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**Diane R. Baker, M.D.
Honored as Practitioner of the Year by Dermatology Foundation**

The Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contribution Portland, Oregon physician, Diane R. Baker, M.D. has made to the specialty of dermatology by honoring her with the Practitioner of the Year Award at its annual meeting of membership in Miami. The award recognizes dermatologists who are committed to the highest levels of clinical care and celebrates Dr. Baker's distinguished career and the high standard she has set for the next generation of dermatologists.

A colleague said that "Dr. Baker couldn't be a more appropriate choice for the DF's Practitioner of the Year. The cutting-edge care of her patients has always been foremost in her mind. Not only does she utilize the most current information in caring for them, she has also supported basic dermatological research—the source of progress in patient care."

Dr. Diane Baker practices in Portland, Oregon and cannot imagine a specialty more satisfying than dermatology. She strives to provide state of the art care for her patients who present to her with the great variety of medical and surgical conditions. Her clinical trials

practice enables her to participate as an investigator in the development of new therapies for dermatologic diseases. Interacting with her colleagues on the clinical faculty of the Department of Dermatology at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) adds greatly to the satisfaction of practicing dermatology.

The combination of medical and surgical skills needed to practice dermatology is what really appealed to Baker as she considered a career in the specialty. The enthusiasm the dermatology residents shared for the specialty and the variety of skin conditions they saw and treated impressed her. When the chairman of dermatology at Wisconsin offered her a residency position, she readily accepted. After two years of residency at Wisconsin, Dr. Baker moved to Portland with her husband, Dr. James Baker, a pediatric allergist, and completed her residency and a year of research fellowship at OHSU.

Baker's general dermatology practice evolved over the years to include a subspecialty in cosmetic dermatology and a robust clinical trials practice. Dr. Baker has also found time to take on a number of leadership roles including serving on the American Board of Dermatology (1995-2003) and then as its President (2003). She was a Delegate to the American Medical Association from the American Academy of Dermatology (1997 to 2004) and AAD Vice President in 1990. During her term as President in 2007, she oversaw the establishment of the AAD Council on Science and Research on which she currently serves.

Dr. Baker credits other leaders for her own participation in organized dermatology and her commitment to science and research. "When I was a resident at Oregon, our Chairman, Dr. Lobitz, inspired a love of the specialty and the expectation that we would do what we could to make it better. He also reminded us of the fundamental importance of basic science to our specialty. Those ideals have remained with me and influenced my desire to elevate science and research as a priority."

The Dermatology Foundation was established in 1964 and is the leading private funding source for skin disease research. It provides funding that helps develop and retain tomorrow's teachers and researchers in dermatology and enables advancements in patient care.

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