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CHICAGO DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MORE THAN SKIN DEEP: GEORGE WOODBURY JR., M.D.

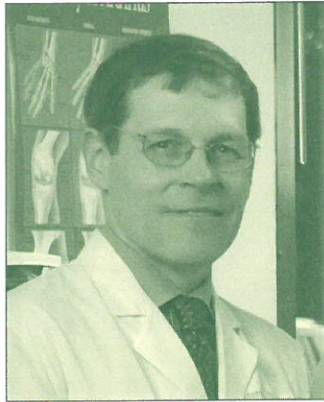
I have been a member and regular attendee of the Chicago Dermatological Society since 2007. As a dermatologist whose practice is in Memphis, Tennessee, I am one of the more distant members. I would like to comment on my own connection with this Society, on my advocacy in dermatologic care, and on one way of mobilizing grassroots activism among our patients and colleagues.

I attended college and medical school at the University of Chicago and completed my dermatology residency in Chicago at Rush University Medical Center in 1991. Both of my grandfathers (Louis Plzak M.D. and Robert Woodbury M.D.) were also graduates of the University of Chicago Medical School. My grandmother (Janice Plzak) obtained her degree in pharmacy at the University of Chicago. Dr. Robert Woodbury (upon completion of his MD/PhD) accepted an academic medicine position at the University of Georgia. He became the Chair of Pharmacology at the University of Tennessee in 1946, a role which he retained for the next 30 years. My mom's father (Dr. Louis Plzak) was a very active general surgeon in Chicago between 1934 and 1975. His private practice was located in Riverside Illinois, but he was actively involved in teaching surgery at the Chicago Medical School.

Both my mother and father (Drs. George and Linda Woodbury) are also alumni of the University of Chicago Medical School. My dad completed his ophthalmology residency there in 1965, and my mom completed her dermatology residency there, also in 1965, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Alan Lorincz. Drs. Roger Pearson and Frederick Malkinson were among her attendings in dermatology at the University of Chicago, thereafter becoming attendings for me during my dermatology residency at Rush. My wife, Cathy Chapman M.D., is also a University of Chicago School of Medicine graduate. Cathy completed an internal medicine residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and a rheumatology residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. The two of us have practiced rheumatology and dermatology together (as Rheumatology and Dermatology Associates) in Memphis, Tennessee since 1993.

Two events led me to become aware that it would be wise to look beyond the borders of my office's front door.

First, in the late 1990s, the Board of Medical Examiners of Tennessee contemplated a new regulation



which would have prohibited procedures on children 14 years of age or younger if they involved any use of lidocaine, even topical use, unless the procedure was done in a licensed surgery center. This regulation would have had a big effect upon my ability to provide services, since about 40% of my patients were pediatric, and I practiced in the outpatient world. The regulation had been developed by a neonatologist on the medical board who was not familiar with the long-term safety of intralesional lidocaine. I found out about this pending regulation about a week prior to the close of commentary on the regulation, and I resolved to talk to many of the 30 dermatologists who practice in Memphis, many of whom attended our monthly society meetings. After some months and several hearings in Nashville, the regulation was rewritten to require only that kids below 14 years of age (who were to go under conscious sedation) must use a licensed surgery center, a much more acceptable rule to our local dermatologic community.

Secondly, in the year 2000, two of my patients filed lawsuits against me. The first litigation involved a 19-year-old white male whom I had treated with Accutane for nodulocystic acne who developed acne fulminans. His mother spoke with one of our local plastic surgeons who criticized my choice of Accutane. In Tennessee, expert witnesses can come from any contiguous state; we actually have the most contiguous states of any state in the US – at eight. The plaintiff's lawyer found a dermatologist from Virginia to testify against me.

The second lawsuit involved a 35-year-old woman with a painful nodule of one ear which I had felt was a skin cancer. Her complaint was that she never received informed consent, and she alleged "medical assault and battery" writing in her statements that her vacation was ruined by the pain she experienced in that external ear after the surgery, and that I should have known by inspection that the histology would show chondrodermatitis rather than a basal cell skin cancer. The first lawsuit was dismissed by the judge and the plaintiff's attorney dropped the second case before it proceeded to trial. Facing the two concurrent lawsuits, I resolved to "don't get mad, get active." So I became involved with our Memphis Dermatological Society and the Tennessee Medical Association. Cathy and I became active in attending the annual meetings of both the Democrats and the Republicans locally, to broaden our awareness of the political landscape. Even though I'm not a formal member of any of these groups, as a healthcare activist, I attend between 3-4 meetings (with other physicians or political groups) each month.

I also came to know who my legislators in Nashville and Washington D.C. were. I helped achieve a cap on

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Awards

The Awards Committee of the Society has chosen the recipients of the Founders and the Practitioner of the Year awards for 2014.

Founders Award

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

Amy Paller, M.D.

Practitioner of the Year Award

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

Kathleen Remlinger, M.D.

AMY PALLER, M.D.

Amy Paller, MS, M.D. is the Walter J. Hamlin Chair and Professor of Dermatology, Professor of Pediatrics, and Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded Skin Disease Research Center at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.



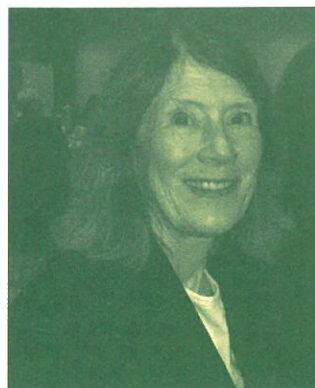
She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brown University and her medical degree from Stanford University. Dr. Paller completed residency training in both pediatrics and dermatology at Northwestern University and her postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of North Carolina. She served as Chief of Pediatric Dermatology at Northwestern's Children's Hospital until she became Chair of Dermatology at Northwestern University in 2004.

Dr. Paller has served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Dermatological Association, and has been on the Board of Directors as well as President of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology, the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the Women's Dermatologic Society, and the Chicago Dermatological Society. She is Vice-President of the American Board of Dermatology and Vice Chair of the Dermatology Residency Review Committee. An author of more than 350 original publications, Dr. Paller is an NIH-funded investigator who has served on the NIH Board of Scientific Counselors (NIAMS).

Her clinical interests focus on genetic disorders of the skin and cutaneous immunologic disorders in children (atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, rheumatologic disorders). Her laboratory is focused on two major areas: a) the role of keratinocyte gangliosides in skin cancer and diabetic wound healing; and b) topical delivery of siRNA-nanoparticle gene suppression as therapy for skin disorders. Dr. Paller has also directed the Pediatric Dermatology Clinical Trials Unit at Northwestern for more than 20 years, and has been the lead investigator on several landmark trials in pediatric skin disease. She is co-author or co-editor of several leading textbooks of dermatology, among them Fitzpatrick's *Dermatology in General Medicine*, *Pediatric Dermatology*, and Hurwitz's *Clinical Pediatric Dermatology*.

She is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, and serves on the editorial boards of several other journals. Dr. Paller is currently

KATHLEEN REMLINGER, M.D.



My two brothers and I grew up in Wilmette, Illinois. My father was an anesthesiologist who loved his job. By the 7th grade I had decided that medicine was the field for me. My other love was ballet. After college at Wellesley, where I majored in Latin, I

attended Loyola University for medical school and an internal medicine internship and residency. I did a hematology-oncology fellowship at the University of Washington. I returned to Loyola as an attending physician specializing in acute leukemia and bone marrow transplantation. Although hematology was rewarding, early burnout seemed likely. Mary Massa, M.D. had been my roommate during internal medicine residency and she urged me to consider dermatology. Luckily the faculty at the University of Illinois were willing to take a chance on me and in 1985 I began my dermatology residency. I have spent time as an attending at the University of Illinois, Cook County/Stroger Hospital, and at Rush University Medical Center. I opened my practice in Aurora to be closer to home. Currently I work with Cadence Health.

I enjoy working out and am still striving to conquer the game of golf. My older brother runs a farm and rehabs homes. My younger brother is a lawyer in California. They both are supportive of me. My son Paul is the nicest person I know. I am very proud of him. He has been kind and has had a good sense of humor since birth. I don't think I can take credit for these admirable attributes.

We all have inspirations in our lives. Not surprisingly, my father was my initial inspiration. He had an incredible work ethic and was the anesthesiologist many other doctors wanted present when their family members had surgery. E. Donnall Thomas, M.D., the oncology program director in Seattle, was another. He was a brilliant man who had vision and skillfulness. He won a Nobel prize in 1992 for his work pioneering bone marrow transplantation. My hematology-oncology patients were also inspirational. Their spirit and courage made me appreciate how lucky I am, and reminded me to keep life's little stumbling blocks and disappointments in perspective.

I am very honored to have received the Practitioner of the Year Award. I truly believe it is something to be shared by all of us, since I learn from the other CDS members and from residents on an almost daily basis.

The University of Illinois resident information was accidentally omitted from the fall issue of the Chicago Dermatological Society Newsletter.

GRADUATES — WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Amanda Cooper, M.D. is in private practice with Balcones Dermatology in Austin, Texas.

Eliana Krulig, M.D. is in private practice with the San Jose Medical Center in San Jose, California.

Adrienne Schupbach, M.D. is in private practice at the Dermatology & Mohs Surgery Institute in Bloomington, Illinois.

Karl Vance, M.D. is doing a surgery fellowship in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

1ST YEAR RESIDENTS

Monique Boomsaad, M.D. grew up in Union City, California. She obtained her undergraduate degree in women's studies at the University of California in Los Angeles. She earned her M.D. at Columbia University and completed a surgical internship at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City. Monique enjoys running, travel, and food.

Rosemara Hughart, M.D. grew up in the rural town of Fairfield, Iowa. She then moved to Iowa City, where she majored in biology at the University of Iowa. After obtaining her medical degree at the University of Iowa, she completed an internship in internal medicine at the University of Colorado. Prior to starting her dermatology residency, she completed a one-year clinical trials research fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago. Rosemara enjoys traveling, running, skiing, hiking, trying new types of cuisine, and spending time with friends and family.

Pauline Scott, M.D. grew up in Oklahoma and followed her older brothers' footsteps in attending the University of Oklahoma. After her undergraduate training, she completed medical school at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and an internship at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. In her spare time, Pauline enjoys traveling, shopping, watching OU football games, playing with her dog, and spending time with her husband, family, and friends.

Drew Taylor, M.D. was born and raised in Naples, Florida. He completed both his undergraduate and medical degree at the University of Florida. There, he met his beautiful wife, Natalia. Prior to starting his dermatology residency, he completed a preliminary medicine internship at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Drew enjoys traveling, cooking, fitness, and Gator football.

AMY PALLER, M.D. (continued from page 2)

Co-chair of the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA), Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Eczema Association, Vice-President of the International Society for Atopic Dermatitis, and serves on the Medical and Scientific Advisory Boards of the Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types, Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association, International Psoriasis Council, and the Pachyonychia Congenita Project.

Amy's husband (Etahn Cohen) is a corporate lawyer who deals with mergers and acquisitions. Her oldest son, Josh Cohen, lives in Evanston. Her middle son, Max Cohen, has been living in Washington, D.C. and working as a consultant at Deloitte for the past 4 years. Max is about to take a one month trip through South America and then start business school at the University of Chicago. Her youngest son, Ben Cohen, finished college at Brown University and is about to start a PhD program in history at Johns Hopkins University.

Amy travels for work, which takes her to many corners of the world. After the upcoming SID meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico (where she has 7 abstracts to present about her bench and clinical research projects), she is zipping to Paris to train investigators for an upcoming study on the natural history of dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa. After Paris she will go to Melbourne to be a plenary speaker for the Australasia College of Dermatologists; then to Nottingham U.K. for the international Symposium on Atopic Dermatitis. In June, she'll be heading to a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark and then to be a lead speaker at the European Society for Pediatric Dermatology in Kiel, Germany.

The family tries to get to Israel once a year to see Amy's mother (who is now 85 and moved there at 79 years of age), her two siblings (who both moved there when they were just out of graduate school), and all her first cousins (who similarly moved there when young). Etahn or one of her sons sometimes heads to an international meeting with her (for example, Etahn was in Madrid last September, Ben in Tanzania the year before, and Max in Kyoto and Tokyo before that). Being with family and taking that extra time when traveling makes it so much more memorable for her.

Finally, Amy had some thoughts about the CDS award. She is blessed to have the opportunity to be surrounded by doctors and medical students in training who are hungry to learn and will be leaders of the next generation. They share an eagerness to make a difference and an excitement about helping their patients through education, research, and intervention. They have the chance to go beyond what is in the books – to discover new information from their patients and in the laboratory about the features and underlying basis for skin disorders – and use those discoveries to creatively consider new ways to improve the quality of life for their patients. To her, the thrill of seeing happiness in children and parents who have struggled for so long, and of passing on that thrill and the knowledge of how to replicate the experience, makes it all so worthwhile.

Amy was touched by this CDS Founders award – and can't thank the Society enough for this recognition.

AHMAD AMIN, M.D.

Dr. Ahmad Amin attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for his undergraduate education, medical school, and dermatology training. He is a clinical instructor in the Department of Dermatology at Northwestern University.

SULEMAN BANGASH, M.D.

Dr. Suleman Bangash attended Northwestern University for his undergraduate education and then Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri for medical school. After his dermatology residency at the Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, he completed a Mohs surgery fellowship in Tallahassee, Florida. He is in private practice at the Mohs Surgery and Dermatology Center in Elgin, Illinois.

JAMES IDA, M.D.

Dr. James Ida attended both Colgate University in New York and the Harvard School of Public Health in Massachusetts for his undergraduate education. After medical school at the Chicago Medical School, he completed his dermatology residency at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. He is in private practice at the Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group in Deerfield, Illinois.

ARASH KOOCHKEK, M.D.

Dr. Arash Koochek attended both the University of California and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health for college. After medical school at the University of Vermont in Burlington, he finished a dermatology residency at Yale University. He is in private practice in Dyer, Indiana at the Franciscan Medical Specialists.

GEORGE MICHAEL LEWITT, M.D.

Dr. George Michael Lewitt completed 6 years of undergraduate and medical education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). He then went to the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio for an internal medicine residency and then to St. Louis University for his dermatology residency. He is in private practice in Northbrook, Illinois with Dermatology Partners of the Northshore.

VANESSA LICHON, M.D.

Dr. Vanessa Lichon attended the University of Notre Dame for college and then the University of Illinois for medical school. After a dermatology residency at Loyola University Medical School in Maywood, Illinois, she completed a procedural dermatology fellowship at the University of Vermont in Burlington. She is in private practice with Premier Dermatology in both Crest Hill and Lombard, Illinois.

MARK ROMANELLI, M.D.

Dr. Mark Romanelli completed his undergraduate education at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. After medical school at SUNY in Syracuse, New York, he finished a dermatology residency at Rush University Medical Center. He is in private practice with the Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group in Chicago, Illinois.

WENDY SCHUMACHER-KIM, M.D.

Dr. Wendy Schumacher-Kim went to the University of Michigan. After medical school at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Midwestern University), she finished a dermatology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She then completed a pediatric dermatology residency at Northwestern University in Chicago. She is an assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in LaGrange Park, Illinois.

JONATHAN SILVERBERG, M.D.

Dr. Jonathan Silverberg went to the City University of New York (Brooklyn College) for his undergraduate education and then the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center for medical school. He completed a dermatology residency at St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital in New York, City. He is in private practice at Northwestern University in Chicago.

GUNILLA CARLSSON-THORN, M.D.

Dr. Gunilla Carlsson-Thorn went to the college of Wooster in Massachusetts and then attended medical school at Northwestern University in Chicago. She remained at Northwestern for her dermatology training. She is in private practice with the Cadence Physicians Group in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

LILY CHANGCHIEN-UIHLEIN, M.D.

Dr. Lily Changchien-Uihlein graduated from both Harvard University and Harvard Law School. She then went to medical school at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. After her dermatology residency at Harvard, she completed a pediatric dermatology residency at Boston Children's Hospital. She is in private practice at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in LaGrange Park, Illinois.

SAPNA PATEL-VAGHANI, M.D.

Dr. Sapna Patel-Vaghani attended Northwestern University for college and Drexel University College of Medicine. After a pediatric fellowship at Children's Memorial Hospital-McGaw Medical Center, Chicago, she completed both her dermatology residency and pediatric dermatology residency at Northwestern University. She is in private practice with Advocate Children's Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois.

2014-2015 Meeting Schedule

Wed., Oct. 8, 2014

University of Illinois at Chicago

Wed., Nov. 5, 2014

Northwestern University

Sat., Dec. 13, 2014

University of Chicago

January, 2015

Coding Seminar (tentative)

February, 2015

President's Conference

April, 2015

Stroger/Cook County Hospital

Wed., May 20, 2015

Rush University

June, 2015

Loyola University

CDS Practitioner of the Year Award

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

1977	Sam Zakon, MD	1997	Raymond M. Handler, MD
1978	Albert Slepian, MD	1998	Morton D. Barnett, MD
1979	Theodore Cornbleet, MD	1999	Thomas Andrews, MD
1980	Irene Neuhauser, MD	2000	Nancy O. Furey, MD
1981	Louis Rubin, MD	2001	George H. Engle, MD
1982	Sidney Kaplan, MD	2002	Mark Gordon, MD
1983	Silas Wallk, MD	2003	David Lorber, MD
1984	Milton Robin, MD	2004	Arthur Altman, MD
1985	Alex Buchholz, MD	2005	Elizabeth La Voo, MD
1986	Hyman Burstein, MD	2006	Arnold Gombiner, MD
1987	Eugene Lorant, MD	2007	Marjorie Mintz Rosenbaum, MD
1988	Frank Dunlap, MD	2008	Harry M. Goldin, MD
1989	Irving Distelheim, MD	2009	Carl W. Soderstrom, MD
1990	Alan E. Lasser, MD	2010	John B. Kalis, MD
1991	James Ertle, MD	2011	Stephen P. Stone, MD
1992	John Weiss, MD	2012	Andrew J. Scheman, MD
1993	Paul Lazar, MD	2013	Julie A. Moore, MD
1994	Roland S. Medansky, MD	2014	Kathleen Remlinger, MD
1995	Emanuel C. Liss, MD		
1996	Samuel S. Solomon, MD		

CDS Founders Award

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

1982	Edward Peterka, MD	1997	Mark D. Gendleman, MD
1983	Sidney Barsky, MD	1998	Ana M. Eng, MD
1984	Samuel Bluefarb, MD	1999	Salve Ronan, MD
1985	Stefan Bielinski, MD	2000	Taraneh S. Firoozi, MD
1986	Melville Hartman, MD	2001	Maria Medinica, MD
1987	Frederick Szymanski, MD	2002	Bruce Bennin, MD
1988	Stanley Huff, MD	2003	Keyoumars Soltani, MD
1989	Arthur Shapiro, MD	2004	Virginia Fiedler, MD
1990	M. Barry Kirschenbaum, MD	2005	Sophie Worobec, MD
1991	Fred Levit, MD	2006	James Ertle, MD
1992	William Caro, MD	2007	Tony S. Fu, MD
1993	David Fretzin, MD	2008	Jerome M. Garden, MD
1994	Marshall L. Blankenship, MD	2009	Neill T. Peters, MD
1995	Marianne O'Donoghue, MD	2010	James W. Swan, MD
1996	James B. Pinski, MD	2011	Iris K. Aronson, MD
		2012	Anne E. Laumann, MD
		2013	Arthur R. Rhodes, MD
		2014	Amy Paller, MD

CDS Gold Medal Award

Award for outstanding service and academic excellence.

1990	Allan L. Lorincz, MD
1992	Frederick Malkinson, MD
1997	Lawrence Solomon, MD
2001	Marshall Blankenship, MD
2002	Sidney Barsky, MD
2011	William A. Caro, MD



MORE THAN SKIN DEEP (continued from page 1)

noneconomic damages (about five years ago) mainly because physicians like me were at the table talking with legislators about issues in liability reform. This \$800,000 "pain and suffering" cap has led to a dramatic decline in suits being placed against our physician community in Tennessee.

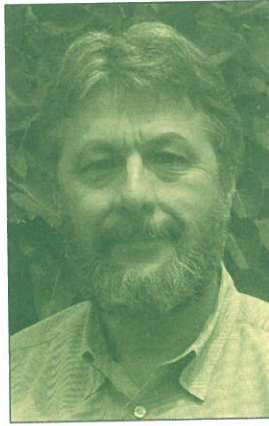
My daughter Emily (now a medical student at Columbia in New York City) was quite involved in high school in what is called "Youth Legislator." Emily recommended that I set up a quarterly newsletter to address issues related to advocacy in healthcare and also medical issues in both rheumatology and dermatology. The grassroots network is called PURPLHealth – for People United to Reform Professional Liability in Healthcare. The newsletter is called the "Health Enewsletter." As of April 2014, the print edition of this newsletter numbers about 850 addresses, and the Email issue numbers about 4,200 people. It has turned from a quarterly edition to a monthly edition. My son Eric is helping with the database management for this project, which requires some ongoing maintenance. I can generate a pretty rapid response to issues that arise in Washington, D.C. and Nashville, with the help of this database, particularly with looming issues like Medicare and Tricare benefit cuts.

My patients tend to keep the ball rolling by coming in to see me, asking whom they need to call this month and on what issues. The American Medical Association has a grassroots hotline: 1-888-434-6200. This number can be used by both patients and physicians to contact federal legislators regarding important issues. I would also highly recommend the American Academy of Dermatology annual "Legislative Conference" – which will run from September 7-9, 2014 in Washington D.C. This is an excellent way for us to advocate for our patients' health. About 150 of our country's dermatologists will be in the nation's capital for several days. It's a great forum for those of us concerned about advocacy to find out what the current issues are and what is being done to address these issues.

George Woodbury Jr. M.D.

CDS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Richard Paul & Associates is the administrative team for our Society. The company's President Rich Paul, has worked in the medical field for almost 30 years, beginning as the Manager of State Affairs at the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Since 1993, he has had his own association management firm focused exclusively on small-size medical specialty associations.



In addition to the CDS, the company handles six physician associations: three Midwest state ophthalmological societies, the Wisconsin Chapter of Emergency Physicians, one small national organization of ophthalmologists and its "sister" foundation, and the Chicago Ophthalmological Society. Typical responsibilities include meeting planning, administrative and financial management, governmental affairs, member services, and public information projects.

Based in Vernon Hills, RP&A has three full-time employees. Jessica is the administrative assistant who keeps all of the membership databases current, issues the CME Certificates, and does most of the updating on the website. She's also probably the first person you'll speak to when calling CDS office. Kathy Paul (yes, she is Rich's wife) does most of the meeting logistics and handles the bookkeeping. She is a former scheduler for U.S. Senator Birch Bayh (D-Indiana) and has spent time as a travel agent.

Prior to entering the association business, Rich Paul was the press secretary for Senator Bayh and also held the same position for Ann Richards when she was Texas State Treasurer. He has also worked on several political campaigns.

If you need to reach any of the CDS administrative team, just call 847-680-1666 or contact Rich at: RichardPaul@DLS.net or Rich@RichardPaulAssociates.com.

MOC SELF-ASSESSMENT

The American Board of Dermatology (like other boards) has made the maintenance of the certification process more involved. Maintenance of your certification has four components and functions in 10 year cycles. Your medical license serves as evidence of professional standing, the board examination as evidence of cognitive expertise, and the evaluation of practice performance as the third. The fourth component is the demonstration of a commitment to lifelong learning and periodic self-assessment.

This last component used to consist of 25 CME hours per year. Two other requirements have been added. One is a patient safety module that the AAD offers for a nominal fee; the other is the new requirement of periodic self-assessment. In addition to the CME credits, the CDS has decided to offer at least the number of self-assessment questions to its members that need to be answered to comply with the Board's requirement.

The framework for our self-assessment program is laid out by the Board, which has been very supportive of our effort. Periodic self-assessment is defined as 100 questions that have to be answered in one or multiple sessions every three years. It is essential for compliance with MOC program that these questions are approved by the Board. Self-assessment should include information on the relative performance of peers. It has to be obvious to the test taker what others have answered and there has to be an evaluation of the program by the participants.

In order to get information about the peer performance, the CDS would have to inform the members (by letter) of the peer results. After that, the members would have to submit the necessary evaluations by letter. The CDS could then send out the certificates. The audience response system seems to be the easiest solution. It is used for other programs as well. The AAD offers an online module at about \$8/per question, which we assume has been pretested to frontload in a practice session with peer results. In the future, other web based systems by the CDS are possible; for now we will depend on our member feedback to decide on how to proceed. Comments about the type of questions, as well as about the integration of the integration of the questions into the flow of the main session, or other aspects of the program, are welcome, and will help to make this a routine part of our CDS meetings.

Joerg Albrecht, M.D.
(joerg.albrecht@gmail.com)