

# Life Course of Healthy Skin Global Partnership

## Consensus Statement of the Delegates of the 2014 Manchester Summit

*On 23 June 2014, global ageing and dermatology experts came together for the first time at the 2014 Manchester Summit, "A Life Course of Active Ageing and Healthy Skin: Identifying Challenges and Seizing Opportunities." Through an interdisciplinary and cross-geography dialogue, delegates pledged the following:*

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We, the delegates of the 2014 Manchester Summit, set forth a vision in which a life course approach to skin health promotes individual wellness, improves quality of life, creates social value and provides a basis for ageing as a source of economic growth. To achieve this vision, we commit to engaging in partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration focused on research, education and training, innovation with practical applications and powerful communications to enable the health of our skin – our largest organ, which protects from infection and injuries – is a priority for 21<sup>st</sup>-century active ageing.

### We acknowledge:

- Skin diseases will become more prevalent as the ageing population increases globally. To meet these needs, a life course approach to healthy skin, which starts young and anticipates living longer, must be a core component of 21<sup>st</sup>-century active and healthy ageing strategies.
- Natural deterioration of the skin is and will continue to be a part of the ageing process, even as more effective approaches to skin health will mitigate this deterioration and lead to healthier ageing generally.
- Changing population dynamics, in which there will soon be more people over the age of 60 than under 14, require a new approach to skin health – one that focuses on both prevention and meeting patient care needs as we age.
- One in every three cancers diagnosed is skin cancer. One out of every two people over 65 suffers from xerosis, intense dryness of the skin, which can lead to infection and wounds. Dermatological side effects occur in up to 80 percent of patients receiving cancer treatments. In addition to the physical effects and medical costs, these conditions have psychological effects and impact quality of life.
- More active and healthier ageing will be enhanced by a transformative approach to skin health across the life course, with particular attention to skin diseases and conditions that increase with age:
  - A wellness and prevention approach to protecting the skin from sun damage and other environmental factors can substantially reduce the incidence of non-melanoma and other skin cancers.
  - Effective skin hydration can have a positive impact on healthy ageing, and may provide targeted support to reduce hospitalization and hospital readmissions, especially in the elderly.
  - Proper preventive care and treatment of onychomycosis (nail fungal infection), diabetic foot infection and hyperkeratosis (lesions and corns) can preserve mobility,

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mitigate or even prevent falls as we age, and increase safety and confidence of the elderly.

- Preventive skin care and protection is crucial to maintain skin integrity and function in geriatric and long-term care settings, including in the home, which is increasingly older people's preference for care.
  - Healthy skin can lead to better mental and emotional health with positive impact on social engagement, which leads to more active ageing and therefore economic growth.
  - Proper attention and response to skin health for patients undergoing cancer treatments with negative dermatological side effects can enable greater commitment to treatment regimens.
- An effective life course of healthy skin can drive efficiencies in healthcare costs and contribute to more fiscally sustainable national economies.

### We commit to global leadership in the following areas:

- Collaboration and partnerships across the ageing and dermatology fields and across regions globally.
- Extending the reach of our education about healthy skin to new stakeholder audiences beyond the dermatology and ageing fields.
- Creation of the "story of skin" as a basis for a more profound and informed global understanding of the critical importance of our skin as a part of human health and ageing.
- Development of a research agenda – including analysis of existing research and a plan for new research – to enhance understanding of the science of skin ageing and the resulting physical, mental and social implications. Such research will be committed to better understanding skin ageing as a basis for innovation for healthier skin across the life course.
- Analysis of the economic and fiscal impact of healthy skin on active ageing.
- Establishment of a global network of Centres of Excellence for skin health to align and set the goals of the ageing and dermatology communities and develop a truly global plan to meet 21st-century needs.
- Development of core curricula and training programs in academic settings including public health, medical and nursing schools, as well as for caregivers.
- Promotion of innovation through new technologies, products and care methods to help prevent skin deterioration and assist in maintaining good skin health across the life course.

### We invite all stakeholders to join the Partnership:

Organisations of all types have a stake in pursuing a life course of active and healthy ageing, of which skin health is a critical component. We invite academic institutions, governments, foundations, non-profits, global institutions and corporations to join the Life Course of Healthy Skin Global Partnership. Please contact Melissa Mitchell at [mmitchell@globalcoalitiononaging.com](mailto:mmitchell@globalcoalitiononaging.com) for more information.