

**Synopsis**  
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International dermatology organisations have posed the question of how to achieve healthy skin for all with emphasis placed on raising awareness of the importance of healthy skin and delivery of care to those in need, especially in developing countries. This essay analyses topics including prevention, research funding and dermatology training as factors for achieving healthy skin for all.

In deprived regions there is a mismatch between demand and supply in terms of dermatologists, health workers, buildings and equipment. Funding should be available to train dermatologist and health workers with regards to skin conditions specific to the population's need. This could be achieved through overseas volunteer work and aid given by international dermatology organisations. There should be greater collaboration between international dermatology organisations, to enable a greater exchange of research, which could result in the formation of an international resource.

Developing countries could benefit from greater use of teledermatology, which provides a diagnostically reliable method of increasing access to expertise in resource-poor areas. Moreover, focus could be placed on studying the association of skin disease with culture and religion.

Prevention is key area of focus when aiming to achieve healthy skin for all, with primary focus on prevention of skin cancers, which are a major cause of mortality. Skin cancer prevention should focus on changing the beliefs of tanning appeal, emphasise the importance of sunscreen use and highlight the need for skin self-examination. There should be promotion of ultraviolet radiation protection through education and regular surveys of sun exposure. Patients must be aware of professional organisations such as the National Eczema Society, which provides accurate and accessible public information on skin disease.

Research and reviews of literature into risk factors of skin conditions are continuously required to improve standards of prevention. It is important that dermatologists place significant focus on reviewing clinical guidelines and carrying out clinical audits to improve standards of dermatology care.

Quality of patient self-management must be improved to develop high levels of skin care. To improve patient education, dermatologists must be taught effective techniques for verbal and non-verbal communication. Skin diseases can have many psychological consequences on patients and greater focus should be placed on training dermatologists in psychodermatology.

Governments must aim to provide the most effective and affordable dermatology care to meet the population's need. Collaborations with international organisations could help to achieve this goal. Health professionals, patients and the public should be involved in decisions regarding skin care that are made by clinical commissioning groups.

Globally there seems to be a shortage of funding for dermatology research, particularly in primary care. Funding could follow the example of the Milken Prostate Cancer Model and The Dermatology Foundation. These have established systems for ensuring that funding helps achieve research goals and encourages dermatologist to pursue a career in academic medicine. Challenges that need to be overcome in primary care research include, engaging general practitioners who do not have a research interest and reducing the additional workload involved.

Training in dermatology is limited at an undergraduate level. Studies show specialist clinical experiences and small learning groups improved undergraduate learning and confidence. The audit of dermatology content of UK undergraduate curricula in medical schools by the British Association of Dermatologists highlights key areas for improvements in teaching. Dermatologists must be aware of internet sites in providing rapid transmission of information to the wider community. Understanding human cutaneous diversity is important for providing healthy skin for future generations. The conclusion of this essay is focused on primary emphasis on self-management,

prevention and primary care management to help achieve the aim of healthy skin for all.

**Word Count: 600**