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**TheInstituteof Trichologists®**  
Harley Street  
Founded 1902

## IOT Newsletter 2023

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### **A Warm Welcome**

FROM EVERYONE AT THE INSTITUTE OF TRICHOLOGISTS

The past few years have seen unprecedented change at the IOT, both for education and registrants alike. This year saw our first face-to-face event for 4 years, a collaborative 2 day World Trichology Conference hosted with the International Association of Trichologists. The event was a chance to meet colleagues and hear speakers from all over the world.

Education manager Sara Alkazraji MIT has overseen NCFE accreditation and the introduction of new modules. This reflects the quality and content of our education (currently the only L5 course in the UK) which we are rightly proud of.



IOT GRADUATION 2023  
**Our Newly Qualified Registrants...**







October 2023 saw our first Graduation Ceremony 'post pandemic'. A huge congratulations to our fantastic classes of 2021, 2022 and 2023 who have officially graduated from our accredited level 5 Trichology Course!

## John Firmage FIT

Recollections by Barbara Kemp FIT FRSPH MInstL



It is with great sadness that I heard that my Mentor Mr John Firmage FIT had recently passed away.

I was extremely fortunate to have been trained and mentored by John Firmage (and Keith Hobbs) at The Scalp and Hair Hospital in Brixton and at The Battersea Scalp and Hair Clinic. John's encyclopaedic knowledge of Trichology and his finely honed clinical skills were legendary amongst all who were fortunate enough to experience them.

When I observed John's consultations it was a Master Class in professionalism.

He had great skill in putting the patient at ease and of extracting clinical information from them seemingly effortlessly. Of course, it wasn't. It was years of experience and a genuine dedicated vocation to do the very best he could to care for the patient. He always observed the ethical oath that the Patient must always come first above all personal or commercial interests. I have never forgotten this.

John's abiding legacy will be that he was always willing to selflessly share his knowledge with students and members alike. He generously helped other Members when called upon for a second opinion and gave much support to newly qualified Members to enable them to make their own success in the profession.

Recently qualified members may not be aware that John worked tirelessly over so many years to build upon the reputation of The Institute with the medical profession, allied health professionals, support groups and the media. Always fiercely loyal to The Institute, extremely proud of its history and unfailingly ready to acknowledge and give credit to those members, past and present, that strove to make The Institute what it is today.

On a personal note, he was a very kind Mentor. His guidance was invaluable to me. It was a pleasure to work in his practice.

A modest man, never one to blow his own trumpet.

Mr Firmage, I give you a fanfare sir, may you rest in peace.

*Barbara Kemp FIT FRSPH MInstL*

## Professional Standard Authority (PSA)

An update on accreditation and the ongoing advancement of Trichology

As an IOT registrant dedicated to your patients welfare, we recognise your commitment to providing professional and ethical Trichology services. Much has been said over the last few years about the advantages of accreditation with the Professional Standards Authority (PSA). We would like to share how the application process itself has proven to be highly beneficial for the IOT and the entire trichology profession.

### Advantages of PSA Accreditation:

**Professional Recognition:** Accreditation with the PSA is a hallmark of professional recognition. It distinguishes your practice as one that adheres to the highest standards, positioning you alongside other esteemed healthcare providers.

**Collaboration Opportunities:** PSA accreditation facilitates collaboration with a broader network of healthcare providers. This integration is pivotal for the holistic care of patients and elevates trichology within the wider healthcare community.

**Patient Confidence:** Accreditation communicates a commitment to excellence, fostering trust and confidence among your patients. It assures them that your practice is dedicated to providing the best possible care for their trichological concerns.

### The Value of the Accreditation Process:

Even if the IOT accreditation application is not accepted, the process itself has proved tremendously beneficial. It has served a catalyst for self-reflection and improvement, prompting the IOT to review and enhance its standards.



This commitment to continuous improvement benefits patients, trichologists, and the entire profession of trichology.



### Key Outcomes of the Process:

**Elevated Standards:** The accreditation process prompts a thorough review of existing standards, leading to their enhancement. This ensures that IOT registrants remain at the forefront of trichological excellence.

**Professional Growth:** Trichologists, as well as the IOT, benefit from the growth that comes with aligning practices with the evolving standards of healthcare. This growth is essential for staying relevant and providing optimal care.

**Patient-Centric Approach:** The outcome of this process directly benefits patients, as it reflects a commitment to continually improving the quality of care they receive. A patient-centric approach remains at the forefront of our mission.

The future of trichology is undoubtedly progressing and improving. The IOT is unwavering in its commitment to its registrants and patients, ensuring that the profession of trichology evolves in tandem with advancements in healthcare. We believe that every step forward, including the accreditation journey, contributes to the positive trajectory of trichology.

Thank you for your continued dedication.

Warm regards,  
The IOT Board of Directors.

### THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRICHOLOGISTS' IAT Trichology Conference 2024

The IAT's 2024 conference planned for Nairobi, Kenya has been rescheduled and will now take place in Dubai. We will keep you updated with more information as it becomes available.

### Thinking of also being an IAT Member?

IOT registrants can join the International Association of Trichologists via a simple application form (available from the IAT). The annual fee is US\$250 - [trichology@iattrichology.com](mailto:trichology@iattrichology.com)

THE INSTITUTE OF TRICHOLOGISTS  
**CPD Events in 2024**

Following on from our hugely successful 2 day conference at the Royal Society of Medicine in August 2023, we asked for your feedback on the event. Thank you for all the positive comments we received.

One question was whether you would prefer a face-to-face conference every year or every other year; and if you'd prefer a one day or two day event. The majority preference was for a two day event, every other year, with online CPD webinars for the alternating years in-between.

Taking this feedback into consideration, our next face-to-face conference will be held in 2025. During 2024, we plan to host webinars. If you have any topics you would like to be discussed, or any speakers you would like to recommend, please do let us know on [admin@trichologists.org.uk](mailto:admin@trichologists.org.uk).

THE IOT & ITC  
**ITC Journal Club**

The ITC Journal Club is a novel initiative brought to you by the ITC and co - chaired by the IOT. It is designed to bridge the gap in the understanding of research papers and their intricacies. Each quarter, renowned academics Prof Messenger, Dr Gill Westgate, Prof Hugh Rushton, and Dr Paul Cornwall will guide us through this enlightening journey, each bringing insights from dermatology, hair biology, trichology, and cosmetic science.

The first session, chaired by Professor Andrew Messenger took place on Monday 20th November, and looked at the following paper:

*"Clinical effectiveness of finasteride versus hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of frontal fibrosing alopecia: A randomized controlled trial"*

*Authors: Mina Saber, Maryam Farokhshahi, Farahnaz Fatemi Naeini, Fatemeh Mohaghegh & Ali Asilian*

Full text can be found here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jocd.15993>

We will keep members updated with information on the next sessions.

## A FINAL NOTE

**Raising awareness of Trichology - Social Media**

The IOT regularly posts on social media (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube). We would encourage you to do the same, and ask you to like, comment or share as many of our social media posts as you can. This will boost our 'engagement' and 'digital presence', providing Trichology access to a much wider audience - which will benefit everybody!

Special thanks to our contributor Barbara Kemp FIT FRSPH MInstL

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