

2026 Board of Directors - Election Candidates

Applicant	Organization	Region	Disease Area
Kelly Barta	International Topical Steroid Awareness Network (ITSAN)	International	Topical steroid withdrawal syndrome
Brindley Brooks	HS Connect	Americas	Hidradenitis suppurativa
Melanie Funk	Eczema Support Australia	Western Pacific	Atopic eczema
Julio Garcia	Fudación Nacional de Albinismo Simplemente Amigos	Americas	Albinism
Edmund Lau	Psoriasis Association of Singapore	Western Pacific	Psoriasis
Tina Mesarič	Zavod Atopika	Europe	Atopic eczema
Patricia (Tricha) Shivas	Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research	International	Sarcoidosis
Maya Tulpule	Shweta Association	South-East Asia	Vitiligo

Kelly Barta

International Topical Steroid Awareness Network

International Region – Topical steroid withdrawal syndrome



GLOBALSKIN.ORG

International Alliance of
Dermatology Patient
Organizations

Why do you want to be elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

I care deeply for the dermatology patient community as a patient myself and am acutely aware of not only the numerous unmet needs of this population, but also the opportunities for positive change when we come together as patient advocacy groups. My experience as a person living with a skin condition and learnings over the years from my work in patient advocacy fuels my desire to help lead needed change with those on high levels to create broad and lasting impact.

What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in your role as a Board Director?

I have worked as a Director of State Advocacy with both the National Eczema Association and Allergy & Asthma Network and have held an executive leadership role with my current organization, ITSAN, and also for 5 years leading the Coalition of Skin Diseases. My training through the EUPATI program, and service on the AAD's Patient Advocacy Task Force, FDA and CTTI's Patient Engagement Collaborative, and GlobalSkin's Atopic Eczema Advisory Council have given me a broad overview of the Dermatology Patient Advocacy Space. This experience not only provides an understanding of patients' ultimate needs, but also what is needed in running an NGO successfully.

Kelly Barta

International Topical Steroid Awareness Network

International Region – Topical steroid withdrawal syndrome



GLOBALSKIN.ORG

International Alliance of
Dermatology Patient
Organizations

What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Advocacy / outreach
- Community leadership
- Strategic planning

Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I have been on ITSAN's BOD since 2017 and on the CSD's BOD from 2018 – 2025.

What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

Three Global Conferences (presented twice at one of them), the Atopic Eczema Advisory Council and coffee chats since 2019, the 2025 ISAD meeting in Melbourne

Brindley Brooks

HS Connect

Americas Region – Hidradenitis suppurativa



Why do you want to be elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

Our organization is going global and I would love to contribute to all skin disease moving forward in this way. I also think there needs to be representation of hidden derm diseases on the board as well.

What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in your role as a Board Director?

I am a juggernaut. I have passion and a desire to learn and see how we can problem solve and get our patients the care they need, regardless of where they live.

Brindley Brooks

HS Connect

Americas Region – Hidradenitis suppurativa



What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Communications / public relations
- Community leadership
- Member engagement

Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I was the President of the CSD for 2025, I am the communications chairperson for the HS Coalition.

What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

Two GlobalSkin Conferences – Brussels 2023 and Prague 2025, and GlobalSkin meetings during EADV

Melanie Funk

Eczema Support Australia

Western Pacific – Atopic eczema



Why do you want to be elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

I am motivated to contribute to GlobalSkin's continued growth as a strong, united global voice for people living with dermatological conditions. Through my involvement in GlobalSkin initiatives and my work with Eczema Support Australia, I have seen the impact that collaboration across countries and organisations can have in strengthening patient advocacy and improving outcomes. I am seeking election to the Board to support GlobalSkin's strategic direction and long-term sustainability, and to contribute to its mission of elevating the patient voice, championing shared priorities, and uniting stakeholders globally. I am particularly interested in supporting the alignment between global policy opportunities, such as the WHO Skin Resolution, and the practical needs of patient organisations working within different national contexts. I bring an understanding of both governance and operational realities, and I value the importance of thoughtful oversight, risk management, and strategic focus in enabling organisations to thrive. I am committed to contributing constructively, listening to diverse perspectives, and acting in the best interests of GlobalSkin as a whole.

What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in your role as a Board Director?

I bring over a decade of leadership experience in patient advocacy as the Founder and Managing Director of Eczema Support Australia, alongside active engagement in GlobalSkin governance, strategy, and programming. My experience spans strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and delivery of national health programs, including federally funded initiatives focused on consumer health literacy and professional education. I have worked across government, clinical, research, and

Melanie Funk

Eczema Support Australia

Western Pacific – Atopic eczema



industry settings to develop evidence-based resources and advocacy initiatives that support improved patient outcomes. I currently studying post-graduate Public Health. Within GlobalSkin, I currently serve on the Finance and Risk Committee, contributing to governance oversight and organisational sustainability. I am also an active member of the Atopic Eczema Advisory Committee and the Atopic Eczema Task Force, supporting work to align global policy opportunities—such as the WHO Skin Resolution—with patient priorities, including the development of policy-focused white papers. As a EUPATI Fellow, I bring knowledge of medicines development, regulatory processes, and health technology assessment. I also have experience contributing to and presenting at international forums, including ISAD and GlobalSkin conferences. I would bring a collaborative, strategic perspective to the Board, with a focus on strengthening impact across the global patient community.

What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Advocacy / outreach
- Communications / public relations
- Government relations / political acumen

Melanie Funk

Eczema Support Australia

Western Pacific – Atopic eczema



Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I have strong governance experience through my role as Managing Director of Eczema Support Australia, where I work closely with the Board of Directors to support strategic planning, organisational development, and compliance. I currently serve on GlobalSkin's Finance and Risk Committee, contributing to financial oversight and risk management at an international level, and gaining direct experience in Board-level governance processes. My broader leadership experience includes executive roles involving board-level reporting, strategic input, and organisational oversight, strengthening my understanding of governance responsibilities, accountability, and the distinction between operational and Board roles.

What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

Active member of the Atopic Eczema Advisory Committee (2019–present) and current member of GlobalSkin's Finance and Risk Committee. Member of the Atopic Eczema Task Force, contributing to global policy alignment following the WHO Skin Resolution, including development of policy priorities and white papers. Contributed to GlobalSkin white papers. Active contributor to World Atopic Eczema Day initiatives since 2019. Participating member of the GRIDD project. Attended two GlobalSkin Conferences and presenter at the 2025 GlobalSkin Conference. Contributing participant at three International Society of Atopic Dermatitis (ISAD) conferences.

Julio Garcia

Fudación Nacional de Albinismo Simplemente Amigos
Americas - Albinism



Why do you want to be elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

Through my work with my organization in Argentina and at the regional level, I have seen both the progress and the persistent gaps in access to care, particularly in regions where dermatological conditions remain under-recognized in public policy. I believe GlobalSkin plays a critical role in bridging these gaps by connecting local realities with global advocacy efforts. Serving on the Board would allow me to bring perspectives from Latin America, a region that is often underrepresented but increasingly organized and engaged. I am particularly interested in contributing to initiatives that strengthen access to essential treatments, promote patient-centered policies, and support capacity building among patient organizations. Also, I see this as an opportunity to grow as a leader, deepen my understanding of global dermatology challenges, and contribute to GlobalSkin's mission of improving the lives of people living with skin conditions worldwide.

What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in your role as a Board Director?

I bring a combination of practical advocacy experience, project implementation, and regional coordination that aligns with GlobalSkin's vision and mission. At the national level, I have led and supported initiatives focused on prevention, access to care, and community engagement, including large-scale distribution programs for sunscreen and assistive devices for persons with albinism. At the regional level, I have contributed to building a network of formally established organizations working collaboratively across Latin America. This includes advancing shared advocacy agendas, promoting data collection efforts, and facilitating exchange of best practices.

Julio Garcia

Fudación Nacional de Albinismo Simplemente Amigos
Americas - Albinism



What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Advocacy / outreach
- Community leadership
- Strategic planning

Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I am cofounder and at the board of directors at our organization where I contribute to strategic planning, project development, and external partnerships. This has allowed me to understand the importance of governance, accountability, and long-term vision in guiding organizational growth. At the regional level, I actively participate in the coordination of a regional governance structure, supporting agenda setting, documentation, and decision-making processes among member organizations.

What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

GlobalSkin Conferences (Brussels 23 and Prague 25), Latinamerican Regional Network, Impact fund (2025 and 2026), Conference Committee for 2027 conference, EUPATI fellow Cohort 8 (2025)

Edmund Lau

Psoriasis Association of Singapore
Western Pacific - Psoriasis



Why do you want to be elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

I wish to be elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors because I believe strongly in the importance of patient-led leadership in shaping a more equitable and patient-centred future for people living with skin diseases. As a person living with psoriasis and a long-serving advocate from Singapore, I have seen the real impact of stigma, delayed diagnosis, unequal access to treatment, and limited policy attention on patients, families, and communities. Serving on the Board would allow me to contribute more meaningfully to GlobalSkin's global mission by bringing both lived experience and leadership experience from the Western Pacific region. I hope to support stronger collaboration across member organisations, strengthen the voice of patients in decision-making, and help advance practical initiatives that improve awareness, access, education, and advocacy. I am particularly motivated to ensure that the perspectives of smaller organisations and underrepresented regions are heard. It would be an honour to support GlobalSkin's continued growth, strengthen regional and global partnerships, and help build a more united and impactful movement for people living with dermatological conditions.

What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in your role as a Board Director?

I would bring a combination of lived experience, patient advocacy leadership, regional collaboration, stakeholder engagement, education, and strategic planning. I currently serve as General Secretary of the Psoriasis Association of Singapore and as Co-Chair of the GlobalSkin Asia Pacific Working Group, where I support collaboration, capacity-building, and shared learning across the region. These roles have given me practical insight into the opportunities and challenges faced by patient organisations across different healthcare systems and cultural settings. Beyond dermatology advocacy, I also

Edmund Lau

Psoriasis Association of Singapore

Western Pacific - Psoriasis



serve as Chair of Partner Universities for the Australian Alumni Singapore, representing all 43 Australian universities. This role has strengthened my ability to engage diverse stakeholders, build partnerships, and support strategic initiatives across institutions and communities. In addition, I bring over 25 years of professional and teaching experience across universities, multinational corporations, SMEs, and NGOs. This background enables me to contribute to governance, member engagement, communications, outreach, and long-term strategic development in ways that can help GlobalSkin further its vision, mission, and global impact.

What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Education / training
- Community leadership
- Healthcare admin / policy / health technology assessment

Edmund Lau

Psoriasis Association of Singapore
Western Pacific - Psoriasis



Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I have extensive experience serving on boards, advisory bodies, committees, and leadership teams across patient advocacy, alumni, and community organisations. I currently serve as General Secretary of the Psoriasis Association of Singapore and as an Advisory Board Member of the World Patients Alliance. I also serve as Co-Chair of the GlobalSkin Asia Pacific Working Group and Chair of Partner Universities for the Australian Alumni Singapore. Through these roles, I have contributed to governance, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, partnership-building, and organisational development, while supporting mission-driven outcomes and collaborative decision-making.

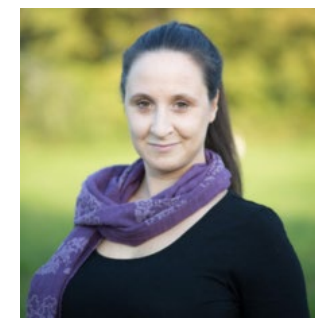
What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

2025: South-East Asia and Western Pacific Working Group Meeting; Membership Committee Meeting; AGM Meeting; GlobalSkin 2025 Conference in Prague. 2026: New Member Coffee Chat; Board Election Coffee Chat; Launching Regional Engagement to Drive Skin Diseases Resolution Implementation; GlobalSkin Asia Pacific Working Group activities and regional collaboration efforts. 2024–2026: Member engagement, patient advocacy exchanges, regional dialogue, capacity-building, and collaboration across GlobalSkin networks.

Tina Mesarič

Zavod Atopika

Europe – Atopic eczema



Why do you want to be re-elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

I am seeking re-election to the GlobalSkin Board of Directors to continue contributing to a strong, patient-centred global community and to build on the work we have done together during my current term. Over the past years, I have supported efforts to strengthen collaboration across regions and to ensure that the lived experience of people with skin diseases is meaningfully reflected in GlobalSkin's priorities and activities. I am motivated to continue contributing to GlobalSkin's mission by supporting its members, fostering strategic partnerships, and helping translate awareness into tangible improvements for patients. I believe in a collaborative and inclusive approach where diverse perspectives lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes. With my background in patient advocacy, organisational leadership, and healthcare-related work, I bring a balanced perspective that connects patient needs with practical implementation. I remain committed to contributing constructively to the Board's work, with a focus on strengthening member engagement, supporting capacity-building, and advancing coordinated global advocacy efforts that deliver real impact for the patient community.

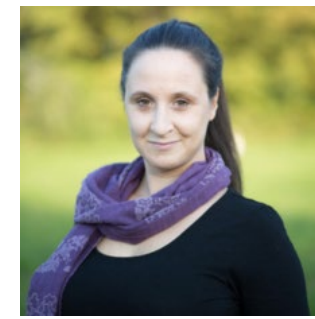
What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in continuing your role as a Board Director?

I bring a unique combination of patient advocacy, scientific background, and strategic leadership. As the founder and executive director of a patient organisation, I have hands-on experience in developing programmes that empower patients, raise awareness, and improve health literacy. My background in biological sciences and my professional role in knowledge

Tina Mesarič

Zavod Atopika

Europe – Atopic eczema



and technology transfer enable me to bridge the gap between science, healthcare systems, and patient needs. I understand how to translate complex medical information into accessible, meaningful content and initiatives. At the international level, I have actively contributed to patient advocacy networks, advisory boards, and collaborative initiatives, working with diverse stakeholders including patients, clinicians, policymakers, and industry. I also bring experience in project development, fundraising, communication strategies, and stakeholder engagement, which are essential for strengthening GlobalSkin's impact. Importantly, I contribute a strong patient perspective grounded in lived experience, combined with a structured and strategic approach to governance, ensuring that decisions remain both patient-centred and sustainable.

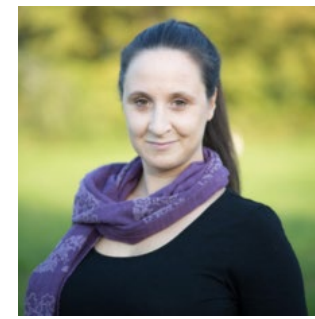
What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Advocacy/outreach
- Community leadership
- Research/knowledge translation

Tina Mesarič

Zavod Atopika

Europe – Atopic eczema



GLOBALSKIN.ORG

International Alliance of
Dermatology Patient
Organizations

Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I currently serve on the GlobalSkin Board of Directors, where I contribute to strategic discussions, governance, and decision-making at an international level. In addition, I have experience working with advisory boards and patient organisations across Europe, collaborating on advocacy, programme development, and stakeholder engagement. As the founder and executive director of a non-profit organisation, I am also responsible for organisational leadership, strategic planning, and oversight, which closely aligns with board-level responsibilities.

What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

- ISAD Conference 2025, Melbourne (Australia) – global scientific and patient-focused conference on atopic dermatitis
- GlobalSkin Champion 2025 Conference, Prague (Czech Republic) – annual meeting with 200+ participants from 59 countries
- EADV Congress 2024 – engagement in European dermatology and patient advocacy discussions
- ISAD Conference 2024, Doha (Qatar) – participation in global dialogue on atopic dermatitis
- GlobalSkin Board of Directors (current term) – ongoing governance and strategic contributions
- GlobalSkin Europe Advisory Board (since 2021)
- Atopic Eczema Advisory Board (since 2019)
- Participation in GlobalSkin workshops, working groups, and collaborative initiatives (ongoing)

Patricia (Tricha) Shivas

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
International - Sarcoidosis



Why do you want to be elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

I have been a proud member of GlobalSkin since 2018. It has been tremendous to see the growth and impact of this organization. I have had the great pleasure of being a part of the RareDERM Community and the RareDERM Steering Committee, helping to shape programming for the in-person conferences, amplifying the experiences of patients around the globe, recruiting new organizations to the community and more. It would be my honour to serve as GlobalSkin Board member and to amplify the voices of those who are impacted by skin diseases around the globe. As a leader of an international organization impacting those with sarcoidosis, I have learned the power of hearing from many voices and perspectives to capture a global view of the disease. It would be my hope as a Board member to reflect the voices of each country and each region in policy efforts, the advancement of research, and advocacy. GlobalSkin has become a powerful organization centering patient experiences and voices around the world. Tapping into my over 25 years of non-profit and healthcare experience, I hope to bring about transformative change for all living with skin diseases.

What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in your role as a Board Director?

In my current role at the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR), I have the unique opportunity to drive work that is focused on the acceleration of research, increased awareness through campaigns, marketing and engagement, and unifying patients and clinicians around the globe to ensure that improving quality of life remains the primary goal for all we do. I am skilled at Board management, strategic partnership building, development of operational strengths for growth and long-term stability, and innovative programming and policy development and execution. Under my leadership FSR has been able

Patricia (Tricha) Shivas

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
International - Sarcoidosis



to increase our staff by 13 team members representing a 260% increase from where we started, our annual funding by about \$4 million dollars representing a 253% increase, and the participation in our global registry to include 68 countries which is a 39% increase in global participation since 2020. As a member of the GlobalSkin Board, I hope to be able to bring forward my knowledge and skills to foster the same types of growth to advance the needs of the global community.

What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Governance
- Research / knowledge translation
- Risk management

Patricia (Tricha) Shivas

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
International - Sarcoidosis



Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I have extensive experience working with Board of Directors. In my current role, I helped to manage a Board of 15 and have built working committees (Finance, Development, Governance, and Research). I have worked closely with the Board members to create systems and processes for long-term organizational sustainability. I lead the budget building and monthly finance process here at FSR and work closely with the CEO and the Board to ensure that we are able to cover all financial liabilities and build programs for financial growth. I recruited and trained Board members. I led three strategic planning processes across two organizations.

What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

Global Skin 2019 - Representing The Myositis Association, Global Skin 2023 - Representing FSR (presented at the conference), World Congress of Rare Skin Disease 2024 (Paris) and have a team member attending the 2026 event, RareDERM Committee on a quarterly basis since 2019, RareDERM Coffee Chats (presented at a number of them), Received funding from GlobalSkin Rare Disease Day Funding 2026, GlobalSkin Member Impact Funds – 2024 and 2026

Maya Tulpule

Shweta Association

South-East Asia - Vitiligo



Why do you want to be re-elected to GlobalSkin's Board of Directors?

I am a patient leader at Shweta Association, which is a member of GlobalSkin since its inception in the year 2015. I am a great admirer of the way GlobalSkin is expanding their umbrella to help skin-related support groups all over the world. I like their work culture, transparency and the way they organise and conduct the events and conferences. The board members are very friendly, and the staff is very efficient. It is a pleasure to attend the meetings which are very meaningful and they're conducted very much in time. I would love to be part of the board again.

What expertise and experience would you contribute to achieving GlobalSkin's mission in continuing your role as a Board Director?

I am running a Vitiligo Self Help Support Group for the last 25 years from Pune, India. We are trying to remove the social misconceptions, discrimination and apathy towards treatment at personal level and in the offices of the health department. I was president of the NGO Indian Medical Association and few other institutions. Being a medical professional and a patient, I can understand both sides of the problems. I represent South-East Asia region which needs lot of awareness and work regarding skin diseases. I wish to help and guide them.

Maya Tulpule

Shweta Association

South-East Asia - Vitiligo



GLOBALSKIN.ORG

International Alliance of
Dermatology Patient
Organizations

What are your three strongest skill areas?

- Communications/public relations
- Healthcare admin/policy/health technology assessment
- Strategic planning

Describe any experience you have in working with and/or on Boards of Directors.

I have a lot of good experiences while working as BOD. I could meet people from all over the world and get to know about their functioning, their culture and good practices. I learnt a lot from GlobalSkin team about SOPs, how to run a trust, office administration, handling social media, fund raising, etc. It is a pleasure to work with CEO Jennifer Austin and back-up office, President Marc Yale and all the board members.

What GlobalSkin events and initiatives have you participated in?

Global Skin Conference in Vancouver 2015, in Geneva 2017, Virtual conference 2021, World Dermatologists Conference Singapore 2024, Global Skin Conference in Prague 2025