

News Release

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Paul I. Schneiderman, M.D.

Receives Dermatology Foundation Clark W. Finnerud Award

At its recent annual meeting of membership in San Diego, CA, the Dermatology Foundation presented Paul I. Schneiderman, M.D. with the prestigious 2017 Clark W. Finnerud Award. The award recognizes Dr. Schneiderman's many contributions to the field as both an exceptional clinician and highly effective part-time teacher and mentor to new generations of dermatologists.

Dr. Schneiderman has maintained a bustling and varied medical dermatology practice in Syosset, Long Island, outside of Manhattan, for 40 years and it continues to excite him. "I relish receiving patients who are more complex, more challenging," he says. Known for his work with complicated patients, Dr. Schneiderman often receives referrals from internists and other dermatologists and consults for several nearby hospitals. He gives each patient "time, and my best intellectual effort. The greatest gratification is finding the problem and fixing it," he says. But this is just one facet of what he does.

During most of his career, Dr. Schneiderman has also been a parttime teacher. For more than 40 years, he has taught a weekly session at Columbia University Medical Center, using his extensive collection of kodachromes to challenge the residents on differential diagnoses, then teaches at the bedside during inpatient rounds. For 31 years, Dr. Schneiderman has held monthly educational sessions at Yale University. For the last ten years, he has also traveled on a quarterly basis to teach the residents at the University of Virginia (UVA), where he completed his internal medicine and dermatology residencies. A former student says "he was critical to the foundation of our clinical expertise. His mentorship is authentic and deep-seated."

Dr. Schneiderman came to dermatology via an atypical route. “I didn’t pursue dermatology,” he recalls. “It was dermatologists who pursued me!” Two chance encounters developed into lasting relationships with “a profound impact” on his career. During his medical residency at UVA, Dr. Schneiderman happened to meet second-year dermatology resident Dr. Ken Greer, who invited him to look at patients with him. “He piqued my interest and curiosity.” After his medical residency, Dr. Schneiderman worked for the Public Health Service, then at the NIH, before beginning his dermatology residency at UVA. “On my first day at the NIH I met Dr. Rick Edelson, who asked if I was free to work in his lab with him.” After Dr. Schneiderman returned to New York, Dr. Edelson invited him to teach weekly at Columbia, and later on a monthly basis at Yale.

Dr. Schneiderman is also an author. He and Dr. Marc Grossman coauthored the seminal *A Clinician’s Guide to Differential Diagnosis in Dermatology*, with the second edition about to appear.

A colleague describes Dr. Schneiderman’s contributions to the specialty. For decades, “he has graced his work as a teacher and a physician with his exceptional generosity of time, talent, and resources.” Dr. Schneiderman views himself as a “very lucky person. I have worked with the smartest and most wonderful physicians. And I’m all the better for it.”

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.

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