

# THE MELANOSITE

09 July 2017



Mrs World, Candice Abrahams graced the World Vitiligo Day Commemoration with her presence in Durban and provided the audience with unique photo opportunities

## Mrs World participates in World Vitiligo Day Meeting in Durban N Raboobee

World Vitiligo Day was commemorated in Durban on Saturday 8 July 2017. The meeting was attended by 60 delegates who packed the Westville Hospital Boardroom leaving no empty seats.

Mrs World, Candice Abrahams spoke about her personal encounter with vitiligo - her son has the condition - in a candid and open manner and gave her full support to the cause. She expressed her desire to be an ambassador for the cause and her willingness to participate in future projects organised by the Vitiligo Society of South Africa. Her presence was indeed a strong draw card for the meeting.

The meeting was sponsored by Life Westville Hospital. Exhibitors included Fagron, Coverderm and SkinTECH.

Dr Imraan Jhetam ably covered the epidemiology, pathogenesis of vitiligo, clinical features, differential diagnosis and treatment.

Prof Jamila Aboobaker gave a succinct account of the psychological impact of vitiligo on sufferers. She stressed her personal experience with the condition in that her family members have the condition.

Dr Rajen Singh provided a detailed account of his experience with phototherapy and touched on the use of home care phototherapy for those who could not attend a facility.

Dr Raboobee described the roll out of the Vitiligo School Campaign, demonstrating the educational poster made for this purpose and outlining the various projects to be undertaken in schools. These include talks by dermatologists, attendance by Mrs World, a photographic exhibition and a play performed by school children. In addition, he discussed the use of excimer laser

There was time for participants to interact with each other and there was a vibrant question and answer session following each talk.

The date for the next meeting was set for 30 July 2018.

# New products launched at the World Vitiligo Day meeting

Fagron SA (Pty) Ltd, a compounding pharmacy based in Johannesburg, launched its new product for vitiligo called Pigmerise. Fagron produces a wide variety of compounded medications used in dermatology.

Pigmerise is a natural extract obtained from the black pepper fruit (*Piper nigrum*) and is a natural phytocomplex with alkaloids and volatile oils in an oleoresin. It stimulates melanocyte replication and induces the formation of melanocyte dendrites resulting in skin repigmentation.

Coverderm exhibited a wide range of cover preparations for cosmetic camouflage in vitiligo. The company has supported the VSSA consistently in the past. Its flagship product is Coverderm Classic but supplies a range of cosmetic concealers.

SkinTECH launched a new cosmetic cover in the form of a pen designed to paint vitiligo patches with colour. The product has proven convenient and popular overseas. The antioxidant Vitix Gel for repigmentation and the skin dye Viticolor were also exhibited.

More companies will be invited to exhibit in next years meeting as patients certainly benefit from discovering new products for vitiligo.

Potential exhibitors are sunscreen manufacturers, hat manufacturers and cosmetic suppliers who make concealing agents.

Companies interested in exhibiting their wares are encouraged to contact the VSSA early.

## Clinical Markers of disease activity in Vitiligo

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The most extensively characterized clinical markers of active, progressive disease include:

- Koebner phenomenon
- Trichome lesions
- Inflammatory lesions
- Confetti like depigmentation

A recent study described a poorer response when any type of Koebner phenomenon is present.

Trichrome lesions have 3 colours in close proximity, the depigmented lesion, normally pigmented skin and a zone of hypopigmented skin at the border. These lesions are associated with active, rapidly progressive disease.

Inflammatory vitiligo is characterised by erythema, scale and pruritus. This phase may be short lived but is associated with rapid progression.

Confetti-like depigmentation is a marker of rapid depigmentation. The lesions are small in size ranging from 1 - 5 mm in diameter.

These markers are important when assessing patients and developing a management plan, particularly in vitiligo surgery, which requires stable disease for 1 year.

Pigmerise by Fagron and Coverderm Classic were some of the products displayed at the meeting



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