

Pigmentary Disorders in Southeast Asia: A Collaborative Agenda

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Pigmentary disorders, which include hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation, and/or depigmentation, comprise a critical area of dermatologic concern. They may be potentially linked to or provide clues about systemic involvement, underlying health issues, or the significant psychosocial burden experienced by affected individuals. Such conditions can affect all genders, from pediatric to geriatric patients, and in terms of pathophysiology, they encompass genetic components, environmental influences (e.g., sun exposure), as well as internal (e.g., underlying diseases) and external (e.g., medications) contributory factors.

The Pigmentary Disorder Special Interest Group (PDSIG) of the Philippine Dermatological Society aims to be at the forefront of increasing awareness and activities for both medical colleagues and patients, as reflected in our PDSIG Mission and Vision:

- **Mission:** To educate fellow dermatologists on the diagnosis and management of various pigmentary disorders by promulgating evidence-based knowledge through research and collaboration with other allied societies.
- **Vision:** To create the Philippine consensus guidelines on the various pigmentary disorders, not limited to melasma and vitiligo.

It is both fortuitous and exciting that PDSIG is able to collaborate with the Journal of Asia Pacific Aesthetic Sciences in this Special Pigmentary Issue for September 2025 to compile and publish articles related to pigmentary disorders.

From the Philippines, this issue features two observational studies and several interesting case reports. In addition, articles and case reports submitted from Malaysia and Indonesia contribute significantly to raising awareness of the high incidence and impact of pigmentary disorders in the Southeast Asian region. These contributions align with the PDSIG's vision to enhance understanding, promote effective management, and improve the lives of individuals affected by pigmentary conditions. Through our valued partnership with esteemed publishers such as JAPA, we hope to further support this vision by providing readers with insightful, evidence-based content that fosters deeper knowledge and guides improved clinical care.