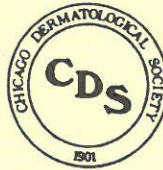


# Chicago Dermatological Society NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1997  
VOL. VI, ISSUE 2



## OFFICERS 1996-1997

Henry Roenigk, M.D. *President*  
Bruce Bennin, M.D. *President-Elect*  
Jerome Garden, M.D. *Vice-President*  
Bruce Bennin, M.D. *Secretary*  
Kathleen Remlinger, M.D. *Treasurer*

### Editor's Message

In this issue of the newsletter, we feature several members of our Society who recently received special awards. These awards encompass many facets of the specialty of dermatology: academics, teaching, clinical practice, and research. As we approach our 100th anniversary in 2001, the CDS continues to hold a preeminent position among dermatological societies of the world. It is the recognized and unrecognized achievements of our membership that contribute to this greatness.

*Mark D. Gendleman, M.D.*

### National Practitioner of the Year Award

#### Marshall L. Blankenship, M.D.

Marshall L. Blankenship, M.D. was awarded the 1996 National Practitioner of the Year Award on Saturday, March 22, 1997, at the annual American Academy of Dermatology meeting in San Francisco, California. The Award is given each year by the Dermatology Foundation. It was established by the Foundation's Trustees in 1976 to honor those members of our specialty who epitomize the best clinical service to the individual patient. Criteria for the Award include a dermatologist's record of teaching, research, publications, participation in professional societies, and his/her clinical career. "Marshall Blankenship's rich career spans more than 30 years and whether you define accomplishments by research, the number of publications and citations, or visiting professorships, he has made (and continues to make) major contributions to all facets of dermatology," said Dermatology Foundation President Howard V. Dubin, M.D.

Marshall received his undergraduate and M.D. degrees from the University of Illinois. After a rotating internship at the Illinois Central Hospital in Chicago and service in the U.S. Army as a general medical officer, he completed his residency in dermatology at Northwestern University Medical School. His mentors there included Samuel Bluefarb, M.D., Jungi Hasegawa, M.D., Fred Levit, M.D., Frank Dunlap, M.D., and Paul Lazar, M.D. During his residency, Marshall read pathology slides with Royal Ihrke, M.D. weekly. Toward the completion of his residency, Dr. Ihrke invited him to share offices in private practice in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Over the next 33 years, Marshall has been associated in practice (in addition to Dr. Ihrke) with the late Leon Lando, M.D., John Keane, M.D., Kenneth Bielinski M.D., and Mark Hoffman, M.D.

After his residency, Marshall spent eight enjoyable years as a faculty member at Northwestern University. Twenty-five years ago, Marshall joined the faculty of the Department of Dermatology of Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. Over the years, he has had the privilege of being associated with Fred Malkinson, M.D., Roger Pearson, M.D., Marianne O'Donoghue, M.D., and James Ertle, M.D. He is currently serving as an Associate Professor of Dermatology at Rush. In addition, he has served as a visiting faculty member at universities and medical centers around the world — most recently at the National Skin Institute in Singapore and the Institute of Dermatology in Bangkok.

Paul Lazar, M.D. (a Dermatology Foundation Finnerud Awardee)

encouraged Dr. Blankenship to become involved in the Chicago Dermatological Society. For many years, Dr. Blankenship served in a variety of positions with the Society and, in 1994, received that group's Founders Award for his contributions. He was a founder of the Illinois Dermatological Society and served as its President in 1978.

Albert Slepyan, M.D. (a Dermatology Foundation Practitioner of the Year Awardee) selected Dr. Blankenship to be on the Committee for Scientific Equipment of the American Academy of Dermatology. This appointment was Dr. Blankenship's introduction to the Academy. From 1986 to 1990, Dr. Blankenship was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology and, from 1991 to 1994, served on the Academy's Nominating Committee. He is also a current board member of the International Society of Dermatology, Secretary-Treasurer of the Foundation for International Dermatologic Education, and a past Director of the Noah Worcester Dermatologic Society. A former trustee of the Dermatology Foundation, Dr. Blankenship serves on the Leader's Society Committee and led the Leader's Society campaign in Illinois in 1990 and 1991.

Dr. Blankenship's career would not have been possible without the support of his companion and wife of 38 years, Barbara, his daughter, Kathryn, his son, Marshall, and his daughter-in-law, Susan.

*Mark D. Gendleman, M.D.*

### Society Research Awards

The Chicago Dermatological Society, through its Research and Education Fund, has awarded three research grants for 1997-1998. Research must be conducted in the United States. Any regular member of the Society may be eligible, as well as fellows, residents, and Ph.D. degree holders, whose major appointment is in an academic dermatology department. Applicants in the latter three categories who are not members of the Society must be sponsored by a dermatology department or divisional preceptor who is a regular member of the Society.

The three award winners for the year are:

- 1) Jean-Christophe Lapiere, M.D. — Northwestern University; Strategies Toward Gene Therapy For Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa; \$5,000 award.
- 2) Li-Feng Li, M.D. — University of Illinois; Role of Protein Kinase C In The Regulation of Hair Growth; \$5,000 award.
- 3) I-Ja Chan, Ph.D. — Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center; Studies Of The Mechanism Of Chymase-Induced Apoptosis; \$5,000 award.



## AWARDS

The Awards Committee of the Society has chosen the recipients of the Practitioner of the Year, the Founders Award, and the Gold Medal Award for 1997.

### Practitioner of the Year

Awarded each year to an individual for exemplary service as a practitioner of dermatology:

**Raymond M. Handler, M.D.**

### Founders Award

Awarded each year to an individual who has devoted extraordinary time and talent as a teacher and clinician:

**Mark D. Gendleman, M.D.**

### Gold Medal Award

Awarded for outstanding service and academic excellence:

**Lawrence Solomon, M.D.**

#### Raymond M. Handler, M.D.

Raymond Handler, M.D. did his pre-med curriculum at the University of Illinois in Chicago at Navy Pier before starting at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1957. It was during his medical school years that he met his lifelong friend and partner, Roland Medansky, M.D. Roland influenced Ray greatly in his career decision to become a dermatologist.

Ray completed his residency at the University of Illinois under the tutelage of Adolph Rostenberg, M.D. Following a two year stint in the United States Air Force at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois, as Chief of Dermatology, he entered private practice with Dr. Medansky. They have been associated for thirty years.

Ray has continued his academic association with the University of Illinois and holds the position of Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology. He has also been Director of the Section of Dermatology at Lutheran General Hospital for the past 15 years. Ray has co-authored over 12 scientific articles during this period of time.

He has served as Secretary and President of both the Illinois and Chicago Dermatological Societies. He was Secretary/ Treasurer of the Noah Worcester Dermatological Society for five years and is currently its President. He is also a founding member of the Great Lakes Dermatological Society. On the national scene, Ray has served on the Member Benefits and By-laws Committee of the American Academy of Dermatology.

He currently teaches the medical residents at Lutheran General who rotate through his office. Ray has been very involved in his community of Northbrook, where he has lived for 30 years. He has served 10 years on the District 27 Board of Education with two years as its President. Ray enjoys traveling with his wife, Arlene. They have been married 35 years and have three children and three grandchildren. Their older son is an attending physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Their second son is an attorney in estate planning at the law firm of Katten, Muchin, and Zavis. Their daughter is an occupational therapist in Baltimore, Maryland.

#### Mark D. Gendleman, M.D.

The care and expertise of the family dermatologist in treating Mark's teenage acne and his grandfather's psoriasis inspired in Mark the desire for a career in dermatology.

Mark earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan,

a place which would create in Mark a life-long obsession — the football and basketball programs. (He also met his wife Lynn there.) A move to Chicago to attend Northwestern University Medical School completed his holy triad with the Chicago Cubs. Upon finishing medical school, Mark interned at Evanston Hospital. The next three years were devoted to his dermatology residency at Northwestern University. Here, he formed long-lasting and fruitful relationships with his teachers and mentors. This experience also taught Mark the invaluable contribution of a good teacher and instilled in him the desire to make his own unique contribution to dermatology.

A commitment to the U.S. Armed Forces (one which enabled him to postpone military service until after his specialty training) led Mark to enter the Air Force. The next two years were spent in Minot, North Dakota. An abundance of cold weather (and not much else) inspired Mark to organize a hockey team consisting of his fellow physicians. When he wasn't treating derm patients (and, occasionally, covering the ER at night), Mark was honing his skills on the ice against the hospital corpsmen as well as skaters from places such as Estevan, and Regina, Saskatchewan.

Military duty gave way to the private sector when Mark joined Alan Lasser, M.D. and Max Klein, M.D. in private practice. A few years later, Mark set up his own practice in Evanston, where he remains today. Once established, Mark started to reflect on the contributions of his teachers. He began to formulate a program which would complement the Evanston Hospital intern and residency training programs. Mark's concept envisioned a one-on-one office based teaching experience along with formal lectures for an individual who, while probably not choosing to become a dermatologist, might want to broaden his or her knowledge of the field. From the day of inception, this program has enjoyed critical and popular success with medical students, interns, and residents vying for a one-month rotation. To enrich and expand the curriculum, Mark has enlisted fellow Evanston Hospital dermatology staff members to open their offices as well.

Mark hasn't restricted his teaching to Evanston Hospital. He has presented many lectures to groups such as the Northwestern sophomore and junior medical students, OB-GYN residents, and numerous community groups. He has been selected Teacher of the Year by the Northwestern Dermatology residents three times.

This abiding desire to give back to the dermatology community has led Mark to assume the presidency of both the Chicago



Dermatological and Illinois State Dermatological Societies. He also serves as Head of Dermatology at Evanston Hospital, and has participated in several committees, most notably the intern selection committee at Evanston and the resident selection committee at the Northwestern Derm Department. He is currently co-authoring the skin cancer chapter for a textbook for surgeons.

Fortunately, private practice and academic commitments haven't entirely eliminated Mark's private life. He still finds time to follow the U. of M. football and basketball teams as well as the Cubs — follow, quite literally, since every year he and Lynn go on the road with his favorite teams. From Maui to Mesa to Boulder to Boston, Mark continually proves he's a great fan(atic). In between sports events, Mark and Lynn (CPA) find time to enjoy many of Chicago's great cultural offerings as well as frequent dinners with daughter Amy, an attorney with Jenner & Block (and, incidentally, a University of Michigan graduate).

Always evolving, always challenging, Mark's career has proved rewarding beyond his dreams.

### Lawrence Solomon, M.D.

Born in Montreal in 1931, Larry Solomon attended the high school which his fellow alum Mordecai Richler described in *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. Uncertain about a career choice, Larry entered McGill University and, in fairly rapid succession, switched from English Lit ("not meant for me") to psychology (counting rat fecal pellets was definitely not for him), and, finally, to premed. The medical school of choice became a complicated, but, ultimately happy, decision. After false starts in Paris (the Gene Kelly influence) and Brussels, Larry graduated from the University of Geneva in 1959.

As ambivalent as he was in his formative years, Larry knew now with absolute certainty that he wanted to become a dermatologist. A self-described lover of visual things (paintings, movies, etc), Larry was attracted to this emerging field and felt he had a contribution to make. Two clerkships, one in Paris and another in London (for internal medicine) filled in his background. In London, he met and married his wife.

He returned to Canada for an internship at the Jewish General Hospital and another year of internal medicine at a VA Hospital. Selecting the University of Pennsylvania for his dermatology residency, Larry thrived academically under his esteemed teachers like Al Kligman, Herman Bearman, Walter Shelly, and Ron Pillsbury. He reflects, "It was a privilege to know them." Among Larry's notable accomplishments during the residency years were authoring ten papers and receiving the Gold Award from the AAD for most original scientific exhibit and first prize from the American Academy for Allergy for a scientific exhibit.

Waiting for his American citizenship to be approved, Larry returned to Canada for two years and planned his entry into academic and professional life. He chose the University of Illinois for several reasons, prominent among them his rapport with Adolph Rostenberg. "Rosty was a wonderful department head who didn't take everything with deadly seriousness."

Larry's distinguished career continued with an appointment as temporary head of the hospital immediately following the 1968 Democratic convention and subsequent social upheaval, which, often, took place right on his door step. The Dean's confidence in Larry's abilities then led him to appoint Larry head of the medical evaluation program for the medical school, which was rapidly expanding in the 1970s. From 1972-74 Larry served as an Associate Dean. During that time he also formed a relationship

with George Miller and Christine McGuire, ultimately publishing many papers and a few books dealing with medical education.

An interest in pediatric dermatology led Larry to consult at the Dixon State School once a month. A professional relationship and friendship with Nancy Esterly produced many papers on pediatric dermatology and eventually the first textbook on the skin of the newborn.

Larry's prodigious work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Both students and faculty have honored him for his excellence in teaching. Elected to AOA in 1973, Larry served as counselor to the organization in 1993-95. An honorary member of such diverse groups as the Mexican, Polish, and French Societies of Dermatology, Larry fondly remembers returning to France to present a lecture and having his French roundly criticized. But Larry secured his place in immortality in the world of dermatology when the Epidermal Nevus Syndrome that he and David Fretzin first described in the 1960s crept into the literature as the **Solomon Syndrome**. A resident gleefully informed Larry that "we always knew you were a disease."

The father of Marc (an ophthalmologist) and Debby (a pediatric resident) as well as a grandfather of two, Larry's full life spans the emergence of dermatology as a major specialty. Proud of all his accomplishments, Larry singles out the following:

"I guess being department head at the University of Illinois for 21 years was probably the single greatest pleasure that I had. I watched the department grow. I watched the residents develop. I saw countless students come through the place and watched their knowledge grow. In general, I think that my own pleasures were most derived from watching other individuals develop."

Today, as an attending at Lutheran General Hospital, Larry is satisfied with the path his career has taken. He seems to have no intention of slowing down at age 66 — instead, following the lead of Oliver Wendell Holmes, who, when asked why he was studying Greek at an advanced age, replied, "...to improve the mind, of course."

"That," says Larry, "best sums up my notion that you have to keep learning not to lose what synapses exist. Use it or lose it."

### 1997 Service Awards

#### 25 years

Ana M. Eng, M.D.  
James O. Ertle, M.D.  
Alvin L. Francik, M.D.  
Giulio A. Leone, M.D.  
Burton E. Silver, M.D.

#### 30 years

William A. Caro, M.D.  
Raymond M. Handler, M.D.  
Alan E. Lasser, M.D.  
James B. Pinski, M.D.  
Henry Roenigk, M.D.  
Lawrence Solomon, M.D.  
Neal A. Spero, M.D.

#### 35 years

Fred A. Levit, M.D.

#### 40 years

Wilfried Schmerold, M.D.

#### 45 years

Sidney Barksy, M.D.

#### 50 years

Melville D. Hartman, M.D.  
Albert H. Slepian, M.D.



## NEW MEMBERS

### Joaquin C. Brieva, M.D.

Dr. Brieva was born in 1960 in Colombia, South America. He completed his medical studies at the Northern University in his native city of Barranquilla, where he graduated in 1983. Following his early interest in dermatology, he moved to the capital, Bogota, where he completed his first residency training at the National University of Colombia, graduating in 1988. Still not satisfied, he decided to emigrate to the United States in search of a more stable environment to continue pursuing his career goals. He arrived in Chicago in the summer of 1988. After learning English and passing the medical licensing exams, he went on to complete a full residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago in internal medicine. This was followed by a residency in dermatology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. After graduating in 1996, he remained at the University as Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology and consultant in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Veterans Administration West Side Medical Center. His areas of interest are infectious diseases of the skin, cutaneous entomology, and cutaneous manifestations of systemic disease.

Happily married for the last seven years to Elizabeth Mary, a native of Evanston, the couple lives and raises their five small children in Chicago.

### Anthony J. Mancini, M.D.

Dr. Mancini received his undergraduate and medical education at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. He served his pediatrics internship, dermatology residency/chief residency, and pediatric dermatology fellowship at Stanford University Medical Center in Palo Alto, California. Tony is currently Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Dermatology at Northwestern University Medical School and Attending Physician at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. His special interests include neonatal skin maturation and skin disorders, vascular malformations, pediatric skin cancer, and the cutaneous complications of malignancies in children.

### Cecelia H. Ricketts, M.D.

Dr. Ricketts received her B.S. and M.S. in medical microbiology from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She graduated from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois. After an internship in internal medicine at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, she completed her dermatology training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. She is currently in private practice with Jeffrey Karaban, M.D. in Chicago, Illinois.

### Kathryn M. Thomas, M.D.

Dr. Thomas is a Cleveland native. She received her B.A. in English from Case Western Reserve University in 1988. Following graduation from CWRU School of Medicine in 1992, she remained in Cleveland for her medical internship at University Hospitals of Cleveland. Moving to Chicago, she completed her dermatology residency at Northwestern University in 1996. She is in private practice at the Elmhurst Clinic in Elmhurst, Illinois, with Lori Shelnitz, M.D.

### Diana M. Chen, M.D.

Dr. Chen was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and grew up in Rolla, Missouri. Unknown to her at the time, Dr. Chen's first exposure to dermatology was at the age of nine, when she experienced confusion at seeing an African-American train conductor

with "white" hands. She would like to say that this experience had a significant influence on her decision later on to pursue dermatology, but she can only remember fear of touching his hands. In 1984, she left her small town to attend Washington University in St. Louis, where she received her undergraduate degree in biology. During that time, she spent one-and-a-half years conducting research on vitronectin with Doug Tollefson, M.D. in the hematology/oncology department. She was selected into the Scholars Program in Medicine and was granted early acceptance into medical school. In 1992, she earned her medical degree at Washington University and spent three months at Stanford University under the direction of Youn Kim, M.D. and David Woodley, M.D. developing a SCID mouse model for epidermolysis bullosa acquisita. Dr. Chen then completed an internship in internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and her residency training in dermatology at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1996. The most valuable experience during her residency was her participation in a two month exchange program at the University of Sao Paulo in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and at the Hospital de Garrahan, a pediatric hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina, studying skin diseases. After graduating in 1996, she joined the faculty at Northwestern University as assistant professor to pursue medical student and resident education, clinical research, and general dermatology. She is currently actively involved in three clinical research projects: photodynamic therapy for the treatment of actinic keratoses, a self-applied topical cream for the treatment of condyloma accuminata, and Dapsone as a steroid-sparing agent in the treatment of pemphigus vulgaris.

In her spare time, Dr. Chen enjoys international travel, oil painting, biking, hiking, and camping. She is hoping to one day complete a collection of short stories for children and teach piano. Her parents continue to live in Rolla, Missouri, and she has one brother, an organic chemist pursuing a Ph.D. at Harvard University.

## IN PASSING

### Russell Graff, M.D. (1933-1997)

Dr. Russell Graff graduated from the University of Michigan undergraduate and medical schools. He interned at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After one year of general practice in Grand Rapids, Dr. Graff completed his dermatology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Graff thoroughly enjoyed his 32 years of the practice of dermatology in Grand Rapids. He was an active member of several medical and dermatological organizations, and regularly attended the annual Academy meetings. He often reflected on the smaller meetings, like the Chicago Dermatological Society, finding them more enjoyable than the larger meetings. He, along with his wife Maxine, enjoyed their trips to Chicago for education and fun. Dr. Graff is survived by his wife and their four children and five grandchildren.

### James E. Engeler, Sr., M.D. (1912-1996)

Dr. Engeler was born on October 3, 1912, in Decatur, Indiana. After completing his dermatology training, he served as a captain in the armed forces during World War II. He joined the Arnett Clinic in Lafayette, Indiana, in 1946 and practiced there until his retirement in 1975. He was past president of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Lafayette Rotary as well as on the Board of Directors of the Community Fund and Big Heart Master. He was a member of the Chicago Dermatological Society for 49 years. Dr. Engeler is survived by his wife Lea, son James Jr. of Madison, Wisconsin, daughters Carole Burns of Chicago and Nancy McClintock of Mesa, Arizona, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### October 19-20, 1996 – Northwestern University

The Chicago and the Illinois Dermatological Societies have joined together for several years to conduct an educational meeting in October during one of Chicago's beautiful fall weekends. This year, under the direction of Henry H. Roenigk, Jr., M.D., President of the Chicago Dermatologic Society, the meeting was held at Northwestern University Medical School. The format was changed slightly from previous two-day fall meetings.

The annual Samuel Bluefarb Lecture was given by David Bickers, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Columbia University Medical School in New York City. Dr. Bickers gave an excellent lecture on the newer aspects of porphyria. This was followed by a luncheon served in the Method Atrium. During the luncheon, Dr. Roenigk recognized the pharmaceutical companies that had given grants to the Chicago Dermatological Society to support the scientific meeting. Following lunch the resident staff at Northwestern prepared 25 outstanding cases for viewing in the Dermatology clinic. These presentations generated a lively discussion that concluded the afternoon.

Attendees then were able to shop along Michigan Avenue, visit Navy Pier and enjoy dinner in their favorite Chicago restaurants. As hoped, the weather cooperated with our plans.

Sunday there was a series of lectures on the "Management of Malignant Melanoma." There have been many new advances in recent years and our guest speakers brought us up to date. Visiting speakers included Darrell S. Rigel, M.D., from New York, who covered the management data collected at NYU for many years; Ron Rapini, M.D., from Texas Tech, who spoke on histopathology problems; and Randall K. Roenigk, M.D., from Mayo Clinic, who discussed the dermatologic surgeon's approach to surgical removal of melanomas. Mark Green, M.D., from Mayo Clinic-Scottsdale, who has done work on the epidemiology of dysplastic nevi and melanoma, brought us up to date on his work. Finally Steve Rosen, M.D., director of the Lurie Cancer Center at Northwestern, reviewed interferon treatment and other biological modifiers for melanoma.

*Henry H. Roenigk, M.D.*

### November 20, 1996 – University of Chicago

The November meeting of the Chicago Dermatological Society took place at the University of Chicago. The Allan Lorincz Lecture was presented Joseph L. Jorizzo, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Dermatology, the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Jorizzo presented an update on dermatomyositis. It was a wonderfully practical lecture even though Dr. Jorizzo left his slides back in North Carolina. The cases presented and ensuing discussion drew an excellent member turnout on this unusually cold, wintry day.

*Mark Gendleman, M.D.*

### January 15, 1997 – Northwestern University

On January 15, 1997, the Society had its Day of Learning, featuring "Lasers...What's New?". Fortunately the out-of-town speakers (Drs. Roy Geronemus and Ron Wheeland) had arrived in Chicago the day before a snowstorm that blanketed the city on the 15th. The very long morning commute to Northwestern University was worth the effort for all attendees. Dr. Jerome Garden started with a presentation on principles of laser surgery, followed by Dr. Ron Wheeland, speaking about laser use for vascular lesions, laser safe-

ty, and hair removal. After a short break, Dr. Roy Geronemus spoke on the use of lasers for pigmented lesions, tattoos, leg veins, and resurfacing. The afternoon was filled with live patient presentations, using various lasers. When a leg vein patient canceled — due to the inclement weather — two dermatology residents readily agreed to fill in. Their contribution to medical education was greatly appreciated. At the end of the day, all attendees were able to practice using the lasers on inanimate objects.

*Jerome Garden, M.D.*

### February 12, 1997 – Cook County Hospital

Robert A. Weiss, M.D. presented a lecture on "The Treatment of Leg Veins: Beyond Telangiectasia." Dr. Weiss is assistant professor of dermatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The case material and the discussion which followed were excellent.

*Mark Gendleman, M.D.*

### April 16, 1997 – University of Illinois

The third annual Silas Wallk Memorial Lecture took place at the Chicago Dermatological Society meeting of April 16, 1997. Dr. Eisen, M.D. was the speaker. Dr. Eisen is both an M.D. and a D.D.S. He spoke on oral manifestations of dermatological and systemic disease. His presentation focused on oral melanoma and lichen planus, with sections on bullous diseases, pigmentary conditions, and tooth abnormalities as seen in tuberous sclerosis and congenital syphilis. Both the content of his lecture and the accompanying slides were outstanding.

*Ben Dubin, M.D.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Michigan Dermatological Society

Stephen W. Sturman, M.D., who practices in Novi, Michigan, was recently chosen President-elect of the Michigan Dermatological Society. Dr. Sturman completed his dermatology residency at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Lukes Medical Center. He was head of the Department of Dermatology at the Children's Hospital of Michigan for many years.

### Art Institute

The Art Institute of Chicago received a gift of \$1.65 million from the estate of Doctor Irene Neuhauser-Gustis. This money will be used by the Art Institute's Ryerson and Burnham libraries. Dr. Neuhauser received her medical degree from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1929. She then completed her residency training at the Mandel Clinic of Michael Reese Hospital in 1937. Among the notable achievements of Dr. Neuhauser: second woman admitted to the Chicago Dermatological Society (1942), President of Chicago Dermatological Society (1955), and Practitioner of the Year of the Chicago Dermatological Society (1980). Dr. Neuhauser passed away in 1995.



## UNIVERSITY NEWS

### Northwestern University

The Department of Dermatology at Northwestern University is one of seven centers in the country participating in a research project assessing the efficacy of Dapsone as a steroid-sparing agent in the treatment of pemphigus vulgaris. The project is headed at Northwestern University by Diana Chen, M.D., and at the national level by Victoria Werth, M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Enrollment will take place over three years and patient participation will be monthly for one year. Eligible men and women with histologic and direct immunofluorescent evidence of pemphigus vulgaris should meet the following criteria:

- 18-80 years old
- on oral prednisone  $\pm$  topical or intralesional steroids, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, or any other cytotoxic agent
- failure to taper steroids below 15-40 mg/d or 20-40 mg qod without flaring
- current steroid dose not reduced more than 10% within 30 days of enrollment
- no pulse steroids, pulse cyclophosphamide, or plasmapheresis within two months of enrollment
- no contraindications to Dapsone, i.e. G6PD deficiency, severe anemia, or ischemic heart disease

Patients will be randomized to receive Dapsone or placebo; however, cross-over to the other agent will occur if patients are unable to be tapered to lower doses of oral prednisone. There is no compensation for this study. Dapsone will be provided by Jacobus Pharmaceuticals and the patient's insurance company will be responsible for paying for laboratory monitoring and visits, which would be required regardless of participation. If you have any patients who would be interested in participating in this study, please contact Diana Chen, M.D. at 312-908-8619.

### Rush Medical Center

Michael D. Tharp, M.D., The Clark W. Finnerud, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Rush, was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the Dermatology Foundation. He also serves as Co-Chairman of the Foundation's Leaders Society Committee. He is also the chief editor of the new dermatologic journal: *Dermatologic Therapy*. The department at Rush under Dr. Tharp's supervision is undertaking a clinical study.

They are seeking volunteers ages 12 or older to participate in a treatment program comparing two different medications for patients with urticaria. Volunteers who qualify can receive up to \$125.00. Doctor visits, laboratory fees, and medicine will be included free of charge.

For additional information, please contact the study coordinator, Annette Morales, R.N. at (312) 942-2197.

### New Officers for Chicago Dermatological Society

The following slate of officers has been chosen for 1997-1998:

President.....	Bruce Bennin, M.D.
President-elect.....	Kathleen Remlinger, M.D.
Vice-President .....	Anne Laumann, M.D.
Secretary .....	David Lorber, M.D.
Treasurer .....	Kathleen Remlinger, M.D.

### New Officers for Illinois Dermatological Society

The following slate of officers has been chosen for 1997-1998:

President.....	Katherine Wier, M.D.
President-elect.....	Samuel Solomon, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer.....	Harry Goldin, M.D.

## 1997-98 PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

**October 4-5, 1997 –**

**Rush-Presbyterian-St. Lukes Medical Center**

Max & Vera Pinski Memorial Lecture

*Symposium on Practical Dermatological Therapy*

Virginia Fiedler, M.D.

James G. Kruger, M.D.

**November 19, 1997 – University of Illinois**

Antoinette Hood, M.D.

**December 10, 1997 – CDS Seminar "Day of Learning"**

Silas Walk, M.D. Memorial Lecture

A. Bernard Ackerman, M.D.

**January 21, 1998 – Chicago Medical Society**

Coding Seminar

Inga Ellzey

**March 18, 1998 – Cook County Hospital**

Samuel Zakon, M.D. Memorial Lecture

**April 8, 1998 – University of Chicago**

Allan Lorincz Lecture

Amir H. Mehregan, M.D.

**May 20, 1998 – Northwestern University**

Samuel Bluefarb Lecture

Annual Awards Luncheon



## MEDICARE UPDATE

### Advisory On Use of Modifiers

#### -59 and -51 for Medicare

This is the current (April 1997) information obtained through Dr. James Zalla, Dermatology Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee (DERMCAC) member in Kentucky, following our recent national DERMCAC meeting at the AAD in March, 1997. These are the current "edits" in place to prevent "fraud and abuse"; in other words putting down extra codes ("unbundling") for a single procedure. Previously, the -GB modifier was created by HCFA to avoid the edits in Medicare's "Correct Coding Initiative" (CCI). The CCI was used to prevent "unbundling"; in other words, it would not allow payment for certain procedure codes combined with other codes. To get proper reimbursement from Medicare, you must now use the -59 modifier (instead of the -GB) if you do certain surgical and/or intralesional injection procedures at the same visit, according to the list below. This usage of -59 was reaffirmed on April 22, 1997, by a call to the local Medicare carrier here in Illinois.

#### How to Use -59 Modifier:

If you perform one of the procedures preceding the colon and combine that with any of the procedures following the colon, add the -59 modifier to those procedures following the colon.

Incision and drainage: excision of benign or malignant lesion, avulsion of nails, permanent destruction of nails.

Skin biopsy: incision and drainage, chemical cauterization, permanent nail removal, nail biopsy.

Permanent removal of nail: incision and drainage, skin biopsy.

Skin tag excision: incision and drainage, skin biopsy, intralesional steroids, chemical cauterization.

Electrosurgical destruction of skin tags: skin biopsy, intralesional steroids.

Shave removal: skin tag excision, skin biopsy, intralesional steroids, simple repair, chemical cauterization.

Excision of benign or malignant lesions: skin biopsy, intralesional steroids, incision and drainage, simple repair, chemical cauterization, intralesional chemotherapy.

Destruction of malignant lesion: skin biopsy, intralesional steroids.

MOHS codes: skin biopsy, excision of malignant lesion, histopathology.

Hidradenitis excision series: skin biopsy, intralesional steroids, simple repair, chemical cauterization, intralesional chemotherapy, shave removal series.

Simple repair series: skin biopsy, intralesional steroids.

Adjacent tissue transfer series (14000): skin biopsy, excision, benign or malignant, simple repair.

As you can see, these lists involve mixed types of procedures, and the use of the -59 modifier is to prevent, of course, fraud and abuse. The -59 modifier is to document separate services.

#### How to Use -51 Modifier:

The -51 modifier is used when multiple procedures are done, which do not involve the CCI "forbidden" combinations listed above.

The -51 and -59 modifier may also be used together, to document separate and different services. There will be no penalty for "overusing" either of the modifiers.

*Katherine A. Wier, M.D.  
President, Illinois Dermatological Society  
Illinois DERMCAC*

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

House Bill 843, The Direct Access to Dermatologists Law, passed out of the Illinois House by a vote of 93 to 19. The bill was then sent to the Illinois Senate. Our sponsor in the Senate is Senator Kirk Dillard, who was well-positioned to help us as a member of the Senate Rules Committee.

On April 30th a group of dermatologists and patients travelled by bus to Springfield to lobby the state senators. The bus and refreshments on board were courtesy of the Schering Corporation. The group included Drs. Jeff Altman, Tom Andrews, Marianne O'Donoghue, Marshall Blankenship, Harry Goldin, Mark Hoffman, John Kalis, Anne Laumann, Steve Stone, Chester Danehower, Jim Ertle and two patients of Dr. Goldin: John Wright and Ruth Coggin. We were able to meet with important members of the Senate Insurance Committee. While we were there, the Rules Committee reported our HB843 and sent it to the Senate Insurance Committee.

On May 6, 1997, HB843 went before the Senate Insurance Committee where it was assigned to a sub-committee on managed care along with several other bills. Dr. Larry Newell took time out to testify, and John Wright traveled to Springfield again. Once the sub-committee is formed, we will need to focus on those senators on the Insurance Committee.

Patient postcards remain the most powerful tool. Our lobbyist says that if we can generate a list of patients from these postcards, we can send the patients a letter at the appropriate time to call their senators. The AAD Operation Statewatch has the software program to do this, but we have to send the names of these patients to Susan Koshy at the Academy office (847) 330-0230.

It takes only minutes to do these things, but their impact on the political process is enormous.

We have all summer to do our work. It is unlikely that HB843 will come up for a vote until the fall session of the Illinois Senate.

*James O. Ertle, M.D.  
Legislative Coordinator*

## PHOTOTHERAPY UPDATE

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UVB & UVA

### Joliet

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## ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

The Advisory Board had a full agenda at its annual meeting. District 11 (Great Lakes) and District 5 (Southeast) have each been split into two districts. We will now be represented by the following four districts: 1) Ohio and Michigan; 2) Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin; 3) Florida; and 4) Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and South Carolina.

Some of the issues voted on and sent to the Academy Board of Directors were the following:

- Requesting the Academy to have a course on conscious sedation and analgesia for complicated skin procedures.
- On the dermatopathology issue of the freedom of choice of surgical pathology consultants (dermatopathologists and dermatologists) in Managed Care Organizations, request the Academy support this concept. Also request the AAD to bring up this issue to the AMA. Request the Academy to impress upon the agencies that the "correct standards and procedures for the diagnosis and treatment of cutaneous neoplastic lesions be determined by dermatologists."
- Request the implementation by the Academy of the Australian SunSmart program in the school districts to give "Safe Tan" awards to public figures, periodicals, ads, television programs; and, to have the Academy recommend monthly deliberate skin self-examination.
- Request the Academy to support and present to the AMA a "Managed Care Consensus Bill".
- Request the Academy take an active role in third party carrier reimbursement issues, especially with the Claim Check software program, and consider a class action suit.
- Request the Academy review the impact of the Medicare supervisory requirements on residency programs and pursue corrective action.
- Request the Academy to work with coalitions to develop an alternative funding of graduate medical education.
- Request the relocation of the AAD headquarters office to Washington, D.C., when we run out of room in Schaumburg.
- Request support by the AAD for the individual member's rights to privacy and oppose the release of confidential physician data within the National Practitioner Data Bank to managed care organizations.

Remember that any "burning issue" can be brought to the Academy for action via the Advisory Board Resolution process or through our Board of Directors member, Marianne O'Donoghue, M.D.

*Darryl M. Bronson, M.D.*

## Past Practitioner of the Year Award Winners

Awarded each year to an individual for exemplary service as a practitioner of Dermatology.

1977	Sam Zakon, M.D.
*1978	Albert Slepian, M.D.
1979	Theodore Cornbleet, M.D.
1980	Irene Neuhauser, M.D.
1981	Louis Rubin, M.D.
1982	Sidney Kaplan, M.D.
1983	Silas Wallk, M.D.
1984	Milton Robin, M.D.
1985	Alex Buchholz, M.D.
1986	Hyman Burstein, M.D.
1987	Eugene Lorant, M.D.
1988	Frank Dunlap, M.D.
1989	Irving Distelheim, M.D.
1990	Alan E. Lasser, M.D.
1991	James Ertle, M.D.
1992	John Weiss, M.D.
1993	Paul M. Lazar, M.D.
1994	Roland S. Medansky, M.D.
1995	Emanuel C. Liss, M.D.
1996	Samuel Solomon, M.D.

\*Dr. Slepian received the National Practitioner of the Year Award from the Dermatology Foundation.

## Past Founders Award Winners

Awarded each year to an individual who has devoted extraordinary time and talent as a teacher and clinician.

1982	Edward Peterka, M.D.
1983	Sidney Barsky, M.D.
1984	Samuel Bluefarb, M.D.
1985	Stefan Bielinski, M.D.
1986	Melville Hartman, M.D.
1987	Frederick Szymanski, M.D.
1988	Stanley Huff, M.D.
1989	Arthur Shapiro, M.D.
1990	M. Barry Kirschenbaum, M.D.
1991	Fred Levit, M.D.
1992	William Caro, M.D.
1993	David F. Fretzin, M.D.
1994	Marshall L. Blankenship, M.D.
1995	Marianne N. O'Donoghue, M.D.
1996	James B. Pinski, M.D.

## Past Gold Medal Award Winners

Award for outstanding service and academic excellence.

1990	Allan L. Lorincz, M.D.
1992	Frederick Malkinson, M.D.

## MIDWEST CLINICAL CONFERENCE

The Chicago Medical Society's Midwest Clinical Conference for 1997 was held on February 8th and 9th at Navy Pier. The dermatology portion of the conference took place on a beautiful Sunday morning. Our program consisted of four presentations: Michael Berkson, M.D., clinical instructor at Northwestern University Medical School, spoke on "Acne", and Annette Wagner, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and dermatology, Northwestern University Medical School and Children's Memorial Hospital, presented "Common Childhood Dermatoses". This was followed by James Herrmann, M.D., clinical instructor from Northwestern University Medical School, giving an "Update on Skin Cancer", and Heidi Baca, M.D., assistant professor, Rush Medical College and director of Mohs laser, and dermatological surgery at Rush, who elaborated on the "Evaluation and Treatment of Photoaging". Most of the attendees were primary care physicians who rated the course well organized and helpful for their practices.

*Nona M. Craig, M.D.*