

# News Release

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## **Warwick L. Morison, M.D.**

### **Receives Dermatology Foundation Clark W. Finnerud Award**

At its recent annual meeting of membership in Washington, DC, the Dermatology Foundation presented Warwick L. Morison, M.D. with the prestigious 2015 Clark W. Finnerud Award. The award recognizes Dr. Morison's many contributions to the field as both an exceptional clinician and highly effective teacher and mentor to new generations of dermatologists.

Dr. Warwick Morison has spent many years as a master clinician, teacher, speaker, and author in the field of photomedicine and photobiology. A close colleague praises Dr. Morison's "productive balance between his busy private practice and actively teaching his fellow clinicians, residents, and attendings. His dedication to excellence in all areas has been constant."

Dr. Morison first encountered his subspecialty in 1975 at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. He had come to Boston from the U.K. in search of a research fellowship in dermatology, opting for a new environment after medical school and initial dermatology training in his native Australia and then London. Unexpectedly, Dr. Morison was asked to run the PUVA program at Massachusetts General Hospital, the wellspring of innovation in photomedicine, and simultaneously aided in setting up his own photoimmunology research lab for his fellowship. He found modern photobiology and photomedicine extremely intriguing. "And it is enormously satisfying, because the vast majority of people you treat get better."

After teaching at Harvard for six years, Dr. Morison accepted a senior research position at an NCI immunobiology lab and joined the dermatology faculty at nearby Johns Hopkins University (he is now Professor) to teach photomedicine. A decade later he opened his private practice in Baltimore—still the only one in Maryland specializing in photomedicine. "Phototherapy works

in roughly 35 to 40 different diseases now, and in many cases can be the most successful treatment,” he points out. “It gives me real satisfaction to use my experience and skills to solve my patients’ skin problems.”

Dr. Morison also investigates UV light treatment in various skin disorders and is currently focusing on morphea, scleroderma, and graft-vs-host disease. For many years he has also been a sought-after speaker and visiting professor, an important contributor in professional and patient-advocacy organizations, and has published prolifically. Dr. Morison’s textbook, *Phototherapy and Photochemotherapy of Skin Disease*, set the standard for his field. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Photomedicine Society’s journal for nine years.

Dr. Morison continues to enjoy working with the residents at Johns Hopkins, and on a volunteer basis at the University of Maryland. When asked about the time he invests in instructing residents, he says: “I enjoy teaching them because they enjoy being taught. That is why I have been doing this for over 30 years.”

*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 enable advancements in patient care. For more information visit [dermatologyfoundation.org](http://dermatologyfoundation.org) or [visit us on Facebook](#).*

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