



News *Release*

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Jerome L. Shupack, MD

Recipient of the Dermatology Foundation's Practioner of the Year Award

The Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contribution Jerome L. Shupack, M.D. has made to the specialty of dermatology by honoring him with the Practioner of the Year Award at its recent annual meeting of membership in San Francisco. The award recognizes dermatologists who are committed to the highest levels of clinical care and celebrates Dr. Shupack's distinguished career and the high standard he has set for the next generation of dermatologists.

“Jerry Shupack is a dermatologist's dermatologist, a clinician's clinician—a true clinical maestro,” says close colleague, Dr. James J. Leyden, who presented Dr. Shupack's honorary award. Dr. Leyden added that “Jerry's patients realize instantly that this thoughtful, soft-spoken dermatologist is genuinely concerned about them, and committed to getting them better.”

The love affair between Dr. Shupack and his chosen specialty began the day that he visited the Dermatology Department at New York University at the invitation of his cousin, a dermatology resident. His cousin was hoping to change Dr. Shupack's recent decision to leave internal medicine, rather than complete his medicine residency. When he arrived at NYU and toured the Manhattan VA, Bellevue, and the Skin and Cancer Clinic, he found that "what was going on there was *fantastic!*" Soon after, the department offered him a residency position.

Combining his interests in drugs and chemistry, Dr. Shupack completed a doctoral program in pharmacology in tandem with his residency. Not long afterward, he was handed his first clinical trial by a retiring colleague and clinical mentor. He enjoyed it, and found his niche. After more than 200 trials, he stopped recently to increase his teaching time with residents. Dr. Shupack also published more than 80 articles, a dozen book chapters, and a textbook. He notes that he has been involved in "just about every significant new drug developed for dermatology during the past 35 years."

The arrival of cyclosporine was Dr. Shupack's defining transition. He learned how to use it safely, without side effects, and ultimately made its long-term use possible. His willingness to use cyclosporine—while most remained leery—enabled him to achieve dramatic success with patients where all other approaches failed.

His consummate skill with cyclosporin combined with insight into the burdens of severe skin disease have salvaged lives and endeared Dr. Shupack to his patients throughout his years of practice. Dr. Shupack, widely recognized as one of the foremost dermatopharmacologists, has directed the Dermatopharmacology Unit at NYU since 1978 and the Psoriasis Consultation Unit since 1985. He has also been among the *Best Doctors in New York City* every year since the list was first compiled.

“The final paragraph etched on Dr. Shupack’s honorary award sums him up in a nutshell,” Dr. Leyden said at the DF Annual Meeting. Jerry is “an individual who skillfully blends all professional activities with an enduring commitment to be a dermatologist who provides the best possible clinical service to each patient.”

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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