IN CONVERSATION WITH Dr Ibrahim Galadari, Professor of Dermatology, United Arab Emerites

INTERVIEW

You are internationally recognised in the world of dermatology - what led you to into this field?

Many doctors think about different specialties when they graduate from medical school. For myself, it was actually already my hobby to look at the skin in terms of both health and beauty. Skin reflects the health of a person and I had always been fascinated by that. So, that's why I focused on dermatology.

Who has inspired you in your career and why?

You know, usually there are so many factors that inspire you when thinking about your career. It could be your parents, teachers or professors and when you are finally nearing graduation you inspire yourself – what you want to do, your final decision by yourself, what you would like and how to do it. We usually advise the next generation that you should always do something to satisfy yourself - not to satisfy others.

What piece of advice would you give to young doctors considering a career in dermatology?

Young doctors should know that dermatology is a practice mostly done in the field, which tackles a very important organ for human beings. People who have a problem with their skin are often also facing social problems and their quality of life can be seriously affected. So skin health is of primary importance, not only the cosmetic aspect but also the science behind it.

Also, it is very important to focus on

treating and curing your patient and never use the patient for your career.

What do you think have been the most exciting developments in dermatology in recent years?

In recent years, the focus has been on cosmetics and this is becoming a problem. If you look around at different events in different countries, you will find that two thirds of the talks and exhibitions focus on cosmetic aspects. That's not how it used to be. On the contrary, previously two thirds would focus on dermatology science and one third on cosmetics. Cosmetics has become more prominent than the others. This perhaps leads to financial reward but are we unfortunately losing the science?

As a clinician well known for presenting at international meetings do you see this as a vital part of your work?

Of course, all doctors are supposed to be involved in Continued Medical Education, whether it is national or international. Nowadays, almost every day brings something new or more advanced for diagnosis or management. If doctors are not getting these updates, then they will fall far behind.

As Chairman of the Scientific Committee at Dubai Derma can you tell us about a bit about what the conference will be focusing on?

Dubai Derma is not like any other event, it is an educational institution. We focus

in the pre-conference courses on giving lectures and updates for delegates who are enrolled in the residence programme and want to refresh their knowledge in general. There is also the workshop, which is running parallel to the scientific programme, which helps delegates gain skills, whether hands-on or for Botox, fillers, miso, laser and different cosmetic procedures as well as the main programme which focuses on research and updates in different diseases and treatments in dermatology. Many prominent, internationally well-known speakers attend Dubai Derma.

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