

El Congreso Mundial de Dermatología (WCD), Alfred Marchionini y la medalla de oro Alfred-Marchionini

The World Congress of Dermatology (WCD), Alfred Marchionini and the Alfred-Marchionini-Gold Medal

Gerd Plewig

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The International Congresses of Dermatology (icd) were held since 1889, the first one in Paris. Roughly every four years apart, with longer intermissions following World Wars I & II, dermatologists met in various European cities, moving 1907 for the first time out of Europe to the USA, 1977 to Central America, 1982 to Japan, 1997 to Australia, 2007 to South America, 2011 to South Korea, and 2015 to Canada. Table 1 lists venues, Presidents and General Secretaries up to 2019.

The International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) in time became responsible for planning, organizing and conduction these extremely popular events, bringing together dermatologists from all continents and almost every country where skin specialists are active.

The last WCD was held in June 2019 in Milan, Italy, hosting almost 17 000 attendants, consisting of dermatologists, invited scientists from other fields and industrial companies. Again, it turned out to be a fascinating conference, presenting the state of art of our profession, and the warm reception of the Italian hosts.

The XIII World Congress was held in Munich, Germany, 1967. Professor Alfred Marchionini (1899-1965), Chairman of the Department of Dermatology, Ludwig-Maximilian-University of Munich (founded in 1472) was appointed as President during the XII. WCD in Washington, USA. Sadly, he passed away in 1965 two years before the meeting. To fill the gap, Professor Werner Jadassohn (1897-1973), Chairman in Geneva, Switzerland, was elected as the new President. It was at this meeting in Munich that the Alfred-Marchionini-Gold Medal was bestowed for the first time. It went to Werner Jadassohn. Since then it honored 19 internationally outstanding personalities

(figure 1a & b). The statues of the foundation allowed to present the medal independently of a World Congress, as was the case a few times.

Alfred Marchionini and the Alfred-Marchionini Gold Medal and the Research Prize

Marchionini was born in Königsberg, East Prussia, today Kaliningrad, Russia. He studied medicine in Königsberg, Leipzig and Freiburg and specialized in dermatology in Freiburg, Leipzig, Heidelberg and Kiel. In 1937 he applied in vain for the Chair of Dermatology, Charles-University Prague. As his wife had a Jewish grandparent the couple decided to emigrate 1938 to Ankara, Turkey. In 1948 he returned to heavily destroyed Germany and took over the Chair of Dermatology, University of Hamburg-Eppendorf. In 1950 Marchionini accepted the call to Munich. He was more than a keen dermatologist and scientist and real ambassador of good will and international contacts. The pharmaceutical entrepreneur Kurt Herrmann and his wife Eva from Reinbek, Hamburg, donated a substantial amount of money for the foundation of the Alfred-Marchionini-Foundation to honor this international personality in several ways. Presently Gerd Plewig, Munich, and Thomas Schwarz, Kiel, chair this foundation with other distinguished colleagues.

The Alfred-Marchionin-Foundation provides two annual grants to young dermatologists/scientists at the annual Alfred-Marchionini-Memorial Lecture held at the University of Hamburg, the Gold Medal (figure 1b) of the WCD, and a 10 000 Euro grant to a young but already established international dermatologist. The recipients of the 2019 awards were announced at a Gala Dinner, held

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Figure 1 a & b. Gala Dinner, June 13, 2019, XXIV World Congress of Dermatology. Venue, Gold Medal recipients 1967-2015, and the Gold Medal recto & verso.

in the historical venue, the *Veranda Biblioteca Pinacoteca Ambrosiana* in Milan (figure 1a & b).

The Gold Medal went to Professor Jouni Uitto, Chair of Dermatology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, USA. Dr. Uitto, originally from Finland, with an amazing career in Philadelphia, represents the personality Alfred Marchionini would have applauded with great joy. The inscription on the reverse side of the medal reads *Humanitati Inserviando Consumor*, a fa-

vorite motto of Marchionini. Thomas Schwarz from Kiel held the laudatio in honor of Dr. Uitto (figure 2a & b). Professor Dr. med. Sabine Eming, Department of Dermatology, University of Cologne, Germany, a longstanding successful clinician and researcher of wound healing and macrophages, was the recipient of the 10 000 Euro research award. Her mentor and former Chairman of the Department of Dermatology in Cologne, Thomas Krieg, held the laudatio.



Figure 2 a & b. Professor Jouni Uitto, Philadelphia, receives the diploma and the Gold Medal of the Alfred-Marchionini-Foundation from Professor Thomas Schwarz, Kiel.

The next awardees will be announced at the XXV World Congress of Dermatology to be held in Singapore 2023.

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Table 1. Venues, Presidents & General-Secretaries of the CMD

I	Paris 1889, Alfred Hardy & Henri Feulard
II	Vienna 1892, Moriz Kaposi & Gustav Riehl, Sr.
III	London 1896, Sir Jonathan Hutchinson & James J. Pringle
IV	Paris 1900, Ernest Besnier & George Thibierge
V	Berlin 1904, Edmund Lesser & Oscar Rosenthal
VI	New York 1907, James Clarke White & John Addison Fordyce
VII	Rome 1912, Tommaso de Amicis & Gaetano Ciarrrocchi
VIII	Copenhagen 1930, Carl Rasch & Svend Lomholt
IX	Budapest 1935, Louis Nékam & Stephen Rothman
X	London 1952, Sir Archibald Gray & Gordon B. Mitchell-Heggs
XI	Stockholm 1957, Sven Herrström & Carl-Henrik Flodén
XII	Washington 1962, Donald M. Pillsbury & Clarence S. Livingood
XIII	Munich 1965, Werner Jadassohn & Carl-Georg Schirren
XIV	Venice 1972, Franco Flarer & Ferdinando Serri
XV	Mexico City 1977, Antonio González-Ochoa & Luciano Domínguez-Soto
XVI	Tokyo 1982, Atsushi Kukita & Makoto Seiji
XVII	Berlin 1987, Günter Stüttgen & Constantin Orfanos
XVIII	New York 1992, John S. Strauss & Stephen I. Katz
XIX	Sydney 1997, Robin Marks & Alan Cooper
XX	Paris 2002, Jean Revuz & Jean-Paul Ortonne
XXI	Buenos Aires 2007, Ricardo L. Galimberti & Adrián Pierini
XXII	Seoul 2011, Hee Chul Eun & Soo Chan Kim
XXIII	Vancouver 2015, Jerry Shapiro & Harvey Lui
XXIV	Milan 2019, Giovanni Pellacani & Ketty Peris

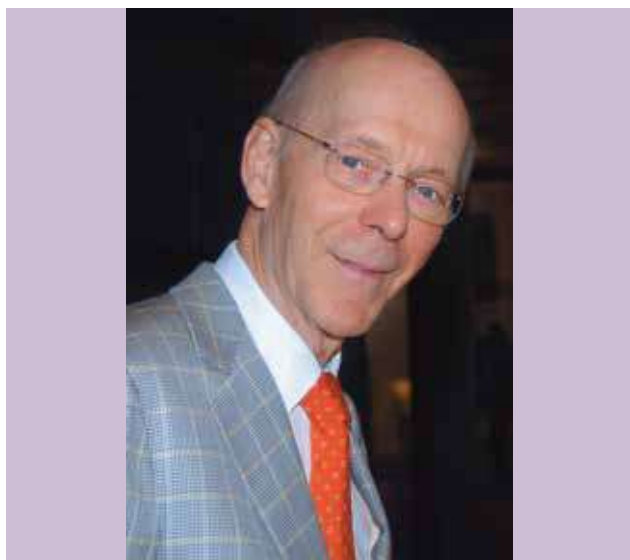


Figure 3. Gerd Plewig