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Pearl E. Grimes, M.D. Recognized as Practitioner of the Year by Dermatology Foundation

The Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contribution Los Angeles physician, Pearl E. Grimes, 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 Grimes' distinguished career.

“Dr. Grimes has dedicated her career to studying and treating pigmentary disorders and unique ethnic skin and hair conditions,” colleague Jag Bhawan, M.D., noted while highlighting her career achievements at the DF's annual membership meeting.

Grimes practices in Los Angeles and brings 30 years of extensive research and clinical experience with vitiligo to her patients. She speaks worldwide on the topic and has published widely. Grimes has spurred fundamental research-based progress in vitiligo, introducing her view of it as an immunologic T-cell-mediated disease in 1986, and in 2002 publishing her therapeutic success with tacrolimus.

Her work with vitiligo began during her residency at Howard University and intensified during her years as a fulltime faculty member at UCLA, where she remains a clinical professor of dermatology. Earning a DF research grant for *Immunologic Aberrations in Vitiligo* early in her career enabled her to gain NIH funding and establish her research program. In 1990, she founded her private practice in southern California to provide cutting edge treatment to patients suffering from vitiligo and other pigmentary disorders, and continue her research.

Six years ago, her concern and compassion for patients suffering with skin disorders resulted in the founding of CARRY, the nonprofit Coalition for At-Risk Youth. Through this organization, Grimes provides dermatologic treatment and arranges for other needed medical attention to adolescents and young adults in foster care, group homes, and shelters. Commitment to each patient is a hallmark of Grimes' practice.

"I'm not going to leave the examining room until the patient is happy and feels that I have answered every question."

Grimes' contributions to the specialty and constant concern for quality patient care were summed up by Dr. Bhawan at the DF meeting.

"It is no surprise that Dr. Grimes has been chosen as Practitioner of the Year."

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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