

"TOWARDS MORE EQUITABLE, PERSON-CENTERED CARE FOR ALL PEOPLE LIVING WITH PSORIATIC DISEASE IN THE AMERICAS" IFPA FORUM 2025 EVENT

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Abstract: In 2025, the IFPA (International Federation of Psoriasis Associations) has host the IFPA Forum 2025, an Event for the Americas in Bogotá, Colombia. This was the third regional Forum, while the two previous forums were held in Europe in 2022 and Asia in 2023. The IFPA Forum 2025 gathered stakeholders from all across the Americas to address challenges related to psoriatic disease. The primary focus of the Forum was on reducing inequalities and difficulties in access to healthcare while simultaneously improving the quality of life of millions of people living with this disease. The psoriatic disease was the highlight of the Forum within the broader context of noncommunicable diseases, emphasizing its impact on both individuals and society.

Keywords: psoriasis; health; disease

1. Introduction

Psoriatic disease is a chronic, disabling, immune-mediated inflammatory disease that significantly impacts the lives of millions of people worldwide, imposing considerable treatment and societal costs [1]. The Global Psoriasis Atlas estimates that its prevalence in the Americas ranges from 0.1% to 1.7%, with significant variations [2 North America reports a higher prevalence of people with psoriatic disease, while Central America and the Caribbean lack comprehensive data on this topic [3].

Regarding psoriatic treatments, it is important to say that access to effective treatments is uneven across the Americas. For example, the ethnic minorities in North America are facing barriers to healthcare, while Latin America has persistent social inequities in access to healthcare [4]. These differences require interventions in order to enable access to psoriasis treatments and to secure equity in healthcare overall. This is especially important for people living with chronic noncommunicable diseases, such as psoriatic disease [5].

To optimize treatment, it is vital to address regional differences in disease burden, quality of life [6], and comorbidities [7]. Expanding access to timely diagnosis and effective management is very important for enhancing health outcomes and quality of life for people affected [8].

For more than two decades, IFPA (International Federation of Psoriasis Associations) has worked to elevate psoriatic disease as a severe noncommunicable disease, culminating in the 2014 World Health Assembly Resolution and the 2016 WHO (World Health Organization) Global Report on Psoriasis. IFPA members in the Americas have been at the forefront of global advocacy efforts since the organization's inception. With this dedication, IFPA was proud to host its third regional Forum in the Americas.

2. Speaking up for people living with psoriatic disease in the Americas

This Forum (Figure 1) focused on the experiences of individuals living with psoriatic disease and the challenges of addressing their needs.



Figure 1. Opening of the conference.

Participants (Figure 2) join forces to:

- Establish consensus around the unmet needs of people living with psoriatic disease.
- Spearhead a roadmap for action on how to implement the recommendations of the WHO 2016 Global Report on Psoriasis.
- Demand inclusion of the patient perspective when developing policy, research, and other solutions.
- Fuel knowledge sharing across countries and stakeholder groups.
- Strengthen networks across countries and stakeholder groups.



Figure 2. Participants of the conference.

3. Key impressions

Urgency for health equity

A recurring message played a considerable role in the diagnosis and treatment of psoriasis, as well as support between and within countries. Speakers at the IFPA Forum

(Figure 3) highlighted the attention to people living with psoriasis in underserved regions. They pointed out that these people face inadequate specialist care, late diagnosis of psoriasis, as well as limited access to biological drugs. They pointed out that it is urgent to address these systemic barriers and the limited healthcare system.

Power of the patient voice

At this conference, patients were present and were the central point of the IFPA Forum. Personal stories of patients underscored the emotional and physical state of people living with psoriatic disease. Each story was different, but they all pointed to some of the same difficulties that these patients face, from difficulties with treatment, inadequate therapies, as well as sneers from the environment and misunderstandings from other people who do not have this problem. At the IFPA Forum, it was pointed out that patient experience should be incorporated into each layer of healthcare projects, such as planning, realization, and delivery.



Figure 3. Speakers of the conference.

Integrated, multidisciplinary approaches

Discussions at IFPA panels confirmed that psoriasis is a complex, systemic condition, and is mainly a skin or joint disease. People who have psoriasis in their joints face more

difficulties as they can feel much pain. Collaboration between dermatologists, rheumatologists, mental health professionals, and primary care providers is needed in order to provide efficient diagnosis and treatment for patients. Several presentations showed some very interesting case models of integrated care in Latin America and beyond.

Innovation and best practices

Innovative programs are nowadays very popular across the Americas. It was noticed that these programs should include mobile health initiatives, tele dermatology platforms, and community outreach efforts that would reach remote and marginalized populations. This is very important since these populations face significant barriers due to geographic isolation or socioeconomic disadvantages. Discussion about these cases and practices at the IFPA forum (Figure 4) has inspired and fostered learning between countries. Also, it initiated potential partnerships and collaborations in this field.



Figure 4. Discussion panel of the conference.

Policy and advocacy momentum

In order to highlight the importance of including psoriasis in national healthcare plans, several sessions were devoted to noncommunicable diseases. At this conference, the psoriasis disease gained growing recognition as a public and medical healthcare problem. This recognition was emphasized by involving the regional policymakers and international health organizations in this noteworthy theme.

Data and research gaps

Current data from different regions on prevalence, disease burden, and treatment outcomes were analyzed in detail at this event. Based on the analyzed data, it was concluded that in the future, more data needs to be obtained in order to analyze problems and challenges of people with psoriatic disease in more detail, as well as to raise awareness of the human population. Without localized evidence, the endeavors of the advocacy and resource allocation remain limited. Calls for research collaboration and inclusive data collection have been initiated and supported by stakeholders, health organizations, and associations.

4. Conclusions

IFPA Forum 2025 was a great reminder that necessary care for people with psoriasis is a clinical challenge, a social, economic, and ethical imperative. The discussions at this event were directed towards the central pillars of equity, person-centeredness, and systems change. Further, they were emphasized as the foundation for the future of healthcare in the region. Perspectives from all across the world were brought together, each with its unique challenges and innovations. All of these perspectives had a shared vision, which is to ensure that every person living with psoriasis receives timely, respectful, and comprehensive care, regardless of geography, income, or background. The IFPA Forum brought together exchanging ideas and building momentum. The energy of the participants was optimistic. It was concluded that isolated efforts are not enough and that in the fight for the rights and adequate treatment of patients with psoriasis, we need sustained and cross-sector collaboration. The sectors that need to work together in order to bridge the gaps are healthcare systems, patient organizations, and industry. One of the main conclusions was that it is time to act. In order to move from the talk to real acts, we need coordinated policies, investments, and local actions. The words of one patient were: "Equality is about more than access, it is about being seen, being heard, and being cared for as a whole person. That is the future we must create together."

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