

Baby Steps: The Importance of Publishing in the Development of a New Dermatology Residency

A year has already passed since our dermatology residency program at Valley Hospital Medical Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, published its first dedicated residency issue in *Cosmetic Dermatology*[®] in January 2008. Here we are again with our second dedicated issue in January 2009. I have included a strong emphasis on both speaking and writing skills as a component of the residency program. All of the residents are very involved in giving presentations on dermatology topics at the hospital, medical school, and dermatology meetings. Additionally, the residents have participated in writing and preparing several posters for both the Fall Clinical Dermatology conference and Winter Clinical Dermatology conference in 2007 and 2008.

I consider continued experience in public speaking to be an important educational tool, which contributes directly to both professional and personal growth.

It is rewarding to watch the residents transform from minimally confident dermatology rookies, who used to simply read from bullet points in PowerPoint presentations and did not make eye contact with audience members, into confident and well-spoken presenters who know the material and present it fluently. Being able to successfully present and explain clinical and scientific information to others requires that one must first understand it and then verbalize it clearly. I consider continued experience in public speaking to be an important

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Writing is very similar to speaking. To be successful in print, one must first learn and know the material, conceptualize the points to convey, support the information with good references, and finally, put the thoughts into words that elucidate the reader without confusion. In our program, the dermatology residents, as well as many interested interns and students who rotate on our service, are regularly assigned publication topics, and many initiate their own articles based on interesting cases they encounter.

I must acknowledge our chief dermatology resident, Sanjay Bhambri, DO, who accepted a leadership role in editing all the articles submitted by our program for this issue. He did an outstanding job with helping our dermatology residents and interns who applied for the residency program by developing their writing skills and improving their articles. Saira Momin, DO, our second-year resident, and Susun Kim, DO, our first-year resident, contributed thorough articles for this issue, as did interns Brent Michaels, DO, and Aaron Peterson, DO. Narciss Mobini, MD, the dermatopathologist involved in our program; Michael Bryan, MD, a dedicated clinical faculty member; Jaldeep Daulat, DO, the assistant director of the residency; and Steve Hawkes, PA-C, my physician assistant, have provided continued guidance and dedication to the residents, interns, and students in dermatology. I thank them sincerely.

I hope you enjoy the fruits of our labor from the dermatology residency program at Valley Hospital Medical Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. At least with regard to dermatology, what happens in Vegas does not stay in Vegas.

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