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O. Fred Miller, M.D.

Recipient of the Dermatology Foundation's Lifetime Career Educator Award

The Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contribution O. Fred Miller, M.D. has made to the specialty of dermatology by honoring him with the Lifetime Career Educator Award at its recent annual meeting of membership in Miami. The award celebrates Dr. Miller's distinguished career and the high standard he has set for the next generation of teachers in all areas of dermatology.

Surgeon and Mohs specialist, Dr. Victor J. Marks has known Dr. O. Fred Miller for nearly 30 years and considers Dr. Miller's recruitment of him to Geisinger Medical Center a stroke of "unbelievable good fortune." Presenting Dr. Miller with the honorary award, Dr. Marks says "I learned how to be a doctor from Fred. He has been my hero, my mentor, and my life role model—as he has been for the residents he has taught, the faculty he has developed, the paramedical staff he has supported, and the countless patients he has touched."

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Miller's passion for education and dermatology has inspired residents and faculty of the Department of Dermatology at the Geisinger Medical Center. As the director for almost 30 of those years he has trained more than 70 residents, mentored over a

dozen faculty, authored more than 40 publications, and made many hundreds of presentations on dermatology in local, national and international settings. In 2008 Dr. Miller was named Dermatologist of the Year in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dermatology has appealed to Dr. Miller since he was a medical student. “The skin is visual—you can see what you are treating, and the impact of your treatment.” He notes that dermatology has evolved significantly over the course of his career and he finds it fascinating how it “crosses over with so many other specialties.” He explains that one of his primary clinical interests, wound care, interacts with orthopedics and vascular surgery and melanoma—his other special focus—interacts with oncologic surgery and oncology.

Dr. Miller completed his dermatology residency at Geisinger and joined the faculty there in 1971 after military service in West Germany. He became Department Director in 1978, after directing the Residency Program. In 2006 he stepped down as director and just recently turned the Wound Clinic over to a colleague. He continues to head the Melanoma Clinic.

“Education has always been very important to me,” Dr. Miller says and he has incorporated this love of learning into his professional life. He believes constant teaching and dialogue provides the best patient care and a wonderful learning environment for doctors. “We consult with the residents as they are seeing patients there,” he says, and clinical conferences are called whenever a challenging or particularly instructive patient appears. His dedication to education extends beyond his professional life, and includes 12-years on the local school board and continuing participation on the board of directors of the local Head Start program.

Dr. Miller emphasizes that his DF Award “really reflects the spirit and enthusiasm for teaching among *all* of the members of my department. We truly mentor one another. This award is not mine alone.”

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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