



# Dermatology Foundation

## News Release

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**For Immediate Release:**  
**February 2, 2006**

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**W. Harrison Turner III, M.D. the Dermatology Foundation's  
2005 Practitioner of the Year**

**W. Harrison Turner III, M.D.**, a private-practice dermatologist in Greensboro, NC since 1976 and a clinical associate in the Department of Dermatology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, is the Dermatology Foundation's **2005 Practitioner of the Year**. The Award was established by the Dermatology Foundation in 1976 and is given each year to a member of the specialty who demonstrates exemplary service as a practitioner, teacher and/or researcher. Dr. Turner will receive this distinguished honor during the Dermatology Foundation's Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2006, during the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Turner holds a B.A. in philosophy from Virginia's Randolph-Macon College, and received his M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia where he also did his internship. Although Dr. Turner's goal was to be a gastroenterologist, a three-year stint in the Air Force, where he was assigned to triage dermatology patients, stimulated his interest in dermatology at a time when "noninfectious cutaneous diseases were just beginning to be approached in precise immunologic rather than descriptive terms. I was fascinated with this view – and fell in love with the T cell!" he recalls. After completing his military service in 1972, he entered the dermatology residency program at Duke Medical Center, Durham, NC at the time that Dr. J. Lamar Callaway was chief of dermatology there. Dr. Callaway was an eminent dermatologist who was instrumental in Dr. Turner's decision to pursue dermatology. In 1976 Dr. Turner completed his residency, where he served as chief resident in his final year, and began practice with Greensboro Dermatology Associates where he has been throughout his career.

It is no surprise that a life-long practitioner like Dr. Turner takes great pleasure in his patients and enjoys the family ties that bring patients of all ages to his practice: "Once you see one member of a family – the spouse, their children, their parents and any siblings who live in the area – they eventually become your patients, too," reflects Dr. Turner, who also notes his friendships with many of his patients. As further evidence of his patient-rapport, he has been named one of North Carolina's *Best Doctors* since 2002 in a statewide survey.

In addition to his clinical duties, Dr. Turner continues to give a clinical elective in which UNC students spend a month in his office. Through his association with Greensboro's major teaching hospital, family practice residents are also among his students.

An involved dermatologist who is an active member of the larger medical community in North Carolina, Dr. Turner chaired a steering committee to explore managed-care options in the Greensboro area. For dermatology, the early 1980s "... was a time of doom and gloom. The fear was that the gatekeeper would eliminate our specialty," he observed. The PPO type of format Dr. Turner and his committee developed maintained direct patient access to specialists. Given his experience and expertise, Dr. Turner was tapped by the American Academy of Dermatology to chair its Managed Health Care Committee from 1990-93.

Within the Greensboro community, Dr. Turner is not only a respected physician but civic leader. As proof of this high regard, he was named Greensboro's Distinguished Citizen in 2003. According to Dr. Turner, that award followed now by the DF's 2005 Practitioner of the Year Award are "the two things in my life of which I am most proud."

In nominating Dr. Turner, Elise Olsen, M.D., a colleague at Duke University Medical Center, calls him "a remarkable man....an excellent physician, both in his scope of knowledge and in his compassionate care of his patients. He is an amazing example of a well-rounded dermatologist and a credit to our profession."

The Dermatology Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization created in 1964 by concerned dermatologists to provide a national organization for advancing patient care by supporting the early career development of the next generation of researchers and teachers in medical and surgical dermatology. The Foundation, second only to the federal government as a source of funding for investigative dermatology, seeks the support of individual dermatologists and the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and surgical industries to accomplish its mission by allocating single and multi-year awards through its Research Awards Program.

***Dermatology Foundation – Foremost Funding Source for Dermatologic Research***

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**PHOTO CAPTION:**

W. Harrison Turner III, MD received the  
**2005 Practitioner of the Year Award**  
at the Dermatology Foundation's Annual Meeting,  
March 4, 2006, San Francisco, CA