

History of WDS: A Timeline of Milestones

1973: The WDS is founded, and Dr. Wilma Bergfeld is named as the first President of the WDS.

- Dr Walter Shelley and Dr Miriam Reed recognize the need for greater representation of women in dermatology and support the founding of the WDS. Dr. Wilma Bergfeld serves as first President of WDS.

1975: 1st WDS Annual Luncheon

- After several years of meetings in small groups over tea and self-funded luncheons, the WDS receives sponsorship from prominent pharmaceutical companies to host a formal annual luncheon for our members at the AAD Annual Meeting. A sense of increasing legitimacy and influence permeates the young organization and provides space for ongoing initiatives, progress, and a growing membership base.

1976: Women's Dermatology Caucus

- Women's caucus of 40 dermatologists and members begins movement toward establishing a formal organization.

1982: 1st Woman Elected to the AAD

- Through unwavering advocacy from early WDS supporters, Dr Wilma Bergfeld is elected the first woman president of the AAD.

1988: The Rose Hirschler Award is Established

- Named in honor of Dr Rose Hirschler, one of the first known female dermatologists in the United States. The WDS presents this award annually to physicians who have made significant contributions to medicine and the dermatologic specialty and who, by their achievement, have served to enhance the role of women in the dermatologic specialty. The first recipient is Miriam Chancy Reed, MD.

1990: WDS Establishes Governance

- Spearheaded by Dr. Lynn Drake, the WDS ratifies its first official bylaws and incorporates in Illinois as membership approaches 500.

1991: Mentorship Program is Founded

- Supportive reach of the WDS expands with the establishment of the WDS Mentorship Program by Frances J. Storrs, MD. The mentorship program fosters long-term relationships between mentors and mentees while further developing relationships that might not otherwise be possible. The alliances that stem from this program enhance our members' contributions to dermatology and medicine. Since its introduction, the Mentorship Program has funded more

than 800 women and men early in their professional careers to spend one-on-one time with an established mentor of specific expertise.

1992: Dr. Wilma Bergfeld is the 1st Woman elected as AAD President

1996: 1st Issue of WDS Newsletter is Published

1997-1998: WDS adds Resident and Young Physician Representatives to the Board of Directors

2000: The Wilma Bergfeld, MD Visionary & Leadership Award is Established

- Created at the 25th Anniversary celebration of the WDS, this distinguished award recognizes dermatologists of national prominence who have been trailblazers for women in some aspect of our specialty. The first recipient is Wilma Bergfeld, MD.

2002: Lenore Kakita, MD Becomes 1st Japanese American to Serve as WDS President

- Dr. Kakita's presidency showcases strides in WDS toward inclusivity by extending membership to dermatologists in both private practice and academic sectors, leading to an increase in racial diversity in WDS.

2002: The President's Award Established

- This annual award recognizes individuals who help make the Society a better organization. Sandra I. Read, MD, is the first recipient.

2003: The International Pioneer Award is Established

- This award is given every 4 years at the WDS International Forum during the World Congress of Dermatology to an individual who has made a difference for women in dermatology at a global level. The first recipient is Kazue Ohara, MD, PhD.

2003: The Mentor of the Year Award is Established

- An annual award is presented to outstanding mentors—highlighting the significant role mentorship plays within the thriving community of the WDS. The first recipient is Frances J Storrs, MD.

2003-2004: "Play Safe in the Sun" is launched with 1st Event Taking Place in Rancho Mirage, CA

- Membership reaches 1,170 as the inaugural, and the first award-winning WDS Play Safe in the Sun Program takes place hosted by Dr. Wendy Roberts. This community outreach works at curbing the incidence of skin cancer by providing free skin cancer screenings, sun damage assessments, sun safety educational materials, and complimentary sunscreen samples to the public.

2005: A \$1,000,000 Grant from 3M supports expansion of the “Families Play Safe in the Sun” initiative under the leadership of WDS President Dr. Jean Bologna.

2005: Community Service is Formally Incorporated into the WDS Mission

- The formal emphasis on community service cements the framework of altruism that will continue to inform the various programs, endeavors, and benchmarks that exemplify the WDS organization and its members.

2007: Joint European WDS membership is Established

- The International Sections strive to increase the interest, education, and participation of dermatologists worldwide. WDS has members from across the world. Approximately 10% of WDS membership is now located outside of the United States with official chapters in India and South Africa created to further the goals and objectives of the WDS.

2009: The WDS Increases Global Alliance in India

- The 1st WDS Networking Reception is held in New Delhi, India by Rashmi Sarkar, MD.

2009: Dr. Wendy Roberts becomes the first African American to Serve as WDS President

- Dr. Roberts’ position as president drew the attention of dermatologists in diverse skin of color groups and led to a greater increase in their membership at the WDS. Furthermore, her Play Safe in the Sun initiative campaigned across 30 U.S. cities.

2010: Official Name Change from Women’s Dermatologic Society Foundation to the Women’s Dermatologic Society.

2010: *Petals & Pearls: Inspiration and Wisdom from the Women’s Dermatologic Society* is Published

- The book is released in commemoration of the WDS 35th Anniversary Luncheon.

2010: The WDS Increases Global Alliance in Australia

- The 1st of several networking receptions in Australia is held by Dedee Murrell, MA, BMBCh, FAAD, MD, FRCP, FACDMD.

2011: Joint Indian WDS Established

- In November of 2011, under WDS President Diane Berson, MD, the WDS Executive Board approves of the Joint Indian WDS, which was Founded by Dr. Rashmi Sarkar and later passed by the bylaws at Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon of WDS in March 2012 at AAD Annual Meeting in San Diego marking an exciting international expansion of the WDS.

2012: The Walter B. Shelley, MD Leadership Award is Established

- This award is periodically presented to a man who has contributed significantly toward supporting women in dermatology. The first award is presented to E. Dorinda Shelley, MD (in honor of her late husband, Walter B. Shelley, MD).

2013: Membership Momentum – 1,300

- WDS membership sees significant growth, reaching 1,300, with members in 33 countries.

2013-2014: Industry Visioning Work Group was Launched

- Under the leadership of WDS President Dr. Amy Paller, an Industry Visioning Work Group Task Force was founded and chaired by Dr. Wendy Roberts to establish a collaboration between members of the dermatology industry and leaders within the WDS.

2013: 1st WDS Legacy Gala Celebration

- The WDS has held the first Legacy Gala Celebration honoring WDS's Founder and first President; Dr. Wilma Fowler Bergfeld.

2014: *International Journal of Women's Dermatology* Launched

- Under the leadership of Dr. Valerie Callender, the second black president elected in 2014, the WDS established the *International Journal of Women's Dermatology* (IJWD). The WDS board votes to approve the proposal by board members Drs. Dedee Murrell and Jane Grant-Kels to launch the IJWD. This quarterly academic journal contains content pertaining to dermatologic medical, surgical, and cosmetic issues faced by female patients and their families, as well as career issues for women dermatologists.

2014: The Volunteer of the Year Award is Established

- This annual award recognizes a WDS member who has made an outstanding contribution through community service and outreach. Becki Tung, MD and Latanya Benjamin, MD, are the first recipients.

2016: WDS Expands its Service Mission with the Coast-2-Coast Initiative

2016: Regional Education Networking Series Initiative Launched

- In partnership with Pfizer, WDS developed regional events to give members the necessary tools to encourage networking, promote mentorship, create new volunteer opportunities, and engage with current and prospective members on a local and regional level. The 1st event is hosted by Mona Gohara, MD, Jeannette Jakus, MD, and Marnie Nussbaum, MD.

2018: TIPP/Women's Shelter Initiative (WSI) Launched

- Dr. Pearl Grimes established the Transforming Interconnecting Program Project (TIPP) Women's Shelter Initiative to address the skin care, hygiene, nutrition, self-care, and social needs of women residing in shelters across the United States. Dr. Grimes together with Dr Rashmi Sarkar moved the WDS toward international influence by working with women at shelters in New Delhi, India. The WDS continues to work with dermatologists internationally via networking events in India, Australia, Brazil, and South Africa.

2018: Diversity Task Force Initiative

- Drs. Mona Gohara and Alison Ehrlich established a summer research fellowship program for first- and second-year medical students in underrepresented minority groups.

2019: Student Summer Research Fellowship Established

- The Student Summer Research Fellowship for Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) students is aimed at cultivating diverse applicants in the field of dermatology. The award is available to UIM medical students who are interested in pursuing a career in dermatology. The purpose of this fellowship is to build upon the applicants' fundamental knowledge of basic science or clinical research by pairing them with an experienced research mentor. The program is supported by Merz.

2020: Resident Education Series Established to Provide Education to Residents during COVID

- With residents not able to attend lectures in the early days of COVID, WDS created this series in early April 2020 to provide education to residents. This collection of live educational sessions for WDS members covered a variety of topics spanning the breadth of dermatology. The recorded sessions are available on the WDS Members Only section of the website. By the end of 2022, there will be 58 sessions. The program is supported by Regeneron Sanofi and Cassiopea.

2021: UIM Resident Aesthetic Research Mentorship Award Established

- The WDS Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) Resident Aesthetic Research Mentorship Program is designed to enhance the knowledge and education of UIM dermatology residents in aesthetic and procedural dermatology through mentorship with a leader in this subspecialty. The purpose of the award is to develop mentoring relationships that might not otherwise be possible due to distance or funding availability. The program is supported by Allergan Aesthetics.

2022: La Roche-Posay and the Women's Dermatologic Society Partner for a First-of-Its-Kind Inaugural Diversity in Dermatology Fellowship for Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) medical students at Howard

- The fellowship was created to support UIM candidates who are seeking additional clinical or research experience in dermatology prior to applying to residency. During this year's long fellowship, the fellow will conduct translational and clinical research in addition to participating in Howard University's dermatology clinics and community outreach events.

2023: GLODERM-WDS Career Development Award for Dermatology Global Health Future Leaders Established

- The GLODERM-WDS Career Development Award for Dermatology Global Health Future Leaders was conceived out of mutual interest to empower and connect women within dermatology by providing mentorship, personal/professional development, and career support to colleagues globally, in addition to enhancing patient care in underserved areas. This program is supported by CeraVe.

2023: WDS celebrates 50 years as an organization

- Under the leadership of President Dr. Mona Gohara and with a generous grant from L'Oreal Dermatological Beauty, the 50 Years Archive Project was launched. The Archive Project Task Force was led by Dr. Wilma Bergfeld and Dr. Ashley Wysong, an anniversary book, video, and website were created to celebrate 50 years of the WDS. WDS membership total 1,776 individuals spanning 50 countries.