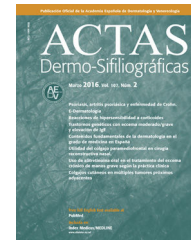




# ACTAS Derma-Sifiliográficas

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## COMMENTARIES

### Creation of the “Soludable” Sun Protection Accreditation Program<sup>☆</sup>



#### Creación del distintivo Soludable

The incidence of skin cancer has undeniably increased in recent years even though the skin can be readily assessed and protected if an individual has the knowledge and motivation to do so. Educational interventions, particularly those to avoid sunburn in childhood and adolescence, are a major weapon in the fight against the increase in of this type of cancer. Health education campaigns, such as SunSmart School, implemented in more than 90% of primary schools in Australia, have achieved appropriate sun protection measures in children even beyond the school environment. In Spain, the *Solsano* (a play on the Spanish words *sol* [sun] and *saludable* [healthy]) program has been shown useful for modifying sun exposure habits in Andalusia, but we still have high rates of sunburn in childhood and sun protection measures are still not applied in the majority of schools. A system was therefore necessary to encourage sun protection measures and provide schools with clear, motivating, objective, and assessable policies, tools, and educational approaches to achieve this end.

The authors of this article, with a broad experience in sun protection campaigns, report the design and

implementation of the *Soludable* sun protection accreditation program, a pioneering model in Spain to enable schools to actively pursue sun protection policies with the involvement of the entire educational community.<sup>1</sup> The recommendations are based on the policies of the aforementioned SunSmart School, and are consistent with the programs of healthy living habits of the Education Department of the Andalusian regional government and with the European health promotion guidelines, focused on creating environments that facilitate healthier lifestyles.

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### Syphilis Epidemic Still Uncontrolled in our Society: What Should Dermatologists Do?<sup>☆</sup>



#### La sífilis sigue sin control sanitario en nuestra sociedad: ¿qué debemos hacer los dermatólogos?

Venereal diseases have been the domain of dermatology because of the eminently cutaneous and mucosal nature

of their clinical manifestations and because it was dermatologists who described them and studied them, and who were consulted by the patients affected by them. Today, however, the term *sexually transmitted infections* (STIs) is preferred to *venereal diseases*, because people who acquire an infectious agent through sexual relations may often remain without signs of disease for some time. STIs are an increasingly frequent reason for consultation in our health care system and constitute a major public-health problem because of their magnitude and because of the associated complications and sequelae if early diagnosis and treatment are not provided.<sup>1</sup> Without a doubt, there is one venereal disease that has particular implications for dermatologists. That disease is syphilis, which has even given us the name of our national journal.

In this issue of *ACTAS DERMOSIFILIOGRÁFICAS*, Arando M et al.<sup>2</sup> present an excellent study of the epidemiologic and clinical characteristics of more than a thousand cases of early

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syphilis diagnosed over a 10-year period at an STI referral unit in the Barcelona metropolitan area. The authors highlight the importance of this disease, which is still uncontrolled in our society. They analyze the importance of several risk factors involved in its transmission, which need to be understood, as prevention is essential in this type of disease.

Finally, we would like to highlight again the important role of dermatologists in diagnosing and treating syphilis and other STIs. We must also become more involved in campaigns to raise awareness and provide advice to the general public, especially young people and risk groups. In my humble opinion, 21<sup>st</sup>-century dermatology still has work to do with regard to venereology, which is becoming increasingly sidelined in different courses, meetings and conferences. I honestly believe that it is up to each and every one of us to give this intrinsic area of our specialty the visibility it deserves.

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