

We are fortunate to have chosen a great field and career. Dedicated, talented and well trained, as a group we are exceptionally well positioned to treat skin disease with evidenced based and innovative treatments and to help maintain skin wellness and skin health. However, current and future challenges have the potential to affect our ability to give great care. Regulatory, scope of practice, reimbursement, technology, billing and coding, maintenance of certification as well as practice ownership and practice management issues are among the many concerns each of us must wrestle with on a regular basis. As the major membership group for Dermatologists, the AAD's role is to listen to the concerns of its members and work to assure members have the tools, education, training and the right policies in place to provide the best care for patients and that we are appropriately valued for our work by the public and payers. The AAD needs leaders with the skills and experience to combat the issues at hand.



I have dedicated my career, in part, to advancing care of patients and the specialty, through research, education and clinical care. As Chair of a major academic dermatology department, I have the privilege of leading 36 full time faculty, 10 part time clinicians, 24 residents, 140 voluntary faculty and nearly 100 staff. In this capacity I am involved with clinical practice (directing a practice of 36 dermatologists), education (including resident training, medical student education, post graduate education, and a Master's Degree Program in Skin Biology), research (among the top funded departments in the US), and community service as well as interacting with others in the house of medicine (serving on the Medical Executive Committee for one of the largest public hospitals in the US and a University hospital). I have trained and mentored hundreds of dermatologists; some are the current leaders of the field and others who are our specialty's future leaders. I understand the needs of young and senior dermatologists, understand the needs of researchers, educators, and those desirous of education, and understand how to position the specialty with the context of the house of medicine. The scope of these daily activities in some ways mirrors many of the activities of the AAD.

As the 1st recipient of the Dermatology Foundation's Career Development Award in Health Care Policy, I have also been active in legislative issues, as my efforts (both my research and lobbying efforts) directly impacted Florida citizens enabling them to have direct access to Dermatologists. Furthermore, as President of the Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery our team was able to get legislature passed to assure and improve oversight of advanced practitioners caring for patients with skin disease. Part of my research has focused on improving health care disparities in special populations, and as Chair I worked to improve diversity in my department and in our specialty.

For the past 25 years, I have had been involved extensively with the AAD. On, too many to mention, committees and task forces, I have helped push forward many AAD initiatives. I have had the pleasure of serving as Chair of the Council on Education and helped create the Academy's educational programs. I have served on the AAD's Board of Directors and understand how to use my experience to navigate the AAD to help assure the organization is moving forward.

My combination of experiences and skills coupled with my energy and passion for the specialty uniquely position me to help advance the specialty and the field. Should I be honored with your vote, I promise to work tirelessly to help advance members' and patients' needs.

Robert S. Kirsner, MD, PhD, FAAD
AAD Candidate for Vice President-Elect