



# News Release

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**William D. James, M.D.**

## **Receives Dermatology Foundation Lifetime Career Educator Award**

At its recent annual meeting of membership in Orlando, FL, the Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contributions that William D. James, M.D., has made to dermatology by honoring him with the Lifetime Career Educator Award. The award honors Dr. James' exceptional career and the inspiration he has provided for generations of dermatologists through his dedication to the continued education of physicians at all stages of their careers.

Dr. William James is a nationally recognized educator and mentor, a highly sought after speaker, and a guiding force in a long list of specialty organizations. He is the Paul R. Gross professor of Dermatology, vice-chair of Education and Training, and director of the Residency Program and the Clinical-Educator Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Over the years he has trained roughly 130 residents and 15 fellows, an experience that, he shares, has brought him "great satisfaction and enjoyment."

Dr. James came from a military family, graduated from West Point, and then earned his M.D. at Indiana University. He found himself drawn to academic medicine during his residency at Letterman Army Medical Center. After an intense two years as a solo practitioner at West Point's Keller Army Hospital, Dr. James joined the Dermatology Service at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in 1983. "It was there that I developed my interest in teaching residents," he remembers. Dr. James was named chief of the service only six years out of residency. He remains grateful for this unusual opportunity to treat patients with diseases from all over the world, and especially to gain leadership experience at such an early age. His strong desire to work with residents brought him to the University of Pennsylvania to run their residency program 20 years ago.

A devoted teacher and mentor, Dr. James has received an exceptional number of awards for doing what he loves. The list begins with the General Claire L. Chennault Award as Outstanding Teacher at Walter Reed, and extends to his 2017 selection as The Walter B Shelley Leadership Award from the Women's Dermatological Society. "I am also involved in mentoring programs with a number of societies," he notes, and makes annual visits to the young military dermatologists at Walter Reed. Dr. James is regularly invited to speak across the country, with many named lectures on his schedule. Past president of the American Academy of Dermatology and chair of the Sulzberger Institute for Dermatologic Education are among the many leadership positions he has held.

Dr. James reaches extensive audiences through his 300+ publications and seminal textbooks. Since 1990 he has coauthored *Andrews' Diseases of the Skin*, globally recognized as one of the leading dermatology textbooks. He is also the founding and continuing editor-in-chief of eMedicine's expansive *Online Textbook of Dermatology* (now part of Medscape).

Teaching remains Dr. James' primary sense of purpose. "Most of all, I try to give all of myself to my students," he says. "I share my experiences in treating patients. I try to impart the importance of ethical practice, of professionalism, and of giving back through teaching, providing leadership in a professional society, and proving care to a vulnerable population."

Dr. James takes particular pleasure in following the careers and contributions of his former residents and mentees. "It's just wonderful when I open up an email and find a message from a former student telling me that that something I taught years ago had just been useful with a patient—and thanking me for 'everything' I had done. I've been really fortunate."

*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).*

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