



Dermatology Foundation

News Release

1560 Sherman Avenue Evanston, IL 60201-4808
(847) 328-2256 Fax: (847) 328-0509
email: dfgen@dermatologyfoundation.org
www.dermatologyfoundation.org

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For More Information Contact:
Susan K. Schaefer, Communications Manager

**Amal K. Kurban, M.D. Honored by Dermatology Foundation as
2005 Lifetime Career Educator**

Amal K. Kurban, M.D., Professor of Dermatology, Boston University School of Medicine, has been named 2005 **Lifetime Career Educator** by the Dermatology Foundation. The Award was presented to Dr. Kurban at the Dermatology Foundation's Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2006, during the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Kurban is one of only seven dermatologists to be honored with this award, which recognizes full-time academicians who have dedicated their careers to educating dermatology residents and fellows. Since 1960 when he began his academic career in dermatology at American University of Beirut Medical Center in Lebanon, Dr. Kurban has achieved a reputation as a dedicated mentor and role model for dermatology residents, fellows and faculty members as well as medical students and internal medicine trainees.

He earned his M.D. in 1952 from American University of Beirut and went on to complete residencies in pathology, internal medicine, and dermatology. In 1958 he came to the United States as a fellow in the divisions of dermatology and connective tissue diseases at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD. He returned to American University Medical Center in Beirut, and from 1960 until 1987 he combined teaching with administrative roles that included chair of dermatology and chief of staff of the Medical Center.

But his great love is teaching, which Dr. Kurban observes "...in the medical field is of prime importance so that we can manage the flow of knowledge from one generation to another." By 1985, at the invitation of Barbara A. Gilchrest, M.D., chair of the Department of Dermatology at Boston University School of Medicine, Dr. Kurban left the chaos of war in Lebanon to become director of the residency training program in dermatology, a post which he continued to hold until recently. "Over this time, Amal has trained and guided over 80 aspiring dermatologists in the BU/Tufts joint residency program, as well as over 60 international physicians who are now providing dermatologic care and teaching others in underserved areas around the world," Dr. Gilchrest reflects.

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Dr. Kurban's impact has been profound because of his teaching and mentoring philosophy. Namely, that as students, residents and trainees mature and grow "they *always* teach us, the teachers. They keep us on our toes. Otherwise we stagnate. I always say that unless somebody learns at least one thing a day, one is fossilized. The interaction between teacher and student is what keeps this magic flow of knowledge going," he emphasizes. In commenting on the many letters of nomination for this award from former residents, Dr. Gilchrest recounts that they all "...relayed vividly remembered.....impressions of an imposing, all-knowing authority figure who demanded so much of them, who taught them on a daily basis, and whom they came to know as their strong advocate and friend."

Dr. Kurban is Professor of Dermatology and Vice Chairman for Academic and Clinical Affairs at Boston University's School of Medicine. He is also Co-Director of the International Graduate Dermatology Program. His international and state-side scientific and professional activities are extensive, ranging from membership in the American Academy of Dermatology and president of the New England Dermatological Society to past president of the Lebanese Dermatological Society and member of a World Health Organization panel. The broad spectrum of Dr. Kurban's scientific knowledge is reflected in the many articles he has written, which number well-over 150 and have appeared in such publications as *Nature*, *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, *Archives of Dermatology*, and *Laser Surgery Medicine*.

The Dermatology Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1964, is the leading private funding source for skin disease research and career development of physicians and scientists in dermatology. Support for this mission comes from individual dermatologists and the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and surgical industries.

The Dermatology Foundation – Shaping the Future of Dermatology.

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FROM: Dermatology Foundation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 870
Evanston, IL 60201

CONTACT: Susan K. Schaefer
Communications Manager
847-328-2256

PHOTO CAPTION: Amal K. Kurban, M.D. received the
2005 Lifetime Career Educator Award
during the Dermatology Foundation's Annual Meeting,
March 4, 2006, San Francisco, CA