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Roy S. Rogers III, M.D., Receives Dermatology Foundation Lifetime Career Educator Award

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

Dr. Roy "Nick" Rogers has held major teaching, clinical and administrative positions at the Mayo Clinic since completing his specialty training there in 1973. He is also an internationally recognized master teacher, having contributed to the medical education of thousands of students over his long and distinguished career. He has guided nearly 80 mentees at the Mayo Clinic, overseen the residency program for 15 years, and was responsible for the numerous fellows and dermatologists who visited from abroad.

"I love to teach," Rogers says. "In the classroom, in the hallways, or with someone shadowing me seeing patients. I love the light that turns on in a student's eyes, and I love to learn from students' questions. Teaching is part of me."

Dermatology was not on Rogers' agenda until he was drafted into the Air Force in 1967, midway through his OB/GYN residency. He opted for a flight surgeon slot, which took him to Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C. When he arrived there, the hospital commanding officer asked if anyone had ever been required to buy a dermatology text in medical school. Rogers raised his hand—and was immediately appointed as the base dermatologist.

When he was given a current textbook and began to study it, he realized: "I'm a very strong visual learner. And when I began practicing it, I realized that dermatology is great stuff!"

Rogers followed his military service with a residency at Duke, ultimately completing it with research experience at the Mayo Clinic, where he also completed an NIH fellowship. A research grant from the Dermatology Foundation for *Lymphocytotoxicity in Recurrent Aphthous Stomatitis* created the foothold for his academic and research career, and became the wellspring for his exceptional expertise in oral medicine and dermatology.

His initial interest in canker sores was a family affair, as his father and grandfather were dentists.

"Having to learn the differential diagnosis for oral ulcers taught me all of the diseases of the mouth and the oral mucosa," Rogers said. He ultimately became the go-to person for both dermatologists and dentists.

"His formative contributions to oral medicine expanded the practice base of dermatology," says a colleague.

As the world's leading expert in oral dermatology, Rogers is invited to speak in dental and dermatology departments the world over and continues to teach at the Mayo Clinic. He has developed a range of courses for residents and courses for teaching dermatology to students in nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and physical therapy programs. Rogers' many educator awards include the Mayo Clinic's Distinguished Educator Award, educator awards from the AAD, and a certificate of appreciation from the International League of Dermatologic Societies for teaching efforts spanning 55 countries.

Rogers doesn't take his formal retirement in 2006 from the Mayo Clinic seriously. He happily continues to work there, and remains in demand to teach around the world.

"Teaching is an art form," he says. "It's a performance art—and I just love to perform."

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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