



Dermatology Foundation

News Release

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**Paul S. Russell, M.D. the Dermatology Foundation's
2005 Clark W. Finnerud Award Recipient**

Paul S. Russell, M.D., Clinical Professor Emeritus, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Portland, OR will be honored with the Dermatology Foundation's **2005 Clark W. Finnerud Award** at the Foundation's March 4, 2006, Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Each year for over 30 years, the Foundation has bestowed this honor to recognize an exemplary private practitioner who also epitomizes commitment to dermatology as a part-time teacher.

After graduating from the University of Texas, Austin with an undergraduate degree, Dr. Russell received his M.D. in the late 1950s from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. He began his career in medicine as a general practitioner in his hometown of Levelland, TX. But "after six years of delivering babies, fixing broken bones, sewing up car wrecks, and doing a little bit of everything else, I realized that I did not want to continue doing that long-term," he recalls. He enjoyed his exposure to dermatology during those six years and along with his late wife, Tomi Jean, targeted Portland, OR as the ideal place to relocate and begin this phase of his career. His acceptance as a dermatology resident, at what was then the University of Oregon Medical School, placed Dr. Russell in the department chaired by the renown Walter Lobitz, MD, and he became one of what were known as "Wally's boys". Dr. Russell owes his early motivation to volunteer for part-time teaching to Dr. Lobitz's mentoring: "It was always his teaching that dermatologists should give back to the specialty," he explained. When he discovered that he really enjoyed his time at the medical school – "both the challenge of the bright young people coming into the residency program each year and teaching the medical students as well" -- Dr. Russell had found his way of giving back to dermatology.

In 1969 he went into private practice specializing in medical dermatology and began his career-long commitment to part-time teaching. Commenting on Dr. Russell's many contributions as a clinical educator, Neil A. Swanson, M.D., Chair of Dermatology at OHSU noted that "Paul has been part of the clinical faculty here since he began practicing in Portland. He was the prime organizer of Grand Rounds for the department and is a superb teacher."

Although Dr. Russell retired from practice in 1998, he continues his teaching and mentoring roles. “He continues to be an integral part of the department and shares rotating-chair duties for the Wednesday morning clinical morphology conference, which for many years was his sole responsibility,” Dr. Swanson continued. On a personal note, Dr. Swanson said “Paul was influential in my coming to OHSU, and I am fortunate to be one of his colleagues.”

Throughout his career, Dr. Russell found time for specialty-wide leadership roles in the Dermatology Foundation, American Academy of Dermatology, American Dermatological Association and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Reflecting on his love of teaching, Dr. Russell commented that “I went into part-time volunteer teaching because I enjoyed it, and I thought that giving something back to my specialty was the proper thing to do. I had no thought of gaining recognition, and I am honored and delighted to receive this Award.”

The Dermatology Foundation – Shaping the Future of Dermatology.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Paul S. Russell, MD received the
2005 Clark W. Finnerud Award
at the Dermatology Foundation's Annual Meeting,
March 4, 2006, San Francisco, CA