

PRESS RELEASE
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Global Leaders Finalize Key Outcomes from Inaugural World Forum on Skin Cancer Prevention and Management in Persons with Albinism, Building Momentum for Action

Following intensive post-event deliberations to consolidate insights and chart a unified path forward, the *Global Albinism Alliance* (GAA), the *International League of Dermatological Societies* (ILDS), and *Standing Voice* today announce the finalized outcomes of the inaugural *World Skin Forum on Skin Cancer Prevention and Management in Persons with Albinism*, 27-28 October, Cape Town, South Africa.

This landmark two-day event united some 70 delegates from 30 countries, forging the first-ever global coalition of stakeholders dedicated to combating the preventable crisis of skin cancer in persons with albinism (PWA).

Participants included:

- Leaders of national, regional, and global associations of persons with albinism

- Experts from NGOs and foundations running skin cancer programs for PWA
- Clinicians, dermatologists, surgeons, pharmacists, and global health experts
- Researchers, including cancer epidemiologists from the *International Agency for Research on Cancer* (IARC)
- Leaders of dermatological societies
- A representative from the *World Health Organization* (WHO)

Co-organized by GAA, ILDS, and Standing Voice, and primarily supported by the *Pierre Fabre Foundation* with additional contributions from ISDIN, the Forum created an unprecedented platform for diverse experts to connect, share knowledge, and lay the groundwork for coordinated global efforts.

“By convening this conference, we have, for the first time, brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from around the world who are knowledgeable and experienced in addressing skin cancer in persons with albinism,” said the organizing partners in a joint statement.

“This gathering created a unique space for them to connect, exchange expertise, and learn from one another, laying the foundation for future collaboration and coordinated action. *The World Forum on Skin Cancer Prevention and Management in Persons with Albinism* has thus fostered the emergence of a global community united by a shared commitment to improving skin cancer prevention and management in persons with albinism.”

Through workshops, panel discussions, and collaborative sessions, delegates identified critical improvements and strategies. Key outcomes include the formation of working groups to develop a comprehensive global plan of action, focusing on:

- Advocacy and communication, leveraging the *World Health Assembly Resolution* “Skin diseases as a global public health priority,” pursuing WHO Neglected Tropical Disease status for skin cancer in PWA, and boosting public awareness via campaigns and social media.
- Access to photoprotection, capitalizing on the WHO's inclusion of broad-spectrum sunscreen for PWA in the *Essential Medicines List* (EML) and children's list (EMLc), alongside other protective measures.
- Building clinical capacity, including training in screening, diagnosis, and surgical interventions.
- Scaling up surveillance and treatment services.
- Prioritizing research, supported by IARC for data collection and analysis.

Antoine Gliksohn, Executive Director of the GAA, highlighted the Forum's strategic timing: “Hosting this inaugural *World Forum on Skin Cancer Prevention and Management in Persons with Albinism* so soon after the WHO's landmark decision to include sunscreen on the EML and EMLc is profoundly significant for PWAs. It transforms recent advocacy victories into actionable global collaboration, accelerating our efforts to prevent needless deaths from skin cancer and ensure persons

with albinism worldwide can live with dignity, protection, and hope.”

Professor Henry W. Lim, President of the ILDS, said: “As dermatologists representing over 200,000 professionals worldwide, the ILDS is proud to co-organize this pivotal Forum. Bringing together clinical expertise with patient advocacy and global health leaders marks a turning point in addressing skin cancer as a preventable tragedy for persons with albinism. We are committed to driving clinical capacity building and research to achieve equitable skin health outcomes globally.”

Harry Freeland, Founder and Executive Director of *Standing Voice*, underscored the human impact: “This Forum represents a decade of frontline work culminating in unified global action. By empowering persons with albinism and their advocates alongside experts, we are not just discussing change, we are building sustainable programs that save lives and dismantle stigma. *Standing Voice* is dedicated to ensuring these outcomes translate into real protection and dignity for communities across Africa and beyond.”

The Forum builds on recent global health advances, including strengthened recognition of skin health priorities. Delegates committed to sustained partnerships for impactful change.

The *Global Albinism Alliance*, *International League of Dermatological Societies*, and *Standing Voice* thank all participants and call on governments, health organizations, and the international community to support this vital movement.

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