

# News *Release*

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## **Z. Charles Fixler, M.D.**

### **Receives Dermatology Foundation Practitioner of the Year Award**

At its recent annual meeting of membership in Denver, the Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contribution Z. Charles Fixler, M.D., has made to the specialty of dermatology by honoring him with the Practitioner of the Year award. The award honors Dr. Fixler's exemplary service as a private practitioner and his significant contributions to the specialty through leadership and teaching.

"Charley Fixler is a scholar, gentleman, and genuine humanist who has been treating patients in Cincinnati for almost 60 years," a colleague observes. At age 89, Dr. Fixler is now treating the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of his early patients and continues to teach residents." He has also played a consistent role in professional organizations that support the specialty, and is responsible for designing and establishing the annual skin cancer screening program in Cincinnati in 1986 and organizing it every year since.

Dr. Fixler's route to dermatology was not typical. He was ready to enter medical school right after World War II when the educational system in the U.S. was inundated by the millions of veterans in school on the G.I. Bill. His one guarantee of beginning his medical education without delay was to go abroad. He joined a group of American students at the medical school in Lausanne, Switzerland. Unlike medical schools in the U.S., dermatology was required there, one hour a week for two years. Dr. Fixler fell in love with the specialty. He has been president of the Lausanne Medical School Alumni Association for many years.

Dr. Fixler is a clinical professor of dermatology in the College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati and opens his office to the medical residents at Bethesda Hospital. He is an attending physician at several hospitals in Cincinnati, and as a principal investigator is involved in phase III trials of biological drugs for treating psoriasis. In service to his profession, Dr. Fixler has served as president of the Cincinnati Dermatological Society and the Noah Worcester Dermatology Society, and received the AAD's Golden Triangle award for outstanding volunteer efforts. The American Cancer Society recognized his outstanding long-term contributions to the Hamilton County American Cancer Society with the national St. George Award.

Dr. Fixler is active in his community in another context. He began taking trumpet lessons in the 1990s and now plays trumpet in the Ohio Military Band when they entertain at nursing homes and retirement villages. A special moment of glory was his one-note participation on stage with the Beach Boys during their concert in Cincinnati in 1994.

Dr. Fixler has no imminent thoughts of retiring. "I love what I do!" he says.

*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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