



2nd Spanish - German Symposium on Tropical Dermatology of the International Society of Dermatology in the Tropics (ISDT)

November 5-7, 2026
(Check-in from Nov. 4, Check-out Nov. 8)
Fontilles, Vall de Laguar - Alicante, Spain

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF LEPROSY IN FONTILLES: “LEGACY AND LESSONS”

In cooperation with
Fundación Fontilles, National Reference Center for Leprosy,
Vall de Laguar - Alicante, Spain



International Society of
Dermatology in the Tropics

fontilles 
salud y desarrollo

Coordinators

Germany:

- Dr. Andrea Vanegas Ramirez, Hospital University Cologne, ISDT
Email: andrea.vanegasramirez@uk-koeln.de
- Helmut Schöfer, ISDT
Email: helmutschoefer.ni@gmail.com

Fontilles, Spain:

- Dr. Jose Ramón Gomez Echevarria, Medical Director Fundacion Fontilles
Email: jrgomez@fontilles.org
- Marisa Moll, Administrative Coordinator, Fundacion Fontilles
Email: marisa@fontilles.org

Location

- Poblado Fontilles 1, 03791 Fontilles, Alacant, Spain

Course fee per person: 300€ (single or 2 bed with en-suite bathroom)

Payment includes access to all symposium sessions with English/German translation, accommodation for 4 days, coffee breaks and meals. Transport and free time group activity are not included.

Please note that there is **no industry exhibition at the symposium.**

The location of the Sanatorium is as follows, in Google Maps Poblado Fontilles, 1

[Poblado Fontilles, 1 - Google Maps](#)

To get there by public transport, both from Valencia and Alicante, you have to get to Ondara, and there are several options:
-You can get there by bus with the company www.alsa.es, at certain times there are buses that leave from the airports to Ondara, otherwise you have to get to the bus stations in Valencia or Alicante respectively and then take the bus to Ondara.

-A second option, only from Valencia, is to come by train to Gandia www.renfe.es and then by bus to Ondara with the same company www.alsa.es.

From Ondara to Fontilles there are approximately 18 km, which have to be done by taxi, approximately 25 €.

Another option could be to rent a car directly from the airport to Fontilles.

Preliminary Program

Wednesday 4.November.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| 14:00 – 18:30 | Check-in |
| 19:00 – 21:00 | Dinner |

Thursday 5. November

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 08:00 – 09:00 | Breakfast |
| 09:00 – 12:00 | Leprosy: Session I (translation) History of Fontilles Introduction, Epidemiology, Transmission |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 16:00 | Leprosy: Session II (translation) Classification and Clinical Manifestations Neurological Aspects |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee break |
| 16:30 – 18:30 | Leprosy: Session II Diagnostic Laboratory |
| 19:00 – 21:00 | Dinner |

Friday 06.November

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 08:00 – 09:00 | Breakfast |
| 09:00 – 12:00 | DerMalawi Project Lectures on Skin Related Neglected Tropical Diseases |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 18:00 | Free time/group activity (to be scheduled) |
| 19:00 – 21:00 | Dinner |

Saturday 07.November

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 08:00 – 09:00 | Breakfast |
| 09:00 – 12:00 | Leprosy: Session III (translation) Leprosy Reactions Therapy of Leprosy and Leprosy Reactions Cutaneous Leishmaniasis |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 16:00 | Fieldwork Experiences (translation) Buruli Ulcer (translation) |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee break |
| 16:30 – 18:30 | Interview of Former Leprosy Patients (translation) |

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 19:00 – 21:00 | Close remarks Dinner |
|---------------|-------------------------|

Sunday 08.November

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 08:00 – 09:00 | Breakfast |
| 09:00 – 13:00 | Check out |

Since 1909, Fontilles has been home to thousands of people, most of whom were affected by leprosy. All of them were once separated from the rest of the world by a wall that enclosed the health complex, transforming it into a self-sufficient town with its own life. Fontilles holds a rich heritage, not only material, documentary and human, but also landscape and architectural. Today, Fontilles is a non-profit foundation dedicated to fighting leprosy and its consequences worldwide. It is involved in international cooperation projects to combat leprosy in countries such as India, Mozambique, Malawi, Brazil, and Bolivia. These projects focus on early detection and treatment of leprosy patients, disability prevention and strengthening healthcare systems.

Dr. José Ramón Gómez Echevarría is the Medical Director for Leprosy at Fontilles. He has been working as a physician at the Fontilles Sanatorio since 1986. He leads the International Leprology Courses organised by Fontilles, training medical professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy. His leadership extends to collaborations in multiple countries, where he works on initiatives to combat leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases.

This symposium has been organized through educational cooperation on skin-related tropical diseases between the ISDT and Fontilles. Participation in this event will provide a deeper understanding of leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases in a historic complex set in the stunning valley of La Vall de Laguar.