



# News Release

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**Ilona J. Frieden, M.D.**

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

At its recent annual meeting of membership in San Diego, CA, the Dermatology Foundation recognized the tremendous contributions that Ilona J. Frieden, M.D., has made to dermatology by honoring her with the Lifetime Career Educator Award. The award honors Dr. Frieden's exceptional career and the inspiration she has provided for generations of dermatologists through her dedication to the continued education of physicians at all stages of their careers.

"I love pediatric dermatology!" exclaims Dr. Frieden, a world-renowned specialist in children's skin diseases with a substantial role in putting this subspecialty on the map. She is professor of Pediatrics and Dermatology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where she completed her pediatrics and dermatology residencies, and is now vice-chair of Dermatology and chief of the Division of Pediatric Dermatology. She founded a multidisciplinary Vascular Anomalies Clinic at UCSF in 1991. A decade later she founded the Hemangioma Investigator Group, a seminal important international research consortium.

While her pediatric training led to an interest in pediatric dermatology, Dr. Frieden's passion for her subspecialty was further ignited in 1983 during a 3-month Pediatric Dermatology elective with Dr. Nancy Esterly—one of the founders of pediatric dermatology and arguably the founder of academic pediatric dermatology—at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She also found Dr. Esterly to be truly inspirational—an excellent physician, a humble and curious person, and a wonderful role model, particularly for women entering the field. "It was the transformational moment in my career, and why I am who I am today," Dr. Frieden states. "Nan lit a fire within me, and helped me find my voice as a physician."

Dr. Frieden's career-long dedication to teaching and mentoring is well documented. She has served as a medical student and resident advisor, established the pediatric dermatology fellowship program at UCSF (in 2000), and has helped direct the dermatology department's Junior Faculty Mentoring Program. She joined the Mentoring Committee of the Women's Dermatologic Society at its inception in 1993 and received its Mentor of the Year award in 2005. When the AAD's Academic Dermatology Leadership Program (ADLP) was established in 2005, she became a mentor in that program, helping to provide long-distance mentoring for early-career academic dermatologists. In 2012, Dr. Frieden helped found the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) to foster collaborative research, and serves as a young-investigator mentor in their mentoring program.

Dr. Frieden has also published extensively, held significant elected positions in specialty organizations, and is ending a long tenure as co-editor of *Pediatric Dermatology*. She coauthored the authoritative textbook in neonatal dermatology.

Dr. Frieden's influence on those entering her subspecialty has become legendary. One of her mentees says: "I could not have imagined the tremendous impact this would have on me. I was inspired by Dr. Frieden and her work. She helped me crystallize my goals and opened my world in ways I would never have expected." Another mentee explains, "I spent a month with Dr. Frieden during my residency to expand my knowledge and experience with children. That month changed the course of my career. Two years later I returned to do a pediatric dermatology fellowship at UCSF—and have been here ever since!"

*The Dermatology Foundation was established in 1964 and is the leading private funding source for skin disease research. It provides research funding that enables advancements in patient care. For more information visit [dermatologyfoundation.org](http://dermatologyfoundation.org).*

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