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Dear fellow Academy members:

I am delighted to have the opportunity to be considered for the Academy's Board of Directors. I am passionate about providing exceptional patient care, educating and mentoring the next generation of dermatologists, and ensuring the strength of our specialty. It is crucial that we continue to educate the public and our physician colleagues regarding the critical need for expert dermatologic care.

Over the past twelve years, I have been fortunate to participate in the Academy in multiple ways. From giving numerous talks at the Academy's meetings to serving on committees and as a mentor on AAD grants, I am committed to enhancing the Academy and would be delighted to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

If elected to serve as a member of the Board, my most pressing goals would include ensuring the Academy advances our specialty and advocates on behalf of all its members.

My leadership experiences have prepared me for this crucial role. I currently serve as Vice Chair of Academic Affairs for the Department of Dermatology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, responsible for the career development and promotion of 60 faculty, recruitment, retention, and the ongoing expansion of robust academic programs. I founded and direct the Connective Tissue Disease and Autoimmune Skin Disease Programs, which have quadrupled in volume over the past several years to include over 10,000 patient visits per year, many coming from around the country for specialized orphan skin disease care. I also designed a novel fellowship in Dermatology-Rheumatology, serving as Program Director since 2009, and lead one of the 8 core courses at Harvard Medical School. As recent President of the New England Dermatologic Society, I was able to forge strong collaborations with my colleagues in the community to enhance dermatologic care in our region. I am extremely passionate about building and innovating programs that not only succeed, but that thrive and continuously improve. I would be honored to bring this passion and leadership experience to the vital work of the Academy on behalf of my dermatology colleagues. The strength of our specialty as well as all of our programs and practices is of critical importance—thank you for your consideration in allowing me to serve as a champion and advocate in this capacity.

Sincerely,



Ruth Ann Vleugels, MD, MPH, MBA, FAAD

