



My name is Robert Sidbury and I am asking for your support of my candidacy for Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology.

We are all so very fortunate to do what we do, but I believe that our ability to practice dermatology as we best can is under threat, and that we have come to something of a watershed moment. In the last decade several factors have combined to challenge the quality of dermatologist's work lives.

First, our ability to take care of patient's how we best see fit is increasingly constrained by outside forces. Decisions as fundamental as seeing patients in follow up when they need to be seen; prescribing the medications they need to take; or performing the procedures they need to have; are frequently taken out of our hands.

Second, the value of our training and services is increasingly diminished as non-dermatologists are preferentially sought out based more on economics than patient well-being.

Third, the unintended consequences of technological advance increasingly threaten the joy of what we do; electronic medical records, while a tremendous boon in so many ways, can de-personalize the doctor-patient interaction as the record itself becomes the gravitational center of the visit, not the patient. Likewise, cell phones, cameras, message centers, and e-consultations can make it seem as if the work week never really ends. We just published survey results from the pediatric world that showed for a large percentage of pediatric dermatologists, unofficial "curbside" e-consults can in effect represent another full clinic per week of work. This work often goes uncaptured by any available metric (eg wRVU). We deemed this the "Shadow Clinic" and it is a reality that has become unsustainable. (Khorsand K, Sidbury R, Pediatric Dermatol, 2019).

All these factors are reflected in data that shows dermatologist job satisfaction has gone from the highest quartile to the lowest in a matter of years. This cannot stand. The solutions will surely be as complex as the problems themselves, but one thing clear: The Academy is best positioned to solve these problems.

I am running for the Board of Directors because I want to help protect our specialty and those who practice it: our members. I love what we offer our patients. I love the joy of practicing dermatology. The Academy is our voice. It is our way of working together to preserve the integrity of our specialty; to support our members, so we can all better serve our patients.

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