



# Women's Dermatologic Society

## NEWSLETTER

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### IN THIS ISSUE

Career Path . . . . .	3
Author Interview . . . . .	4
Rudolph Giuliani Speaks . . . . .	5
Leadership and Politics . . . . .	6
Special International Section . . . . .	9-16
International Retreat Highlights . . . . .	9
Travel Grants . . . . .	16
Board and Committee Updates . . . . .	18
Calendar of Events . . . . .	19
Summer Meeting Activities . . . . .	20-21
Resident Representative Interview . . . . .	22
Newsmakers . . . . .	23

## President's Message

The women of the Women's Dermatologic Society continue to be impressive and giving. Whether in academia, private practice, industry or the military, our members must be congratulated on their endeavors. In addition to being capable dermatologists, our members are superb and energetic mentors on a day-to-day basis. Once you have networked into the WDS by participating in meetings, committees, task forces, networking receptions, Fireside Chats, Practice Enhancement Receptions, and/or Retreats, you will feel a part of the family of women and men that foster "achieving the greatest personal and professional" success for women in dermatology.



Lenore S. Kakita, MD

Whether it is our innate differences in the left and right brain functioning in women compared to men or our socialization as we grow up, women tend to be empathetic, nurturing, and love to be connected with others. Networking with women of different backgrounds is one of the most gratifying and satisfying experiences of being a WDS member. As a private practitioner, I would never have had the opportunity to meet women in academia, industry, military, and other organizations without the Society. WDS interactions allow us to communicate and cross barriers to expand our own world. International barriers are crossed when we are able to meet our colleagues from around the world. How fortunate we are!

On June 30th we held the First International Women's Dermatology Retreat: Examining

Dermatology Around the World from a Woman's Perspective. Drs. Jean Bologna and Boni Elewski spearheaded this Retreat. The team included Drs. Anne Burdick, Marcia Ramos-e-Silva, Sandra Read, and Antonella Tosti. This wonderful event as well as the reception prior to the Retreat was sponsored by Ortho-Neutrogena. Comparisons of the practice styles in dermatology were shared from all around the world. This included information from Europe, South America, Australia, Philippines, Egypt, Brazil, Iceland, Mexico and the United States. A wonderful discussion on the worldwide differences in work schedules for women dermatologists was a key topic along with a survey on issues of balancing work and family. We found that there were definite differences and expectations of women physicians from the various countries.

The mid-year meeting in New York City gave us an opportunity to socialize and network at different venues. Dr. Neil Sadick was very gracious to allow us to hold a WDS Practice Enhancement Reception at his Manhattan office where we met new members and other dermatologists. Not only did we have the chance to socialize, but also we were able to learn about different office practices and new laser technology.

Our WDS Committees and Task Forces were busy at work in the WDS Center. We were able to meet new people as they wandered in. In fact, we signed up our 900th new member, Dr. Nancy Todes-Taylor as she came to visit. Many enjoyed the Networking Reception with renewal of old friendships and meeting new dermatologists. At the Reception, we enjoyed Dr. Hilary Baldwin's twins, Emma and Isabella (not quite a year), our future

*continued on page 2*

## Life Beyond Medicine

*Ladies and gentlemen of the class of '97:*

### Wear sunscreen.

If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience. I will dispense this advice now.

Enjoy the power and beauty of your youth. Oh, never mind. You will not understand the power and beauty of your youth until they've faded. But trust me, in 20 years, you'll look back at photos of yourself and recall in a way you can't grasp now how

much possibility lay before you and how fabulous you really looked. You are not as fat as you imagine.

Don't worry about the future. Or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubble gum. The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind, the kind that blindsides you at 4 pm on some idle Tuesday.

Do one thing every day that scares you.

Sing.

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