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L'ORÉAL GROUPE AND THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETIES LAUNCH GLOBAL STUDY OF DERMATOLOGICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Global Access to Skin Health Observatory to assess 194 nations' ability to provide vital skin health services to citizens

Paris, October 17, 2024 - Today at the Skin Alliance Forum, the Dermatological Beauty division of [L'Oréal Groupe](#) and the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) announced a landmark study into the availability and accessibility of dermatological services in 194 countries. The Global Access to Skin Health Observatory is the first global survey of its kind, investigating areas such as the global distribution of dermatologists, patient barriers to accessing dermatologic care for skin diseases, and access to 'surrogate' skin health providers in dermatological deserts.

There are two billion people living with skin disease around the world¹, yet fewer than half have access to healthcare for their disease². Currently, there is no comprehensive view of how dermatologic care is accessed and delivered across different populations and regions worldwide. This includes regions and medical deserts where the ratio of dermatologists-to-citizens is fewer than one for every million, versus the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of four dermatologists for every 100,000 people. As the world leader in dermocosmetics, L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty has undertaken the ambitious study in partnership with ILDS dermatologists to shine a light on this issue.

"This collaboration between the International League of Dermatological Societies and L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty represents a groundbreaking effort to systematically assess global access to skin health," said Esther Freeman, Director of Global Health Dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Vice Chair of the International Foundation for Dermatology. "By establishing a standardized approach, we can better understand the disparities and work towards improving care for all."

"Skin diseases affect more than one in three individuals worldwide, posing a significant but often overlooked health challenge. Furthermore, recent studies on its impact showed 88% of people with skin disease said it negatively impacted their personal life³, while 27% reported depression and around 29% claimed anxiety⁴," said Myriam Cohen-Welgryn, President, L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty. "With billions of people suffering physically and psychologically, the knowledge gained from the Global Skin Health Access Observatory can help improve access to life-changing skin health services by directing resources where they are most urgently needed."

"Achieving ILDS' mission of 'skin health for the world' begins with understanding the global landscape of dermatologic care and the disparities in access across regions and populations. This exciting partnership with L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty marks a crucial first step towards this goal," said Professor Henry W. Lim, President, ILDS. "We're grateful for their commitment to elevating dermatologic care standards worldwide and look forward to working with them on this important initiative."

The study will be conducted in two phases: the first, spanning all 194 WHO-recognized member states to define the global, geographic distribution of dermatological care; and the second, to provide an in-depth evaluation of dermatological care amongst general population and healthcare providers in 30 countries, spanning all income levels and all six WHO regions (Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, Western Pacific, South-East Asia, and the Americas). Results will be publicly available in 2025.

For more information, visit <https://skinobservatory.org/>.

¹ The Lancet Global Health Metrics [Volume 392, Issue 10159](#) p1789-1858 November 10, 2018

² Freeman E E. Global health dermatology: An emerging field addressing the access to care crisis. *Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol.* 2024;90:3-4. doi: 10.25259/IJDVL_1361_2023

³ P. Gisondi et al. Quality of life and stigmatization in people with skin diseases in Europe: A large survey from the 'burden of skin diseases' EADV project. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2023;37 Suppl 7:6-14.

⁴ N. Salari et al, June 2024, *Journal of Prevention*, 45(4):1-39, DOI: [10.1007/s10935-024-00784-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-024-00784-0)

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For 115 years, L'Oréal, the world's leading beauty player, has devoted itself to one thing only: fulfilling the beauty aspirations of consumers around the world. Our purpose, to create the beauty that moves the world, defines our approach to beauty as essential, inclusive, ethical, generous and committed to social and environmental sustainability. With our broad portfolio of 37 international brands and ambitious sustainability commitments in our L'Oréal for the Future programme, we offer each and every person around the world the best in terms of quality, efficacy, safety, sincerity and responsibility, while celebrating beauty in its infinite plurality. With more than 90,000 committed employees, a balanced geographical footprint and sales across all distribution networks (e-commerce, mass market, department stores, pharmacies, perfumeries, hair salons, branded and travel retail), in 2023 the Group generated sales amounting to 41.18 billion euros. With 20 research centers across 11 countries around the world and a dedicated Research and Innovation team of over 4,000 scientists and 6,400 Digital talents, L'Oréal is focused on inventing the future of beauty and becoming a Beauty Tech powerhouse.

More information on <https://www.loreal.com/en/mediaroom>

About ILDS

The ILDS has 215 member organisations from 103 countries and represents more than 200,000 dermatologists worldwide. It represents dermatology at the highest level through its 'official relations' status with the World Health Organization (WHO) and champions the importance of skin health to ensure its inclusion in global health policy. It works to raise awareness, cooperation and communication within the global dermatology community to promote high quality education, clinical care, research and innovation that will improve skin health globally. <https://www.ilds.org>

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