



29 October  
World Psoriasis Day

## Building a better world for people with psoriasis

### Global survey calls attention to psoriasis patients' wish to better understand their disease and the treatment options available

(Stockholm, October 29, 2014)

Today, on World Psoriasis Day, the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations, IFPA, brings attention to the tools respondents from 90 countries have identified to help build a better world for people with psoriasis, by participating in an online survey launched in June. The preliminary results of the survey show a clear consensus – the top tool voted for is “Educating the patients about treatment options”.

Lars Ettarp, President of IFPA, comments:

“Today, patients wish to be well-informed about treatment options, especially when they have a chronic condition such as psoriasis, so that they can make important decisions regarding their disease management and care together with their doctors. An informed patient is an empowered patient, and clearly this specific type of information is something that IFPA and its regional and national member associations must continue to focus on and develop even further in their future strategic work. The WHO psoriasis resolution, which was extensively advocated for by IFPA and its members, points out the need for ‘multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, providing access to treatment and health care education’, so this should definitely be a priority.”

Psoriasis is a serious, chronic, inflammatory, non-communicable disease for which there is currently no cure. According to an official WHO report on psoriasis, the disease affects around 2 percent of the global population, with an even higher prevalence in some countries. Yet, even though it is a quite common disease which also carries with it an extensive physical, psychosocial and socioeconomic burden, there are still many gaps in the understanding of the disease itself and its management.

#### Need for more information about serious comorbid conditions

The survey also shows a need for more information on the serious comorbid conditions associated with, primarily severe, psoriasis.

“A number of serious conditions have been shown to be associated with psoriasis, such as psoriatic arthritis, metabolic syndrome, diabetes type II and cardiovascular disease. These are conditions that both the patients and the healthcare professionals need to be aware of, so that their psoriasis is managed and monitored correctly”, says Dr Hoseah Waweru, Vice President of IFPA and President of the Psoriasis Association in Kenya.

#### Building a better world for people with psoriasis

IFPA, its members and partner organizations are committed to building a better world for people with psoriasis, and World Psoriasis Day and the global survey are in themselves excellent tools to raise awareness. Josef de Guzman, IFPA Treasurer and Chairman of the World Psoriasis Day Steering Committee adds:

“World Psoriasis Day is a truly global campaign that aims to raise awareness of psoriasis and the many millions who live with this disease. Through World Psoriasis Day, and the survey, we hope that we can identify a clear path forward, towards a society where people with psoriasis can participate fully and be free from the added burdens of stigma and discrimination. We hope that many more people with psoriasis, the physicians that treat them, and their friends and families take part in the survey, so that all of us who act and speak on their behalf may be successful in building a better world for them.”



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### About IFPA and World Psoriasis Day

IFPA, together with all its more than 50 national member associations, is working to improve the quality of life for people suffering from psoriasis. Towards this end we are all united in a yearly World Psoriasis Day campaign, on October 29. In 2014 we are focusing on the tools needed to build a better world for people with psoriasis. To read more about World Psoriasis Day, please visit [www.worldpsoriasisday.com](http://www.worldpsoriasisday.com).

In May of this year, the 67<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on psoriasis, encouraging “Member States to engage further in advocacy efforts to raise awareness regarding the disease of psoriasis, fighting stigma suffered by those with psoriasis, in particular through activities held every year on 29 October in Member States”. The resolution, entitled “Psoriasis”, can be downloaded here:

[http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA67/A67\\_R9-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67/A67_R9-en.pdf)

### About the survey

The online survey was launched on IFPA’s website in mid-June 2014 and will be open until the end of May 2015. Featuring 17 different suggested tools within advocacy, awareness and education, as well as an open answer part where respondents can add their own tool, the survey is open for people with psoriasis, the physicians who treat them, and their family members and friends. The final results of the survey will be announced at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Psoriasis & Psoriatic Arthritis Conference. To participate in the survey, please go to [www.netigate.se/ifpa](http://www.netigate.se/ifpa).

[Attachment: Highlights from preliminary results of IFPA global online survey “Building a better world for people with psoriasis”]

For more information about IFPA and World Psoriasis Day, please contact the IFPA Secretariat at [ifpa@pso.se](mailto:ifpa@pso.se) or +46 8 556 109 18.

World Psoriasis Day is presented by the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations



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