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Vera H. Price, M.D.

Receives Dermatology Foundation Lifetime Career Educator Award

At its recent annual meeting of membership in Miami Beach, the Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contribution Vera H. Price, M.D., has made to the specialty of dermatology by honoring her with the Lifetime Career Educator award. The award honors Dr. Price's distinguished career and the high standard she has set for the next generation of teachers in all areas of dermatology.

Dr. Vera Price, widely recognized hair expert and Professor Emeritus of Dermatology at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), has devoted her career of many decades to an area of dermatology in which there are few educators. Following her residency, Dr. Price came to the San Francisco area from Canada for "just one year." Because she lacked a California license, she contacted the UCSF Dermatology Department for a one-year research position. This led to her study of the physical and chemical properties of human hair with the wool chemists at the USDA's Wool and Mohair Laboratory in Berkeley. Three years later, recognizing that her move was permanent, Dr. Price resumed clinical dermatology at Kaiser-Permanente in San Francisco. She was encouraged to continue hair research studies in addition to patient care, and established the UCSF Hair and Nail Clinic in 1970. During this time she taught medical students

and residents and gave lectures about hair. In 1991 Dr. Price joined UCSF's full-time faculty, establishing the UCSF Hair Research Center and then a one-year Clinical Hair Research Fellowship allowing her to mentor a young dermatologist annually. With one of her early fellows, Dr. Price coauthored the first textbook on scarring alopecia, *Cicatricial Alopecia: An Approach to Diagnosis and Management*. Since this subject is not covered in most residency programs, she devised a plan to fund and donate 600 CDs of the books to residents in the U.S. and Canada. Dr. Price's long list of accomplishments includes the establishment of two nonprofit patient organizations, the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (1981), and the Cicatricial Alopecia Research Foundation (2002). Her contribution to hair research has been significant. Dr. Price described several new hair disorders, was a founding member of the North American Hair Research Society (1991), and published well over 130 papers. She received the AAD's Gold Triangle Award (1999, 2010) in honor of her public outreach, and the Women's Dermatologic Society's Mentor of the Year award in 2004 "in recognition of her outstanding role as a mentor to residents, dermatologists, other physicians, medical students, and undergraduates." Dr. Price became an Honorary Member of the AAD in 2010, as well as several international dermatology societies. Described by a mentee as "a very skilled and knowledgeable clinician and researcher, and a wonderful mentor," Dr. Price has always loved what she does. Of the awards she has received, "the DF Lifetime Career Educator Award is the one that makes me most humble. My students inspire me and keep me on my toes. I never stop learning from them."

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, enabling advancements in patient care.

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