



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Dermatology

NewYork-Presbyterian

Richard D. Granstein, M.D.

Dermatologist-in-Chief
NewYork-Presbyterian

George W. Hambrick, Jr. Professor of Dermatology
Weill Cornell Medical College

Chairman of Dermatology
Weill Cornell Medicine



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Dear Colleague:

I am a candidate for election to the AAD Board of Directors because I am concerned about the many challenges and opportunities facing our profession.

In this election year, there are calls for replacing the entire medical insurance system with a federally administered entity or creation of a public option to compete with private insurance, as well as an ongoing lawsuit that may end the Affordable Care Act without a replacement. There is also an emerging consensus that a way be found to provide adequate medical care for all. In the face of possibly unpredictable changes, organized dermatology must defend our ability to provide the best possible care to our patients and ensure the time and resources to do so. I seek to use my skills to help the AAD respond to these challenges in order to protect and advance our interests in providing the best patient care while ensuring fair compensation for our services.

While I do not have the space to discuss these issues in detail, impositions levied by third-party payers, the rise of private equity, the unconscionable increase in the cost of pharmaceuticals and challenges from technological innovations are all issues that the AAD must face. The AAD must act vigorously to shape upcoming changes to rationalize, simplify and make less time-consuming the reimbursement schemes, electronic medical records, competence assessments and quality efforts with which we are confronted. Many fear that artificial intelligence (AI) and related technologies may replace us. The AAD should further study this issue and ensure integration of these technologies in a way that helps dermatologists to be the best physicians possible. Proper use of AI will aid us in diagnosis and consideration of therapeutic options. It can never replace the need for the compassionate, committed dermatologist who makes the diagnosis, counsels the patient, performs the procedures, makes the ultimate decisions on the best therapeutic path and provides the intellectual and psychological support integral to the patient's therapy. Implemented properly, these technologies will serve only to help us, not to replace us.

My experience as a practitioner, investigator and academic department chair would allow me to represent the interests of the diverse constituencies of the AAD. If elected, I will be a tireless voice for the AAD to act aggressively to preserve our ability to best serve our patients, to maintain and enhance the training of future dermatologists, to ensure adequate research funding for the development of better ways to treat disease, to clearly communicate to all the superior care provided by dermatologists and to ensure compensation commensurate with the value of our work.

Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Granstein, M.D.