

On January 27, members of the GlobalSkin-Europe Community came together to further discuss the impacts of dermatology and to suggest ways to amplify its importance. The Forum consisted of two parts:

GRIDD Presentation and Panel

Dr Rachael Pattinson, researcher from Cardiff University presented the latest results for the GRIDD Delphi phase from the European viewpoint. The impacts of dermatological conditions were studied throughout five different dimensions, namely physical impacts, psychological impacts, social impacts, financial impacts and impacts on daily responsibilities.

Members of the expert panel representing industry, health care providers, skin patient organizations, and Europe patient organizations, pointed out that having verifiable quantitative data will help dermatology patients to tell their stories. Patient empowerment is crucial when it comes to data-driven healthcare. Furthermore, mental health is an important aspect of dermatological conditions, and the gap between dermatology patients and the medical community needs to be addressed.

In break-out room discussions, the patient leaders highlighted the importance of advocating for the psychological support of dermatology patients. For them, it is necessary to reach health professionals through GRIDD to address the issue. According to patient leaders, the socio-economic divide among European countries needs to be addressed. In addition, a data set for each disease would be helpful to compare the scope of the problem. Furthermore, it is important to compare regions to build best practices.

Community Engagement Plan

GlobalSkin-Europe has developed a Community Engagement plan for 2022-2024, the aim of which is to empower the community to unite with a single voice and take a place at the top table of health policy in Europe. It stands on two main pillars: community building and advocacy activities.

The community engagement plan is based on three building blocks: “Action, Build, Collaborate”. The initiatives taken must have an Actionable outcome, insights, and measurements, must Build awareness, and must encompass Collaboration of different partners throughout this action.

The expected outcomes for 2022 are:

1. Creating an awareness campaign, in conjunction with that of the Global Dermatology Coalition, that will include results of discussions with different partners on the timing and concept of the European Skin Disease Awareness campaign
2. Starting a conversation with policy makers around skin diseases, including accentuating the importance of dermatological diseases in these debates, organising panel discussions on relevant topics with different stakeholders, and getting actively involved in the EU Health Policy Platform.
3. Promoting GRIDD awareness outside the GlobalSkin Community, which includes highlighting GRIDD data within the framework of different dialogues and discussions.

Patient leaders present discussed in break-out rooms and provided the following feedback points:

- The differences in cultural and health systems must be taken into account when implementing the Community Engagement Plan.
- Within the framework of the planned awareness campaign, the message that the community conveys needs to be clearly defined.
- Joint advocacy is important in achieving this clarity.
- Being too EU-centric may lead to the exclusion of non-EU European countries.
- Furthermore, priority must be given to the European Pharmaceutical Strategy legislation which is a huge opportunity in defining unmet needs.