

Susan C. Taylor, MD Candidate for President-Elect



Dear Colleagues,

I write this letter on this Spring morning with a sense of relief and optimism as we move closer to our normal routines and to the end of the pandemic. As dermatologists, the year 2020 has underscored our remarkable resiliency, with some of us providing direct care to COVID patients, returning COVID test results, or administering shots in arms. We have spent the past year adapting to telemedicine and remote learning, reshaping our practices, protecting our staff, prioritizing inclusion, modifying how we perform surgery and clinical trials, all with the ultimate goal of serving our patients and humanity.

Just as we have been united in the unwavering goal of meeting the challenges of COVID, we must also meet, with the same resolve, determination, and unity, the challenges facing the Academy. The three greatest challenges confronting Dermatology as we look forward include:

- 1) **Unity of our Specialty** which is vital to accomplish the critically important work of supporting and advancing Dermatology.
- 2) Incursions on **Scope of Practice** by non-dermatologists practicing independently.
- 3) Assaults on Dermatology **Reimbursements** which are progressively getting smaller.

I recognize that each dermatologist serves as an individual thread that forms the rich tapestry of the Academy. Weaving together so many textures poses a significant number of challenges. I am determined to help us overcome the many challenges and divisions. I will listen and work to facilitate **inclusion** and belonging of all dermatologists in the Academy, embracing all practice models, subspecialties, career stages, genders, races, ethnicities and viewpoints. Our **collective action** will enable us to address and overcome the threats to dermatology.

Non-dermatologists practicing independently are intruding upon our **Scope of Practice**. Board-Certified Dermatologists leading care teams are uniquely qualified to provide the highest quality care for patients. I am prepared to lead us strategically and innovatively, enhancing the effectiveness of the Academy's D.C. office while coordinating with grassroots efforts at the state level to engage patients more fully on this critical issue. I will guide strategic expansion of our communications campaigns to educate the public about the benefits of receiving care from **Board-Certified Dermatologists** and our teams.

As a solo private practitioner for 25+ years, I have encountered the frustrations of mounting costs from governmental regulations, countless staff hours working on **prior authorizations**, and arbitrary payer **decreased reimbursements**. I will work tirelessly to buffer us from these assaults. As dermatologists, we work extraordinarily hard to provide the highest quality care for our patients, and we must be supported and reimbursed appropriately to achieve that goal.

The innovations, ingenuity and strength gained over this past year can serve as a model for our future. I look forward to assuming the task of leading a unified and inclusive Academy to new levels of innovation, science, patient care and success.

Susan C. Taylor, MD