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### *European Non Melanoma Skin Cancer Day*



**Non Melanoma Skin Cancer Day of the ESCF, 13 September 2011, Kaiserin-Friedrich-Haus in Berlin**

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[WWW.ESCF-NETWORK.EU](http://WWW.ESCF-NETWORK.EU)

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The European Skin Cancer Foundation established the Health Information Day “Non Melanoma Skin Cancer Day” and celebrated it for the first time on 13 September in Berlin. During the informational event guests (dermatologists of Berlin and Brandenburg, organizations dealing with dermatology) and medical journalists learnt more about the prevention and health burden of skin cancer.

The central message of the morning: The number of cases of Non Melanoma Skin Cancer in Europe is about 30 percent higher than previously thought. Professor Eggert Stockfleth, Head of the European Skin Cancer Foundation (ESCF) presented the first results of an European study called EPIDERM (co-funded by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers, EAHC). For Germany this means 250.000, instead of 170.000 new cases of Non Melanoma Skin Cancer per year. Therefore, raising awareness and new prevention strategies become more and more important.

This does not only apply for Germany but all over Europe. Scandinavia has gained the leading position of incidences for Malignant Melanoma and Non Melanoma Skin Cancer. According to Professor Stockfleth, the reason for this

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increasing number of new cases is the light skin of northern Europeans. They are very sensitive to sun, but spend their holidays in southern countries and like to go to solariums very often. In addition, Scandinavians apply sunscreen rather poorly.

Germany is the only country where skin cancer screening is a standard benefit of the general health insurances and therefore act as a role model for early detection of skin cancer. Current studies show that the screening will avoid complicated operations and a lot of lives can be saved.

The data of the EPIDERM-Study are supposed to be used for the development of prevention programs and for risk reduction strategies. Therefore, the ESCF starts to train dermatologists from several European countries this year. Known as the “snowball system” these physicians will train other physicians in their own country on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer, especially Non Melanoma Skin cancer.

**See more at:**

<http://www.escf-network.eu/en/welcome/news/press-releases.html>

### *1<sup>st</sup> International Journalism Award of the ESCF*

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Journalism Award of the ECSF was handed over in a festive surrounding during the Non Melanoma Skin Cancer Day. The award acknowledges the work of the journalists, who present the topic of skin cancer and its prevention to the general public in order to increase awareness. Since Spring 2011 print- or TV-journalists, who worked on the topic “Skin Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment”, could apply for the award.



**Ceremony  
of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
International  
Journalism  
Award of  
the ESCF**

Two of the applications were considered as especially outstanding by the jury. The award recipients were Antje Büll with her TV-Contribution “The dangerous lasering of moles” and Dr. Jörg Zittlau with his article “Dangerous Spring. The danger of skin cancer is still underestimated”. Stefan Jürgens, the ambassador of the ESCF, presented each one a check of 5,000 euros and an award certificate..

Afterwards the guests had the possibility to inform themselves about the confocal-laser-microscope at the Skin Cancer Centre Charité (SCCC) and to see the first photographs of the new exhibition “Skinscape” by Dr. Jürgen Scriba.

**See more at:**

<http://www.escf-network.eu/en/welcome/news/newsdetails/article/non-melanoma-skin-cancer-day.html>

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### *World Congress of Human Papillomaviruses in Berlin*



From 17- 22 September the 27. World Congress of Human Papillomaviruses was held in Berlin. More than 2,000 scientists exchanged their knowledge about Human Papillomaviruses (HPV) and the diseases they cause. Researchers presented results of animal experiments which showed that HPV not only causes cervical cancer but it could also promote the development of skin cancer. The analysed types of viruses are closely related to the viruses causing cervical cancer.

In addition, a new mechanism of a cutaneous HPV-Type was discovered confirming the cancer risk. Researchers from Heidelberg and Berlin are collectively developing vaccines to prevent skin cancer in children and organ transplant recipients.

Every year about 6.200 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in Germany, 20 percent are younger than 40 years. It requires skillfull operations to enable hese women to get pregnant. A vaccine, which avoids cervical cancer in 70-80



cases of 100 vaccinated women, is available since 2006, but the vaccination rate is still only about 35 percent.

Even a vaccination against HPV for boys was discussed during the World Congress. Professor Harald zur Hausen who was awarded with the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008 for his research on HPV, recommends this vaccination. So far the costs of the vaccination of girls between 12 and 17 years are covered by the general health insurances. Based on studies in Australia, Professor Harald zur Hausen emphasised the safety of the vaccination. He demanded a better publicity and information of the physicians.

**See more at:**

<http://www.escf-network.eu/en/welcome/news/newsdetails/article/human-papillomaviruses-are-very-likely-to-cause-skin-cancer.html>

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**We look forward to comments and questions about the newsletter.**

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