

A Comprehensive Review of Care Gaps and Emerging Initiatives in Dermatology

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BACKGROUND¹

Historically, dermatology research and clinical practices have overlooked important considerations in the care of individuals with skin of color (SOC).^{2,3} Ongoing disparities in dermatological care, along with the rising prevalence of cutaneous conditions, calls for efforts to understand and address existing care gaps through targeted initiatives.^{4,5} With continuous efforts, the dermatological medical community seeks to shift toward a more equitable, patient-centered model of care that considers the distinct needs of racial and ethnic groups across the USA.^{6,7}

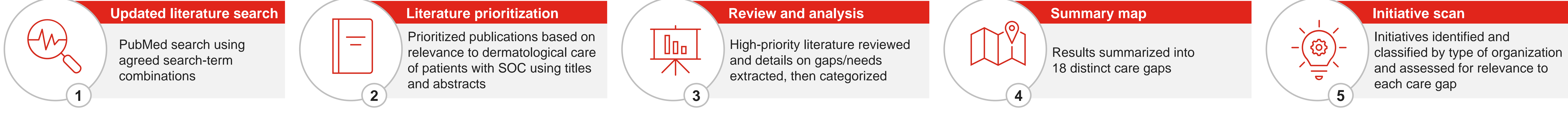
OBJECTIVE

To provide a single, consolidated search with publications from January 2020 to October 2023, that offers insights into new versus persisting care gaps in dermatology for individuals with SOC and detects if any gaps have closed since our previous search. We also reviewed past and present initiatives in the dermatological care of patients with SOC to identify where current efforts are focused and if there are opportunities for improvement.

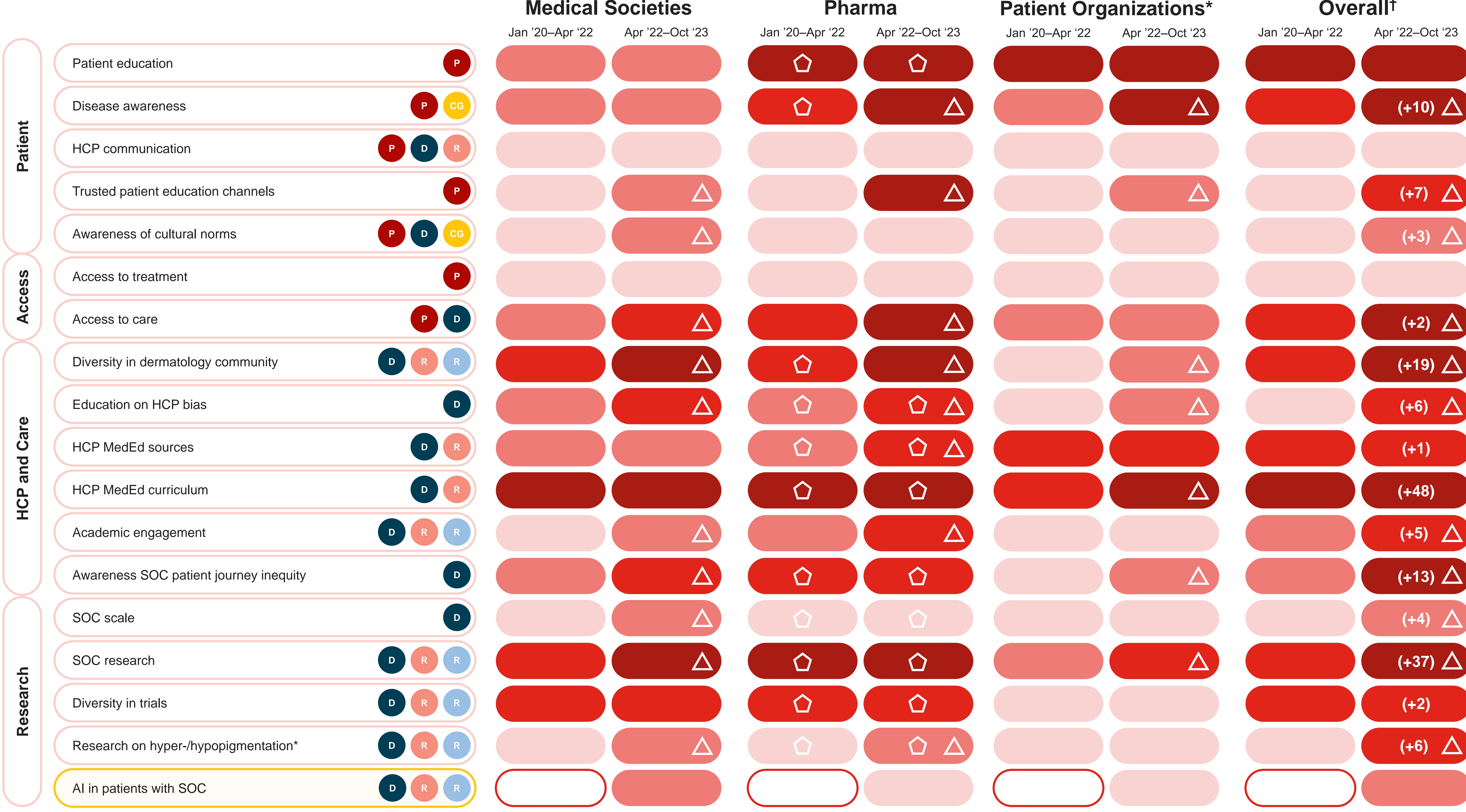
CONCLUSIONS

This review maps the dermatological care gaps affecting patients with SOC in the USA and the initiatives created to address them. Despite hundreds of such efforts, critical gaps persist—most notably in healthcare professional (HCP) communication, cultural norms, skin color/type classification scales, and the accuracy of artificial intelligence (AI) diagnostic tools for SOC. Closing them will require more targeted, evidence-based engagement: measuring impact through clinical outcomes, coordinating efforts to avoid duplication, and tackling root causes. To this end, we propose an iterative framework for evaluating existing gaps and periodically assessing outcomes, aiming to inspire practical, scalable initiatives that improve access to and quality of dermatological care for SOC populations in the USA.

METHODOLOGY¹



RESULTS—DEGREE OF SOC-RELATED DERMATOLOGY INITIATIVES IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THE 18 LITERATURE-IDENTIFIED CARE GAPS¹⁻⁶⁵



Care Gap Type

- New care gap
- Persistent care gap from 2022 scan

Targeted stakeholders

- D Dermatologists
- P Patients
- R Residents
- R Researchers
- CG Caregivers

Heatmap Legend

- Many initiatives (12+)
- Several initiatives (6-11)
- Few initiatives (2-5)
- Very few initiatives (0-1)
- N/A

- Δ Change in color since 2022 scan
- ◡ Lilly supported (per desk research & Lilly SME interviews)

¹Includes non-profit organizations.
[†]Includes all relevant initiatives analyzed including societies, patient organizations, academia, government bodies, etc.
 AI=artificial intelligence; CG=caregiver; HCP=healthcare professional; N/A=not applicable; SME=subject matter expert; SOC=skin of color

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