

# A New Melasma Resource

Melasma has been, and remains, a vexing problem for patients and dermatologists alike. Melasma and postinflammatory hyperpigmentation are 2 of the most common pigmentary disorders presenting to dermatologists today and are often quite difficult to treat. In addition, both conditions may be present in the same patient, further complicating therapy.

Melasma is particularly prevalent in Latin and Asian populations, and as these groups increase in the United States, so does the demand for treatment. In response to this growing demand, *Cosmetic Dermatology*<sup>®</sup> announces the launch of a new column entitled, *Managing Melasma*, dedicated to the scientific understanding and current treatment options for melasma. The first installment in this column is an outstanding review article by Tania F. Cestari, MD, of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre, Brazil, and Cristiane Benvenuto-Andrade, MD, of the University of Rio de Janeiro, Hospital Universitário Clementino Fraga Filho, Brazil. This review article discusses the function of the human pigmentary system and the pathophysiology of melasma in detail. Future columns will also include research updates and therapeutic strategies.

The series editor for this new column is Doris Hexsel, MD, of Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr. Hexsel is an internationally recognized expert in the field of

cosmetic dermatology. She has served as Professor of Dermatology, School of Medicine, University de Passo Fundo, Brazil, and currently maintains an active cosmetic practice in both Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro.

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Dr. Hexsel is called upon to speak worldwide and brings a wealth of experience to this new column, as well as an international perspective on melasma therapy.

The need for increased awareness of melasma results from its growing prevalence. This column serves to educate dermatologists and provide relevant and timely information on the pathogenesis and treatment of this condition.

James M. Spencer, MD, MS  
New York, New York

