



Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor to be a candidate for President-elect of the AAD. For the past twelve years, I have served as a core member of the AAD's Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) team. Our main goal is ensuring the fair reimbursement required to deliver excellent care to our patients. My tenure has afforded me unique perspectives, the ability to establish relationships with other specialty societies, and first-hand contact with CMS officials regarding reimbursement issues. As President, I will leverage and expand upon these experiences while leading the Academy at a time when our specialty is being highly scrutinized.

Dermatology is at a crossroads. Our business models, the way that we see patients, and how we are reimbursed will all change in the near term. Through education and advocacy, the AAD improves our clinical skills and the AADA helps us navigate the ever-changing regulatory environment. While we all recognize quality dermatologic care, government officials have now chosen to try and quantify it. The Quality Payment Program and MIPS are government programs that supposedly lead to quality healthcare. These are invalid assumptions. Issues such as Scope of Practice and Truth in Advertising are critical issues. And to control costs of drugs, we are all in search for a solution to the growing problem of PBMs (Pharmacy Benefit Managers) and their new payer partners.

As deputy chair of the Patient Access and Payer Relations Committee, and Chair of the Workgroup on Innovations and Payment Delivery, I am at the forefront of key challenges facing our specialty. These experiences, paired with regular attendance at the AAD Legislative Conferences, have prepared me to lead the Academy as our reimbursements and scope of practice remain threatened. Being a voluntary associate professor allows me to stay connected with our future leaders and academic progress. But above all, I spend my time in the private practice of dermatology, facing the same hurdles as you do. I get it!

The practice of Dermatology involves so much more than simply checking off boxes in an Electronic Health Record. We should be the ones telling the government how to measure quality in dermatologic care- and not the other way around. With my experience and leadership, the Academy will forge ahead, and we will do what we have to not just to survive...but to thrive!