



Valeria Aoki, MD PhD

Dr. Aoki is associate professor (tenure track) and director of the Cutaneous Immunopathology Laboratory and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Dermatology Graduate Program in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Sao Paulo Medical School in São Paulo, Brazil. She also is president of the school's International Relations Office.

She has had a career-long interest in understanding autoimmune, infectious, and inflammatory skin diseases in tropical countries. Her clinical interests include blistering diseases, inflammatory dermatoses (atopic dermatitis), and mentoring PhD students and postdoctoral fellows at the University of Sao Paulo.

Dr. Aoki is an IEC Councilor, a member of the Board of Directors of the IEC, and co-chair of IEC Education Committee. She has been an editor of the *European Journal of Dermatology and Venereology*, among numerous other accomplishments.

She served her residency in dermatology at the University of Sao Paulo, and her dermatology clinical training was supported by a Dermatology Foundation scholarship. From 1992-1994, she spent 2 years as a research fellow in immunodermatology under the supervision of Luis A. Diaz, MD, at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI, USA. The research project addressed the environmental triggers of endemic pemphigus foliaceus (also known as fogo selvagem [FS]), an autoimmune blistering dermatosis with a complex etiology and unique epidemiologic features. Dr. Aoki stayed on the project as a co-investigator when she returned to Brazil, performing annual clinical follow-up of FS patients using seroepidemiologic surveillance of three groups of cohorts to detect risk factors of FS in endemic areas of the disease.