



News *Release*

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Paul Gross, M.D., Honored for Contribution to Dermatology

The Dermatology Foundation (DF) Board of Directors recently recognized the enormous impact Paul Gross, M.D., has had on the specialty of dermatology by presenting him with the prestigious Clark W. Finnerud Award at their recent annual membership meeting in Miami. The award recognizes a dermatologist whose volunteer service as a part-time teacher and a practitioner embodies the highest ideals of the specialty, and serves as an example for generations to come.

“Dr. Paul Gross is a master clinician in Philadelphia, the leader, the innovator, the selfless educator, the expert care provider, and a volunteer’s volunteer,” said a close colleague. “He has been the consummate clinician and mentor across the board—in his 42 years of private practice and as a volunteer teacher of medical students and dermatology residents, as well as during his 35 years as Head of the Dermatology Section at Pennsylvania Hospital.”

Residents at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine voted Gross an exceptional teacher. In 2005 he received the ultimate acknowledgement—an endowed professorship at the medical school created in his name, and the first in the U.S. dedicated to supporting the faculty member most entrenched in teaching responsibilities. Gross has

volunteered to teach dermatology residents in his office—a medical–surgical practice with a small aesthetics component—up to four days a week.

Three generations of dermatology trainees “have been able to observe a role model who demonstrates excellence in patient care, efficient private practice, and service to the community,” a colleague notes.

Gross values the way his teaching keeps him on his toes.

“I regularly have to justify to the residents what I do and why. And many of them have subsequently taught me—which I find to be thrilling.”

Gross’s interest in dermatology was sparked by his father, a passionate dermatologist. Following his medical training at the University of Pennsylvania, Gross considered other options but ultimately chose dermatology, and completed his residency there in 1968. He joined the faculty, began his private practice, and assumed his position at Pennsylvania Hospital. For 13 years, Gross also held his father’s former position as Chief of the Dermatology Section at Methodist Hospital. He has a long history in local, regional, and national specialty organizations and has been recognized with a variety of awards.

His enduring legacy as a volunteer teacher is best summed up by a former resident:

“The opportunities to train with you and work in your office were highlights of my young career. The lessons learned are still with me.”

The Dermatology Foundation was created 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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