

Unlocking Healthcare Equity: World Psoriasis Day 2023 Sheds Light on "Access for All"

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World Psoriasis Day 2023, IFPA

Every year, on the 29th of October, the global community unites to observe World Psoriasis Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about psoriatic disease, advocating for the rights of individuals affected by this condition, and working towards improved access to quality healthcare. In 2023, the theme "Access for All" takes center stage, with a sharp focus on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), a fundamental component of achieving equitable healthcare access.

While the vision of UHC is commendable, the path to achieving it is fraught with challenges. Access to care remains fragmented and difficult, particularly for individuals living in underserved regions. The global healthcare workforce shortage further compounds the issue. It's estimated that [3 billion people](#) [1] worldwide lack adequate access to care for dermatological conditions. The WHO underscores that [15 million additional health workers](#) [2] are needed to meet UHC commitments, a daunting number that reflects the gravity of the healthcare access crisis.

Challenges in Psoriatic Disease Care

Healthcare workers with expertise in dermatological or rheumatological conditions are even scarcer. This scarcity, combined with the complex nature of psoriasis, creates a significant barrier to access.

Individuals living with severe psoriasis are 46% more likely to develop type 2 diabetes and have a 58% higher risk of experiencing a major cardiac event. These [comorbidities](#) [3] are classified as non-communicable diseases (NCDs), making it crucial that UHC health benefit packages encompass the comprehensive treatment of psoriatic disease. Furthermore, these packages should emphasize holistic and people-centered care to address the physical, mental, and social aspects of the condition.

One of the primary objectives of World Psoriasis Day is to share knowledge and insights about psoriatic disease and UHC. Healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocates are collaborating to raise awareness of psoriatic disease

and its burden on the individuals living with it. This exchange of knowledge empowers patients and healthcare providers alike, fostering a deeper understanding of the condition and its management.

Uniting for collective action

On World Psoriasis Day 2023, the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA), the global organization fighting psoriatic disease is coming together as a united front, determined to overcome these challenges and promote "Access for All." The focus is on collective action, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy for policies that prioritize UHC and address the unique needs of psoriasis patients.

IFPA stands as a steadfast advocate for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for individuals affected by psoriatic disease. As a global organization dedicated to supporting those with psoriatic disease, IFPA plays a crucial role in raising awareness, advocating for policy changes, and driving initiatives that promote equitable access to quality healthcare for people living with psoriatic disease.

IFPA believes people living with psoriatic disease should not face their journey alone. By destigmatizing psoriatic disease and increasing understanding of the condition's physical and emotional impact, society can play a pivotal role in supporting the individuals living with it.

In conclusion, World Psoriasis Day 2023, with its theme "Access for All," serves as a powerful reminder that equitable healthcare access is a fundamental right. Universal Health Coverage is not merely an aspiration but an imperative, and by focusing on this vision, the global community is making significant strides toward a more inclusive and healthier world for everyone. On this day, we are reminded that the fight against psoriasis is a collective effort, and together, we can build a world where no one is left behind in their pursuit of health and well-being.

For further information about World Psoriasis Day 2023 and how you can participate, please visit psoriasisday.org [4].

About the author:

Tanjia Nishi serves as a Global Communicator at IFPA, where her primary responsibility is to enhance the organization's communication strategies and provide essential support for the federation's various initiatives and activities. With a master's degree in Corporate Communication, Tanjia is working on advancing IFPA's mission to raise awareness and support for individuals affected by psoriatic diseases.

About IFPA:

Founded in 1971, IFPA is the global organization uniting all people living with psoriatic disease - regardless of where they live, what type of psoriatic disease they have, or how it impacts their lives. Together, IFPA's members advocate for over 60 million people living with psoriatic disease worldwide.

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[1] <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30741608/>

[2] <https://www.who.int/news/item/02-06-2022-global-strategy-on-human-resources-for-health--workforce-2030>

[3] <https://ncdalliance.org/resources/addressing-ncds-psoriasis-and-its-co-morbidities>

[4] <https://ifpa-pso.com/world-psoriasis-day>

[5] <https://ncdalliance.org/taxonomy/term/1527>

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