

# Scientific medical societies for hair; an overview

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## ABSTRACT

This is a concise overview for the current non-profit membership-based scientific societies for hair. These societies served several functions in the interests of patients and trichologists. Building educational resources and arranging conferences were possible because of the support of these societies. However, there is a need to encourage all the members to contribute to these societies to make these societies stronger and more valuable.

**Key words:** Education; Hair; Society

Hair care is an important part of human life. Hair is needed for human for several reasons. Hair remains one of the most important parts of the person's appearance and his or her beauty.

Apart from the long hairs in high demand for making wigs, wig-lets, hair pieces and the modern laced hair systems used extensively for camouflaging the baldness, hair keratins are the richest source of the amino acid L-Cystiene which is used in the food and pharmaceutical industry [1].

Hair science is part of dermatology, and all professional dermatology societies have many educational activities related to hair disorders.

However, there are some scientific societies devoted to hair science, which I list some examples of them in Table 1.

The idea of establishing the first independent, nonprofit organization for hair research was launched on April 1989 by a small group of enthusiastic hair scientists

and was soon followed by its formal constitution on the occasion of the first and founding meeting of the European Hair Research Society (EHRS) on November 1989 in Brussels, Belgium [2]. Currently there are 150 active members in EHRS, as of May 2014.

The scientific societies for hair play important role in education by arranging scientific meetings and conferences [3-5].

For example, the North American Hair Research Society (NAHRS) meets twice yearly at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Dermatology and the Society for Investigative Dermatology.

The NAHRS also interfaces with other international hair research societies (e.g., European, Australasian, Korean, Japanese, and Indian Hair Research Societies) and organizes the World Congress for Hair Research every one to three years on a rotating basis. This is the largest and most respected hair research meeting in the scientific community, with proceedings subsequently published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

**Table 1:** Selected scientific medical societies for hair (listed alphabetically)

The Society	Year of establishment	Current president	Website
European Hair Research Society	1989	Abraham Zlotogorski	<a href="http://ehrs.org/">http://ehrs.org/</a>
Hair Research Society of India (HRSI)	2004	Patrick Yesudian	<a href="http://www.inhrs.org/">http://www.inhrs.org/</a>
Korean Hair Research Society (KHRS)	1998	SIM, Woo-Young	<a href="http://www.khrs.or.kr/">http://www.khrs.or.kr/</a>
North American Hair Research Society (NAHRS)	1990	Wilma Bergfeld	<a href="http://www.nahrs.org/">http://www.nahrs.org/</a>
Society for Hair Science Research (SHSR, Japan)	1993	Kensei Katsuoka	<a href="http://www.tokyo-med.ac.jp/derma/shsr/">http://www.tokyo-med.ac.jp/derma/shsr/</a>

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World congresses for hair research meetings have been held in Brussels (1995), Washington DC (1998), Tokyo (2001), Berlin (2004), Vancouver, BC (2007), Cairns (2010), and Edinburgh (2013).

This communication is just an overview; however, there is an obvious need for more studies to evaluate the activities of these societies and to find a better ways for these societies to improve their performance.

Developing updated website, and creating prizes for distinguished works are important features for any societies and need to be maintained.

Each society has to find the best tools to encourage all the members to be active. Women and young doctors, in particular, should find a place in the executive committees of these societies.

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