

News Release

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Mark J. Holzberg, M.D.

Receives Dermatology Foundation Practitioner of the Year Award

At its annual meeting of membership in Orlando, FL, the Dermatology Foundation presented Mark J. Holzberg, M.D. with the prestigious 2016 Practitioner of the Year Award. The award recognizes Dr. Holzberg's exemplary service as a private practitioner and his significant contributions to the specialty through leadership and teaching.

“Mark is the quintessential practitioner of dermatology,” says a colleague who has known Dr. Holzberg since medical school. “Simply put— he is outstanding.” This well-rounded Atlanta-based private practitioner, volunteer teacher, nail expert, and impassioned advocate for the specialty is highly regarded. Another colleague calls Dr. Holzberg “one of the finest, most intelligent dermatologists in the private practice of our specialty.” Yet another calls him “a key member of Emory’s outstanding volunteer clinical faculty and one of our most valued teachers, and the consummate community physician who gives constantly of his talent and enthusiasm for dermatology on a daily basis.”

Dr. Holzberg chose to stay in Atlanta after completing medical school and then his residency at Emory University School of Medicine 30 years ago. His clinical practice in the Atlanta metropolitan area remains the focus of his vibrant and multifaceted career because of the value he places on the relationships he builds with his patients. He is a volunteer teacher of medical students and residents at Emory, and an internationally recognized expert in nail disease who runs the Nail Clinic that he founded 30 years ago at Grady Hospital—a public hospital in the Emory system where he is also an attending dermatologist. Dr. Holzberg teaches at dermatology meetings and has co-authored a seminal textbook and chapters on nail diseases. He finds time to contribute to the dermatology community (including the presidency of local and regional

organizations, and meetings with legislators and lobbyists). “The more I do, the more I get back in satisfaction and joy,” he says.

Dr. Holzberg had his first contact with the specialty when a dermatologist visited the medical school to talk to students. He was hooked. “I am visually oriented, and not only is pattern recognition such a neat feature of dermatology, but these patterns could potentially be a window to the health inside the body.” Dr. Holzberg also appreciated the variety that dermatology offers in content (medical dermatology, surgical dermatology, dermatopathology, etc.) and in the broad age range and treatment needs of patients.

Dr. Holzberg’s enduring focus on nails began during his Internal Medicine rotation at Grady Hospital in medical school. The attending physician asked everyone to choose a single feature to evaluate on every patient. Dr. Holzberg chose nails, which led to an observation and discovery about a condition called Terry’s nails and ultimately a paper in *The Lancet*. He pursued this fascination with nails during his residency, then started the nail clinic at Grady Hospital. There was little formal education about nails then, and Dr. Holzberg deeply appreciated the guidance of two mentors—Robert Baran in France and Dr. Richard Scher in the U.S.—with particularly challenging patients.

Dr. Holzberg delights in sharing the joys he finds in his practice, which includes children and grandchildren of many of his early patients. He works to maintain an environment that gives his patients and staff a sense of confidence and security. “When you give some, you get back so much more.”

“Dermatology gives me the opportunity to have these special relationships,” Dr. Holzberg asserts. “I don’t think I will ever retire from dermatology!”

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.

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