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Peggy S. Crawford, M.D., Honored for Contribution to Dermatology

The Dermatology Foundation (DF) Board of Directors recently recognized the exceptional contributions Peggy S. Crawford, M.D. has made to the specialty of dermatology by presenting her with the prestigious Clark W. Finnerud Award at their annual membership meeting in Denver. The award recognizes a dermatologist whose volunteer service as a part-time teacher and a practitioner embodies the highest ideals of the specialty, and serves as an example for generations to come.

“Peggy is truly a special dermatologist,” a colleague says. “And even among an outstanding group, she stands out,” another adds. “She inspires trust and devotion in her patients, and confidence and passion in her colleagues and students,” one peer notes, “a dedicated and passionate clinician who treats not only the disease, but the patient.” At the Northern California Permanente Medical group, where she has spent her entire career, her Member-Patient Satisfaction survey scores are consistently the highest for all dermatologists in the overall group. In 2005, Dr. Crawford was named the *Everyday Hero*, which recognizes those who bring “the very best qualities of caring and performance to the workplace.”

Dr. Crawford has served on the volunteer clinical faculty at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) for 35 years. She has been honored by residents with both the mentoring (2001) and teaching (2005) awards and is widely recognized among her peers as “a dermatologist’s dermatologist.” One former resident describes Peggy’s teaching abilities, “She is extraordinary and an incredible mentor to many. The residents line up to work with her.” Another colleague praises her as “a leader and role model in the development of a whole generation of female dermatologists from UCSF, most of whom are now leaders in their own right.”

“I consider myself a people person,” Dr. Crawford says. “I love getting to know my patients, and seeing them on an ongoing basis. That makes my day. And that’s also what I enjoy about teaching. The young people coming into dermatology ask wonderful questions and expand what I think about and what I question.” Dr. Crawford’s ability to reach out to people and connect with them has been described as “part of her essence.”

Dr. Crawford was inspired to pursue her career in the specialty after a dermatology elective at Northwestern. Following her internship, she completed a year of clinical research in the Dermatology Branch at the NIH’s National Cancer Institute. She explains that this sparked her abiding interest in research progress and began her deeply important life-long relationships with mentors Dr. Stephen Katz and Dr. Maria Turner.

Dr. Crawford has actively participated in the work of the Dermatology Foundation through her career-long membership and her volunteer work as a Trustee. “I am a big supporter and advocate of the DF,” she says. “They are funding the young dermatologists who are so important for the future pipeline of dermatology.”

Dr. Crawford has been active in a variety of specialty organizations, including the Women’s Dermatologic Society. She received the Aphrodite Award from the Italian Women’s Dermatological Society for her help in catalyzing their formation. Adding this to patient time, teaching, mentoring, grand rounds, and more, a colleague marvels at her ability to “move so fluidly between the groups, and find the time to do it all.”

One of Dr. Crawford's former residents sums it up, "She is truly a consummate clinician and teacher, an amazing physician, mentor and colleague to many, a very special individual within our specialty." Yet another adds, "She embodies the highest ideals of our specialty."

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.

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