06	Dr. Arijit Coondoo	2005-07	Dr. Gautam Banerjee
2006-07	Dr. Nitin Mukherjee	2007-08	Dr. Asok Kumar Ghoshal
2007-08	Dr. Sujit Ranjan Sengupta	2008-09	Dr. Siddhartha Das
2008-09	Dr. Manabbrata Mazumdar	2009-10	Dr. Pradip Laha
2009-10	Dr. Parthasarathi Sen	2010-12	Dr. Dinesh Kumar Hawelia
2010-11	Dr. Pijush Kanti Datta	2012-14	Dr. Arghyaprasun Ghosh
2011-12	Dr. Alok Kumar Roy	2014-16	Dr. Satyendra Nath Chowdhury
2012-13	Dr. Gautam Banerjee	2016	Dr. Sumit Sen
2013-14	Dr. Rathindra Nath Dutta		
2014-15	Dr. Asok Kumar Ghoshal		
2015-16	Dr. Pradip Laha		
2016	Dr. Gobinda Chatterjee		



Delegates to the 1976 Delhi National Conference



Organizers of the 1988 Calcutta National Conference

members like Dr. SC Mitra, Dr. S Ghosh, Dr. SK Panja, Dr. RK Panja, Dr AK Dutta and Dr. SK Das led by Dr. BN Banerjee saw the Association overcome many logistical difficulties including the absence of any permanent office of the Association. Most of the General Body meetings were held in auditoriums of teaching institutions while the Executive Committee meetings were held in the OPDs or clinics of the office bearers. The members showed remarkable stamina under adverse circumstances and were able to conduct a very successful National Conference of IADVL in 1978 with Dr. BN Banerjee as the organising Chairperson and Dr. RK Panja as the Organising Secretary.

The emerging eighties

With the death of some of the original enthusiastic members in the early and mid eighties there was a thaw in the Association activities. It was in 1984 that a young and dynamic dermatologist, Dr. S K Dey took over the mantle of Honorary Secretary

of the Association and with the help of 2 other enthusiasts – Dr. PK Banerjee and Dr. GC Saha – steered the fortunes of the Association for the next two decades. From 1973 to 1987 the Association was functioning from temporary offices, principally the clinics of individual members. With the growing numbers and enthusiasm of the members a need was felt for a permanent office. With this in mind a room was taken on lease for 99 years at the JIMA office at 7, Creek Row in 1987. This acquisition also coincided with hectic activities of the branch members who were busy with the organisation of the 16th National Conference of IADVL held in January 1988 with Dr. J Mazumdar as the Organising Chairperson and Dr. AK Dutta as the Organising Secretary. 1988 was also the year when Dr. RK Panja became the second member of the branch to be anointed as the National President to be followed next year by Dr. MA Wali, another founding member of the branch. At the end of the decade two other members of the branch – Dr. AK Chakraborty and Dr. SB Mondal – served as the Hon General Secretary and Hon.

Conferences organized by IADVL West Bengal Branch:

Conference	Year	Venue
1. 6th National Conference	1978	Medical College & Hospitals, Calcutta & School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta
2. 1st State Conference	1981	School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta
3. 2nd State conference	1985	Asansol
4. 16th National Conference	1988	The Oberoi Grand Hotel, Calcutta
5. 3rd State conference	1990	Chinsura
6. 4th State conference	1992	Kharagpur
7. 1st East Zone Conference	1994	Calcutta National Medical College
8. 5th State Conference-	1996	Hotel Sher-e Punjab, Calcutta
9. CME-ICI Auditorium	1997	ICI Auditorium, Calcutta
10. 6th State Conference-	1998	Udayachal, Salt Lake City, Calcutta
11. CME-99.	1999	Aikatan, Saltlake City, Calcutta
12. 2nd East Zone Conference (DERMAZONE 2000)	2000	Science City, Calcutta
13. CME- 2001	2001	Rotary Sadan, Kolkata
14. 31st National conference (DERMACON 2003)	2003	Science City, Kolkata
15. 7th State Conference	2003	Siliguri
16. 8th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2004)	2004	Rotary Sadan, Kolkata
17. 9th State Conference (IJD GoldCon & CUTICON WB 2005)	2005	Agri-Horticultural Garden, Kolkata
18. 10th State Conference (CUTICON WB2006)	2006	Satyajit Ray Film Institute, Kolkata
19. 11th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2007)	2007	East Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata
20. 7th East Zone Conference and 12th State Conference (DERMAZONE EAST 2008 & CUTICON WB 2008)	2008	East Zone Cultural Centre, Kolkata
21. 13th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2009)	2009	Hotel Golden Park, Kolkata
22. 14th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2010)	2010	Hotel Stadel, Kolkata
23. 15th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2011)	2011	Swabhumi, Kolkata
24. 16th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2012)	2012	Swabhumi, Kolkata
25. 17th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2013)	2013	Swabhumi, Kolkata
26. 18th State Conference (CUTICON WB 2014)	2014	CII, Salt Lake, Kolkata
20. 13th East Zone Conference and 19th State Conference (DERMAZONE EAST 2015 & CUTICON WB 2015)	2015	Swabhumi, Kolkata

Treasurer respectively of the National Executive of the IADVL.

The nurturing nineties

If the seventies and eighties showed promise of a bright future, the nineties was the decade when the activities gained further momentum. The trio of Dr. S K Dey, Dr. P K Banerjee and Dr. G C Saha were joined by a young and efficient dermatologist Dr. D N Gangopadhyay who was set to shoulder a major part of the responsibilities of the Association from the mid nineties onwards. This decade proved to be one of more hectic activities than ever before with the organization of one zonal conference and six state conferences and CMEs, a facelift and regularization of the publication of the Journal and a quantum rise in the number of

members. Two members – Dr. SK Panja and Dr. K Banerjee served as National Presidents of IADVL in 1993 and 1997 respectively.

Maturing in the millenium

The turn of the millennium was a remarkable event for the Association. A zonal Conference was organized with the enthusiastic organizing Secretary Dr. Nitin Mukherjee converting it into a gala affair. The office was completely renovated and modernized with the acquisition of a computer by the Hon. Secretary Dr. Koushik Lahiri. It was the enthusiastic Dr. Lahiri again who oversaw the launch of the electronic version of the Journal under the guidance of Dr. SR Sengupta Dr. DN Gangopadhyay and Dr. Alope Kumar Roy. At the beginning of the fourth year



of the new millennium the branch organized a national Conference of IADVL for the third time in its history. DERMACON 2003 was a resounding success due to the perfect team work of the members of the branch led by the Chairperson, Organizing committee Dr. SK Dey the Organizing Secretary Dr. Nitin Mukherjee and the Chairperson, Scientific committee Dr. Subrata Malakar. Dr. Koushik Lahiri played the pivotal role of Jt Organizing Secretary and became a familiar name at the National level. Meanwhile the branch continued to organize a state conference annually. With many more enthusiastic members coming forward to shoulder responsibilities of the Association work the number of footfalls in the office showed a manifold increase. By 2005 a need was felt to move onto a larger accommodation and on 15th August, 2006 a brand new office was inaugurated in a full-fledged apartment at 62, Lenin Sarani, not far from the previous office. Earlier the same year two members of the branch – Dr. Koushik Lahiri and Dr. Arijit Coondoo – were elected and installed as Honorary General Secretary and Hon Treasurer respectively of the

National Executive of IADVL. For the massive amount of work involved in running the affairs of the National IADVL, they took a part of the IADVL West Bengal office on rent. For the first time in the history of IADVL, the National Secretariat of IADVL operated for two years from the premises of one of its branches. The activities of IADVL West Bengal have also won accolades from the national body and twice in quick succession – in 2003 with Dr. P K Banerjee as President and Dr. M Mazumdar as Hon. Secretary and again in 2005 with Dr. A Coondoo as President and Dr. G banerjee as Hon. Secretary – the branch was selected for the Best Branch Award of IADVL.

Activities

The principal activities of the Association during its 35 years of existence have been the publication of the Indian Journal of Dermatology (inherited from the Dermatological Society of India), organizing conferences and brainstorming at monthly clinical meetings. This monthly clinical meetings are being organized for almost five



Mother Teresa and Governor, Professor Nurul Hasan (Centre) at the inaugural function of the National Conference at Calcutta in 1988

decades now since the early sixties of last century. Indian Journal of Dermatology

In October, 1955 the first copy of Indian Journal of Dermatology rolled out of the Dorchester printing works, Calcutta. Prof. Ganapati Panja was the first editor of the Journal. He, in his very first editorial highlighted many facets, which have not lost their relevance even today.

After his demise, in 1959, Prof. B. N. Banerjee came forward to take this responsibility on his broad shoulders. In 1965 the Journal became the official organ of the then Dermatological Society, India. (Vol.10, No.4, April-June 1965). In 1973 after the formation of IADV & L the Journal became the official publication of IADVL, West Bengal State Branch. Following Dr. B N Banerjee the Journal has seen towering personalities like Dr. K D Lahiri, Dr. Sukumar Ghosh, Dr. A. K. Dutta, Dr. J. Majumder, Dr. S. K. Panja, Dr. B. Haldar,

Dr. S R Sengupta and Dr. Sanjay Ghosh as its editors. Presently the editorial responsibilities lie on the able shoulders of Dr. Sandipan Dhar. Down the years, a large number of erudite members have served the journal in various capacities in the editorial board.

This has been the first Dermatology journal from India to be indexed in Index Medicus in 1962 and again the first Indian Dermatology Journal to go online.

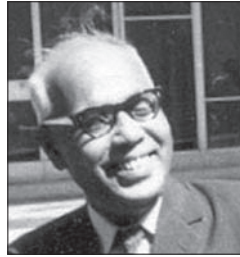
The Internet edition of www.e-ijd.org was floated online from Vol.45, No.3, Oct-Dec 2000, exactly 45 years after its inception. That was a giant stride in the history of the Journal in particular and Dermatology in the country in general.

It is a matter of great pride that on 5th November 2009 the Indian Journal of Dermatology has once again regained its position and has been indexed in PubMed. It was the result of dedicated and devoted

Editors of the Indian Journal of Dermatology



Dr. Ganpati Panja



Dr. B. N. Banerjee



Dr. K. D. Lahiri



Dr. Sukumar Ghosh



Dr. J. Majumdar



Dr. A. K. Dutta



Dr. S. K. Panja



Dr. B. Haldar



Dr. S. R. Sengupta



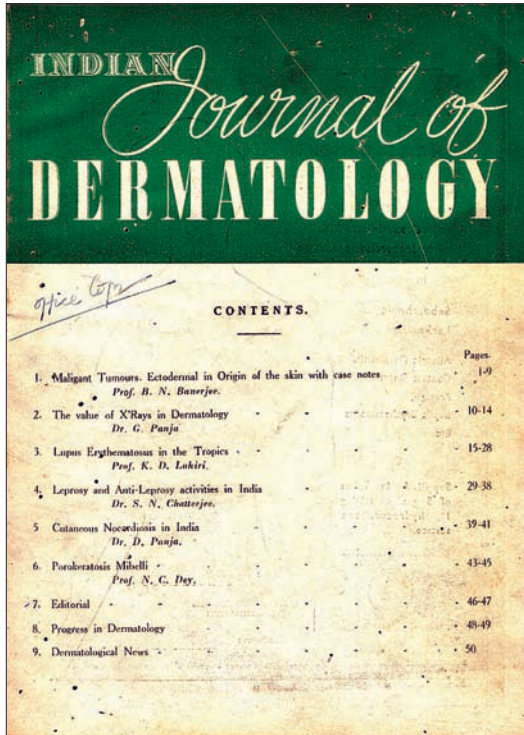
Dr. Sanjay Ghosh



Dr. Sandipan Dhar



Dr. Koushik Lahiri
Present Editor



IJD f rst cover 1955



IJD 2009 Oct-Dec_cover



Old off ce of IADVL-WB branch at 53 Creek Row (2001)



IADVL WB New off ce at 62, Lenin Sarani

an open access online version with full text for free.

team work under the present editor Dr. Sandipan Dhar.

In the same year IJD took another decisive and giant leap forward. With the introduction of a professional publishing house (Medknow) the journal management system was completely revamped and modernized. Now the journal goes

The review process of IJD became fully web-based, double blind and transparent. Submission of articles became exclusively online. In this advanced system the authors can even track progress of one's articles online through the website.

This completely revolutionized the system of editing the journal.



New office inaugurated by Dr. B. Halder -Aug 2006



Clinical meeting at IADVLWB



Vitiligo day



Annual picnic-Sundarban



Jhori Patra, who served the Bengal Dermatology for six decades.

Articles from all over the globe started pouring in again.

International authorities joined as reviewers.

IJD re-entered in an era of renaissance.

With every single issue the standard of the journal went on improving. Articles from all over the globe became a regular feature. The journal is receiving articles from at least 25 countries per year! The review process became very stringent and at the end of 2009 the acceptance rate of IJD is in single digits.

To the best of our knowledge this journal is the oldest living indexed journal of Dermatology in Asia which is being published uninterruptedly under the same name since its inception.

Clinical meetings

IADVL West Bengal State Branch has been

holding monthly clinical meetings almost without fail since its inception in 1973. . Before that the same were been held under the aegis of Dermatological Society, India. Ten clinical meetings are held throughout the year in all months except January (members are busy attending DERMACON) and October (due to Durga Puja festivities). Till date at least 400 clinical meetings have been organized where cases of clinical interest including rare cases are presented and the histopathological findings and diagnosis are intensely debated. The meetings are held by rotation in the various teaching institutions in Kolkata.

The support staff

The saga of IADVL, West Bengal State Branch shall never be complete without mention of one Mr. Jhori Patra (Jhoru or Jhoruda to generations of dermatologists of West Bengal.) As a teenager, Jhoru had migrated from his native village in Orissa to war-torn Calcutta in the mid-forties. He was working as a chamber assistant of various doctors and also serving as a part-time employee of Dermatological Society of India in the sixties. With the formation of IADVL he became its full-time employee. He was the heart and soul of IADVL, West Bengal branch. In the early days he went on his bicycle from OPD to OPD and from clinic to clinic collecting information, delivering notices of meetings and distributing copies of the journal. Gradually after the Association started operating from its own premises and with age catching up Jhoru was able to function only from the office. He was a storehouse of knowledge about the Association and was always ready with any information and advice to the office bearers. As an acknowledgement of the great services rendered by him to the Association he was selected by the Organizers of DERMACON 2003 to light the lamp at the inaugural session. Jhoru retired in 2005 and went back to his native village in Orissa but was in constant touch with the branch officials and members – such was his mental attachment to the Association.

He breathed his last on the IADVL day viz Jan 28, 2008. For the first time in the history of the IADVL – West Bengal State Branch a condolence meeting in memory of a non-member was held in its office where many senior members were on the verge of tears while recalling Jhoru's unmatched affection and devotion to the branch and all its members.

In 1979, Mr. Swapan Dey was inducted as part time clerk of the Association principally to look after the Accounts and oversee the general paperwork involved in running the Association. After 29 years Swapanbabu is still doing the same work. During these 29 years he had assiduously written the minutes of meetings and has the dubious distinction of being the only person who has attended almost every General Body and Executive Committee meeting of the branch during these years.

A few years before Jhoru's retirement Khageshwar Das, a young lad from Orissa joined as his assistant. Gradually he took over from where Jhoru left and today, in 2008, he is efficiently doing all the work that Jhoru used to do. Jhoru did all his work in the earlier days when the technological revolution had not set in – and his job involved a lot of physical labour. Khageshwar, on the other hand is extremely technologically savvy (though he has barely completed school education) and operates mainly through the computer and cell phone.

Some historically important tit-bits

- In 1921, under the guidance of Major Acton, a skin research department with various units (including Mycology) developed in the School of Tropical Medicine and Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases.
- In 1952 Dermatological Society, India was founded here.
- In 1955 the first issue of Indian Journal of Dermatology was released from Dorchester printing press here in Calcutta
- In October 1962 Indian Journal of Dermatology was indexed in Index Medicus.

- On 20th August, 1972, representatives of the IADV and DSI met at Calcutta to decide upon the basic principles of amalgamation of the two societies and formation of IADVL
- In 1973 Prof. B. N. Banerjee became the founder president of National IADVL.
- One of the original designers of the IADVL logo is from this state, Dr. S. B. Mondal.
- On 18th November 2000 Indian Journal of Dermatology became the first Indian Dermatology Journal to enter the internet. Its website is www.e-ijd.org
- For the first time in IADVL history the entire minute to minute program schedule was made available on the Internet a clear 35 days before the National conference (DERMACON 2003).
- In 2003 the name DERMACON was fixed by National IADVL for all future National conferences of IADVL as per the proposal by WB state branch.
- In 2004 the names DERMACON and CUTICON have been endorsed by National IADVL for all IADVL Zonal Conferences and State Conference respectively again as proposed by WB state branch.
- All the three official IADVL conference names at the State, Zonal and National level i.e. CUTICON, Dermazone and DERMACON were proposed by Dr. Koushik Lahiri, a member of this branch of IADVL.
- From 2006 onwards the IADVL National Executive and all the branches are celebrating Vitiligo day each year on May 19 – the death anniversary of Dr. Ajit Kumar Dutta one of the founder-members of the branch and one of the pioneers of research on Vitiligo in the country.
- On 5th November 2009 Indian Journal of Dermatology was reindexed in PubMed.