



THE TEXAS Dermatologist

A Newsletter for members of the Texas Dermatological Society www.texasdermatology.org Summer 2020



TDS 2020 Annual Fall Meeting

Sept. 25-26, 2020

Hyatt Lost Pines
Hotel & Resort
Bastrop, TX

See page 3
for more details

Keep us posted!

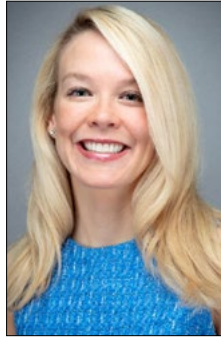
Send news of your recent appointments, accomplishments, announcements, etc.

We are unable to reprint abstracts or published articles; however, we will list the citation of any articles that were published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Send information to Laura.Madole@texmed.org for inclusion in the next newsletter.

2020 President's Message

Catherine Harrell, MD



Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well! If you are anything like me, you are still trying to process the events of the past couple of months and are still somewhat in disbelief over what has transpired and how it has transformed our daily lives.

A few weeks ago, I welcomed my second son into the world in the midst of this global pandemic. I have thought much about how to explain to him what the world was like at the time of his birth. In a matter of weeks, a previously unknown virus has managed to breed fear, loss and isolation, reducing our daily lives to only what is "essential". We have distanced ourselves from our loved ones, erased our social calendars, and put our lives on pause. Many of our practices have suffered, leaving us worried about our patients, our staff, and our families. And yet ironically, the resulting slowness has unveiled, at least for me, how essential many of life's intangible aspects are. I am reminded all the more about how grateful I am for community, including this community of colleagues, as well as a meaningful profession through which to serve.

Texas Derm Society has been hard at work during this time! Our entire TDS board, under Dr. Chan's leadership, spent hours over the past few weeks attempting to clarify and interpret our Governor's executive orders and the medical board's emergency rules regarding COVID-19. Our executive director, Laura Madole, and our lobbyist, Eric Woome, have been instrumental in helping us communicate with our legislators, the TMA, and the Texas Medical Board. While we were unsuccessful at removing ambiguous wording from the initial medical board rule despite a full-scale attempt, we really feel that our efforts resulted in a clearer interpretation of the subsequent and most recent executive orders and medical board rules. It is obvious how essential this group is to maintain our voices as dermatologists! And it is one of our goals to streamline our communication process with our membership over the upcoming months in preparation for another Texas legislative session next spring. What goes on in Austin has the potential to tremendously impact our practices, and it has been made abundantly clear in the events over the past few weeks that it is critical that we stay involved.

I certainly missed seeing everyone at our spring meeting this year. One of the tremendous benefits of this group is the collegiality and great educational opportunities. Dr. Stetson and his team from Texas Tech had a great scientific meeting planned that we were disappointed to miss! It is my hope and prayer that we will be able to gather together in September for our fall meeting at Hyatt Lost Pines, one of my personal favorite venues. However, we will be looking into possible online platforms for CME in the event that we cannot meet in person.

I know most of us are eager to get back to work serving our patients, and it is critical that we do. And it is our goal as an organization to continue to help you in this ever-changing landscape. Please let me know if there is any way that I can help you personally or that we as a society can better serve you. Despite all of the uncertainty during this time, we can be confident that we play a vital role as dermatologists in the lives of our patients.

Hope to see you all this fall!

Catherine Harrell, M.D.



Outgoing President's Message

Conner Chan, MD

To the members of this great society, I was both honored and nervous when I was asked to be President. In spite of all the chaos, I am glad to have accepted the role. I am thankful to have been able to attend the dedication ceremony to a shade structure that our society helped construct. I am grateful for the board and executive director for guiding us through this pandemic with poise and promptness. I am saddened that we were not able to spend time together at the spring meeting, but I am looking forward to being able to see you all again at future meetings. Please continue to do your best for your patients, staff and families. I leave the role of Presidency in fantastic hands. Catherine is passionate about making our specialty better and I know she will make a great leader.

Note from the TDS: The TDS would like to thank Dr. Chan for his leadership during these unprecedented times – he got more than he bargained for when accepting the TDS President nomination a few years ago! Dr. Chan has been a strong leader and a thoughtful voice of reason for our members. He has left the TDS in the amazing hands of Dr. Harrell, and will continue to serve on the TDS board for the next few years as a Past President. Thank you Dr. Chan!



Legislative Update

by Eric Woomer

The global Coronavirus pandemic has effectively consumed our nation, the economy, and the country's governmental bodies, with the State of Texas being no exception. While Texas businesses are only beginning to emerge from lockdown, the business of Texas government continues. Here is a snapshot of issues facing Texas and its medical practices:

As of May 15, the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases globally have exceeded 4.3 million. In the United States, the total number of cases now exceeds 1.4 million, with more than 85,000 deaths. In Texas, we have faced more than 45,000 confirmed cases and more than 1,200 deaths. Grim numbers, all.

Nevertheless, on April 27th, Gov. Greg Abbott announced a phased-in approach to reopen the Texas economy. For many physicians, this declaration began the slow road to restore practices and treat patients, many of whom delayed needed care during the initial phase of the crisis. On May 1, the governor's directive specified that licensed healthcare professionals must adhere to emergency rules promulgated by their licensing body for minimum standards for safe practices. The order has no expiration date and will remain effective until modified or rescinded by the governor – although Gov. Abbott recently clarified that jail confinement was no longer a penalty for violating the order.

TDS's leadership and government affairs teams put in many hours of work during March and April to coordinate with regulators regarding physician practices and communicating with the membership about approved activities. In light of the natural (if challenging) ebb and flow of policymaking, confusion among providers was unavoidable. However, the present regulatory landscape provides that nearly all procedures performed in a dermatologist's outpatient office, including skin cancer excisions, cyst excisions, biopsies, cosmetic procedures such as botulinum toxin and fillers, lasers and energy-based devices are permissible. Whether to perform a given procedure or not is up to the individual physician's discretion.

To further economic expansion, Gov. Abbott's "Open Texas Strike Force" also produced the "Governor's Report to Re-Open Texas," which provides more specific guidance for people older than 65 and mitigation plans for nursing homes. In addition, the report shares state actions to increase contact tracing and testing, and outlines a checklist for businesses and consumers to follow during the phased-in re-opening.

Similarly, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's "Texans Back to Work Task Force" produced more than 400 recommendations for employers, employees, state and local government and the public, which includes immediate recommendations as well as those for the next 100 days and long-term strategies for the future. Lt. Gov. Patrick also announced that the Senate will convene six new workgroups to discuss COVID-19 related challenges the state will face in the

(Continued on next page)

Legislative Update *(continued)*

2021 legislative session. The workgroup on Health, Hospitals, and COVID-19 Issues will be led by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst and includes Sens. Dawn Buckingham M.D., Donna Campbell M.D., and Charles Schwertner, M.D.

Comptroller Glen Hegar has been giving periodic financial updates during the crisis, which portend a fiscally challenging 2021 legislative session. There have been published rumors about the state imposing current-biennium budget reductions of five to twenty percent, depending on the source. The Governor and legislative leadership have debunked these reports from time to time, but most watchers expect significant spending reductions in the near term, not only due to COVID but to significant declines in oil and gas revenue and state sales taxes.

Comptroller Hegar also suggested there is not a need for special session in the immediate future as he indicated that the state can meet its obligations and provide the necessary cash flow despite revenues falling and demand increasing. There are a number of tools in the state's fiscal toolbox, including accessing the "Rainy Day Fund," agency reductions in expenditures, infusion of federal dollars, moving dollars around within the budget, and more.

However, the state is in an uncharted territory, as there is no other event that compares economically. As an example, Texas recently went from adding 50,000 jobs in one month, to seeing a rise in unemployment claim filings of over 275,000 in less than a week. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced in April that private sector employment in seven of eleven major industries declined over the previous month. Leisure and Hospitality lost the most jobs of all major industries in March, posting a decline of 25,900 jobs. To date, the TWC has paid out over \$5.2 billion in benefits, with the total number of unemployment claims exceeding 1.9 million in the past two months.

To survive the crisis, health care providers are increasingly turning to telemedicine, but a number of regulatory impediments initially prevented a smooth transition. To address this problem, Gov. Abbott directed the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to issue emergency rules relating to telemedicine provided through state-regulated insurance plans. Contracted or preferred physicians will be eligible for payment from TDI-regulated insurance plans for medical visits they conduct over the phone or on video at the same rate they would receive for in-person visits.

Additionally, effective immediately, the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights has announced it will not penalize physicians for noncompliance with HIPAA when they serve patients in good faith through communications technologies such as FaceTime or Skype. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has also temporarily broadened telehealth access to Medicare patients, permitting office visits furnished via telehealth in all areas of the country (not just rural areas) and in any setting including in a patient's home.

Meanwhile, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has called on Congress to enact liability protections for businesses opening

during the COVID-19 pandemic, joining more than 20 other attorneys general around the country. Arguing that the crisis will create a surge in civil litigation targeting well-intentioned businesses for taking pandemic mitigation measures, Paxton and the other attorneys general say Congress should implement liability protections for businesses, manufacturers of personal protective equipment, first responders, healthcare workers, healthcare facilities, and members of law enforcement, among others.

Turning to politics, six candidates have filed to run in a special election to replace departed Sen. Kirk Watson. Most notably, State Rep. Eddie Rodriguez and former Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt, both Democrats, are vying for the seat, as is former Austin City Council member Don Zimmerman, a Republican. The election was originally due to be held in May, but the pandemic prompted Gov. Abbott to delay it until mid-July.

One of the more intriguing policy matters that the Legislature will grapple with in 2021 is whether to revert to policies and laws that were in place prior to the COVID-19 crisis, or to enact new laws consistent with the waivers adopted during the pandemic. For instance, Gov. Abbott waived the requirement that advanced practice registered nurses must complete certain testing requirements before entering the workforce and practicing under direct physician supervision. Perhaps this change was critically needed to ensure adequate APRN personnel, but will the erosion of testing lead to an undereducated workforce?

To date, there have been no expansions of the scope of practice for APRNs other mid-level providers, but many other areas of law have been liberalized during the crisis. Will today's "new normal" be the regulatory paradigm once the crisis dissipates? If so, presumably the legislature will have to enact new laws to reflect the changes implemented through waivers. What political pressure will come to bear, either to preserve the status quo or encourage a return to the old order?

Another noteworthy example of this policy conundrum is "alcohol-to-go." In March, the governor waived regulations to allow restaurants to deliver alcohol to customers in an effort to support the hospitality industry in Texas. Such sales were not allowed before restrictions were placed on restaurants to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Via Twitter, Abbott recently suggested alcohol-to-go could remain a permanent thing after the coronavirus pandemic ends. However, the Legislature will have to approve a bill to permanently allow alcohol-to-go sales. Some lawmakers are already voicing their enthusiasm, which would have been a controversial policy change in any other session. Will the public demand a continuation of alcohol-to-go? It remains to be seen, but we are in uncharted territory now, in healthcare as well as in a number of other policy matters, from alcohol to public school finance to tax collection.

As always, it is my privilege to advocate for Texas Dermatologists, your practices, and your patients. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments or concerns, but above all, stay safe out there as we all struggle to navigate the pandemic.

TDS AAD Advisory Board Update

Angela Yen Moore, M.D.

The last few months have brought significant challenges to our profession as the world copes with the COVID-19 crisis. Below are a few items that the AAD has been addressing after the AAD Advisory Board virtual meeting took place on March 22nd.

COVID-19: The AADA is continually updating its website with information on COVID-19. See www.aad.org/member/practice/coronavirus for the latest updates.

New AAD COVID-19 registry: The new AAD COVID-19 registry is collecting information about the dermatologic manifestations of the COVID-19 virus. Please report any cases of COVID-19 related dermatoses at <https://www.aad.org/member/practice/coronavirus/registry>

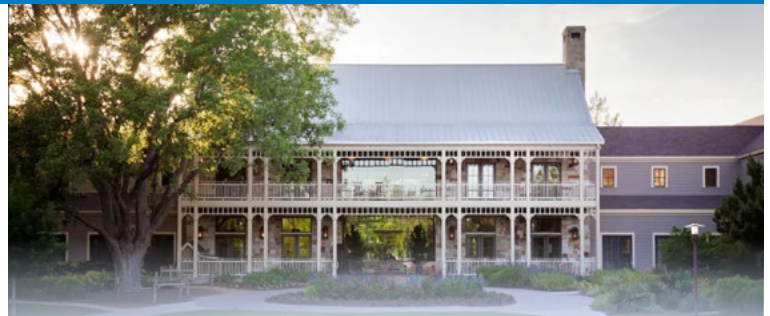
ABD relaxes 2020 MOC Requirements: On March 27, the AAD announced significant changes to its 2020 MOC requirements in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Halving the required # of 2020 CertLink segments and questions and extending due dates for the year
- Allowing 2020 scheduled tests to switch to CertLink or postpone until June, 2021
- Waiving the 2020 CME requirement
- Deferring self-assessment to the end of 2021
- Allowing deferment of practice improvement exercises until the end of 2021

Telehealth Access Update from AAD: Most insurance companies have temporarily expanded telehealth access due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- While most have expanded access, not all insurers are paying in parity with in-office rates.
- Each insurer has differing guidance on audio/visual requirements, which place of service to use, and whether a modifier should be reported.
- Some insurance companies have waived copays for televisits. Please email me at acderm@acderm.com if you have any issues or concerns that you feel need to be addressed at the AAD level, and I can assist in developing and presenting a resolution to the Advisory Board.

Praying for you and your loved ones during these challenging times!



TDS 2020 Fall Conference

September 25-26, 2020

The Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa • Bastrop, TX

Host: Katherine Fiala, MD | Phone: (512) 308-1234

TDS Special Room Rate: \$229/night + taxes
and reduced \$5/night resort fee

Cut-off Date: September 3, 2020

The Texas Dermatological Society is moving forward with planning the 2020 fall TDS conference at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort. Dr. Katherine Fiala with Baylor Scott & White in Temple, TX is putting together an amazing agenda and is working with the Baylor S&W residents on the patient case presentations.

The Texas Dermatological Society is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will have a final decision on whether or not the fall conference will be held in person, or virtually by mid-July 2020.

We are keeping fingers crossed and hoping that the meeting will take place in person, but please know that the TDS board has the interest and safety of our members as our top priority and will make the appropriate decision.

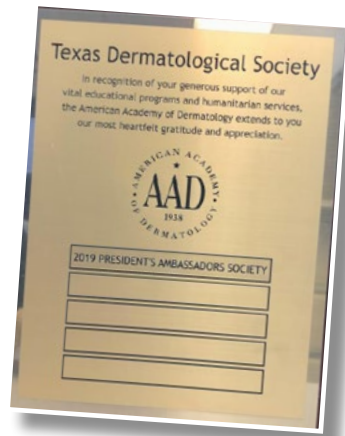
Until then, please do not hesitate to make a reservation at the Hyatt Lost Pines for the meeting – make sure to mention that you're with the TDS to receive the discounted room rate.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR TDS RESIDENTS ON YOUR UPCOMING BOARDS!

*Don't forget - your first year in TDS is free following graduation!
Contact the TDS to elevate your Resident membership to Active!*

2019 AAD Presidential Citation Award

The 2019 Presidential Citation Award from the American Academy of Dermatology was awarded to the Texas Dermatological Society for generous support of vital educational programs and humanitarian services.



2019 AAD Model State Award

The TDS was awarded the 2019 Model State Award from the American Academy of Dermatology. This award, as well as a development grant, are given each year to state dermatological societies who uphold the highest standards in education, patient support, community service, legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts and membership outreach and development.



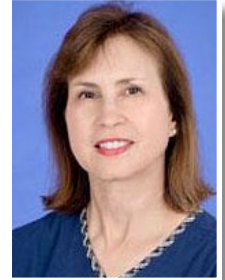
The TDS thanks the following companies who generously gifted their spring 2020 sponsorship fees to the TDS after the meeting was canceled!

The TDS is incredibly grateful to all of our sponsors who support the society. We look forward to hopefully seeing everyone in September!

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WHEN DECISIONS MATTER

2020 Robert G. Freeman, MD Mentoring & Leadership Award



The Texas Dermatological Society board of directors is proud to announce Adelaide A. Hebert, MD as the recipient of the 2020 Robert G. Freeman, MD Mentoring & Leadership Award. Dr. Hebert received nine nominations for the award this year! The TDS was not able to present the award to Dr. Hebert at the spring 2020 TDS meeting in Plano, and hopes to do so in Bastrop, TX this fall.

"Dr. Hebert encouraged me to pursue a dermatology residency and I had the great fortune of being her first pediatric dermatology fellow. Those who meet her know that she has such grace and the most generous heart – she's amazing with patients as well – but she's also very savvy with high expectations. She's the best mentor I ever had." – Denise Metry, MD

"Dr. Hebert has a LONG history of mentoring medical students, residents and fellows...as well as colleagues! A warm and thoughtful individual who is always collaborative and focused on what is right for her patients and their families." - Moise Levy, MD

"Dr Hebert has been a fantastic mentor to numerous medical students, residents, research fellows and colleagues for many years! She has offered me direct mentorship in my career in pediatric dermatology since I graduated, and I know there are many more individuals she has supported over the years." – Raegan Hunt, MD

"Dr Hebert is an amazing mentor and leader!! She is selfless and always makes time to help anyone, whether in life or at work. She is a true role model and has inspired many to become academic dermatologists. Dr Hebert has greatly contributed to the pediatric dermatology field through research, leadership, and mentorship. She is the wonder woman of dermatology and continues to inspire me. I cannot think of anyone more deserving for a mentorship and leadership award." – Lucia Diaz, MD

"Dr. Hebert exemplifies the spirit of mentoring and leadership. She has a stellar reputation as a clinician and researcher and has served as Chief of Pediatric Dermatology at the UT Houston McGovern Medical School and Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital. When I expressed an interest in joining the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PEDRA) organization as a non-pediatric dermatologist but one who wishes to research in this area, she was so welcoming. I find it impressive that she also mentors colleagues across the country via her work in PEDRA, and that she continues to reach out to colleagues to help advance their careers and missions." – Rajani Katta, MD

Congratulations, Dr. Hebert!

TDS Past President **Seemal R. Desai, MD, FAAD**, who also serves on the AAD Board of Directors was elected by the AAD Board to a two-year term on the AAD Executive Committee. He will therefore serve as the Board representative on the Executive Committee.

Sandra Osswald, MD, Chief of Dermatology at UT Health Science Center San Antonio was awarded the 2019 UT Health San Antonio Colette M. Kohler Award! This award is from the BCMS Women in Medicine committee recognizing women leaders in medicine.

Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs has been appointed the Public Health Liaison of The Woodlands by The Woodlands Township Board of Directors. This position was created in response to the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the local community. Dr. Sekula-Gibbs is serving her first term on The Woodlands Township Board. She brings significant experience having served on the Houston City Council for three terms, briefly in the U.S. House of Representatives, and managing her private practice in Clear Lake, Texas for 30 years. She holds a clinical appointment in the Department of Dermatology at Baylor College of Medicine. Besides helping to keep the Township abreast of Covid-19 information, Dr. Sekula-Gibbs spearheaded a successful personal protective equipment (PPE) drive for first responders and hospital healthcare workers called Help Our Heroes. Residents generously brought PPE to The Woodlands Central Fire Station that they personally made, sewed, created from 3-D printers, bought, had in storage, or obtained by other means. These items were taken to the Montgomery County Emergency Management Center warehouse and distributed to first responders and hospital healthcare workers at their request. Once those needs had been adequately addressed, the program broadened to Adopt a Healthcare Worker where residents expanded their donations to include nonperishable individually wrapped food items and personal supplies that healthcare workers might not be able to purchase because of extended work hours.

Discovery of IgG4 Anti-Gliadin Autoantibody as a Potential Biomarker of Psoriasis Using an Autoantigen Array.

Qiu J, Yuan Y, Li Y, **Haley C**, Mui UN, Swali R, Mohan C, Tying SK, Wu T. *Proteomics Clin Appl.* 2020 Mar;14(2):e1800114. doi: 10.1002/prca.201800114. Epub 2019 Dec 11. PMID:31671471

Mui, UN, **Haley C**, Tying SK. *Systemic Antiviral Agents; IN: Comprehensive Dermatologic Drug Therapy*; Wolverson SE and Wu JJ, eds; Elsevier, London, 2020, pp125.

Acute zoster plasma contains elevated amyloid, correlating with A β 42 and amylin levels, and is amyloidogenic.

Bubak AN, Beseler C, Como CN, Tying SK, **Haley C**, Mescher T, Hassell JE Jr, Cohrs RJ, Potter H, Nagel MA. *J Neurovirol.* 2020 May 8. doi: 10.1007/s13365-020-00830-7. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:32385803

Development of a 8-HPV vaccine: Updates on an emerging frontier of skin cancer prevention.

Gupta R, Rady PL, **Doan HQ**, Tying SK. *J Clin Virol.* 2020 May;126:104348. doi: 10.1016/j.jcv.2020.104348. Epub 2020 Apr 4. Review. PMID:32334327

Nawas ZY, Nguyen QG, Sanber KS, Tying SK. *Antiviral Drugs; IN: Fitzpatrick's Dermatology*, 9th ed., Kang S, Amagai, M, Bruckner AL, Enk AH, Margolis DJ, McMichael AJ, Orringer JS, eds. McGraw Hill, New York; 2019; pp. 3493-3516.

Management of Ichthyosis: A Brief Review

Limmer AL, Nwannunu CE, **Patel RR**, Mui UN, Tying SK. *Skin Therapy Lett.* 2020 Jan;25(1):5-7. Review. PMID: 32023022

Brief Update on Dermatologic Uses of Methotrexate

Shah RA, Nwannunu CE, Limmer AL, **Patel RR**, Mui UN, Tying SK. *Skin Therapy Lett.* 2019 Nov;24(6):5-8. Review. PMID: 31801013

Tildrakizumab for Moderate-to-Severe Plaque Psoriasis

Mui UN, **Patel RR**, Vangipuram R, Tying SK. *Skin Therapy Lett.* 2019 Nov;24(6):1-4. Review. PMID: 31801012

Cutaneous myoepithelioma of the foot.

Swali R, Nwannunu C, Farooq S, Wu W, **Robare S**, Patel A, Tying SK. *Int J Dermatol.* 2020 May;59(5):e173-e174. doi: 10.1111/ijd.14734. Epub 2019 Nov 25. No abstract available. PMID: 31769018

A Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial of Secukinumab on Aortic Vascular Inflammation in Moderate-to-Severe Plaque Psoriasis (VIP-S).

Gelfand JM, Shin DB, Duffin KC, Armstrong AW, Blauvelt A, **Tying SK**, Menter A, Gottlieb S, Lockshin BN, Simpson EL, Kianifard F, Sarkar RP, Muscianisi E, Steadman J, Ahlman MA, Playford MP, Joshi AA, Dey AK, Werner TJ, Alavi A, Mehta NN. *J Invest Dermatol.* 2020 Feb 21. pii: S0022-202X(20)30157-3. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2020.01.025. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:320882

Presence of human papillomavirus DNA in voriconazole-associated cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma.

Nguyen CV, He Q, Rady PL, **Tying SK**, Miller DD, Rubin N, Kovarik CL. *Int J Dermatol.* 2020 May;59(5):595-598. doi: 10.1111/ijd.14820. Epub 2020 Feb 14. PMID:3206090

Efficacy and safety of apremilast in patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis of the scalp: Results of a phase 3b, multi-center, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind study.

Van Voorhees AS, Stein Gold L, Lebowhl M, Strober B, Lynde C, **Tying Sk**, Cauthen A, Sofen H, Zhang Z, Paris M, Wang Y. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2020 Feb 4. pii: S0190-9622(20)30158-4. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2020.01.072. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 32032692

A Diffuse Papular Rash in an Adult.

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Congratulations to the 2020-21 TDS Board of Directors

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President

Catherine Harrell, MD
1820 Tremont Ave
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(713) 498-3974
catherineharrell12@gmail.com

President-Elect

Travis Vandergriff, MD
5323 Harry Hines Blvd
MS 9096
Dallas, TX 75390
(214) 645-2400
Travis.vandergriff@utsouthwestern.edu

Vice President

Russell Akin, MD
5117 Sunmore Circle
Midland, TX 79707-5124
(432) 689-2512
russellakin@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Mara Dacso, MD
4800 Keller Springs Rd, Apt 1232
Addison, TX 75001-6344
(713) 206-4714
Mara.dacso@gmail.com

TDS Representative to AAD Advisory Board

Angela Yen Moore, MD
711 E Lamar Blvd Ste 200
Arlington, TX 76011-3800
(817) 795-7546
Fax: (817) 226-7546
acderm@acderm.com

TDS Alternate Representative to AAD Advisory Board

Ryan Hick, MD
3077 Ridgecrest Dr
Southlake, TX 76092-2533
(817) 421-3458
Ryan.hick@gmail.com

Program Coordinator

Michael Wilkerson, MD
301 University Blvd
4.112 McCullough Blvd
Galveston, TX 77555-0783
(409) 772-1911
Fax: (409) 772-1943
mgwilker@utmb.edu

Erica Kelly, MD
301 University Blvd
4.112 McCullough Bldg
Galveston, TX 77555-5302
(409) 772-1911
ebkelly@utmb.edu

Immediate Past President

Conner Chan, MD
2610 N Alexander Dr Ste 205
Baytown, TX 77520-3399
(281) 425-9375
connerchanmd@gmail.com

Past President

Allison Readinger, MD
800 8th Ave., Ste 326
Fort Worth, TX 76104-2602
(817) 885-8222
Readinger@mac.com

TDS Trustees

A. Carlo P. Gavino, MD
203 Rocky Coast Dr
Lakeway, TX 78738-1778
(512) 451-0139
Cgavino.md@gmail.com

Brent Spencer, MD
3535 Victory Group Way, Ste 200
Frisco, TX 75034-6721
(972) 712-5100
bspencer@dermntx.com

Stephanie Savory, MD
5323 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas, TX 75390-7208
(713) 927-2442
Ssteph83@gmail.com

Resident Representatives to TDS

Helena Jenkinson, MD
1850 Old Main St Apt 1611
Houston, TX 77030-2222
(206) 432-1046
jenkiah@gmail.com

Parth Patel, MD (UTSW)
2650 Cedar Springs Road
Dallas, TX 75201-1495
(214) 820-0111
Phpatel2292@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Sarah Pinney, MD
915 Gessner Rd. Suite 640
Houston, 77024.
(713) 984-2222
sarahpinney@kpderm.com

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Texas Carrier Advisory Committee

Stephen D. Maberry, MD, *chair*
Fort Worth Dermatology Assoc., P.A.
1200 W Rosedale St
Fort Worth, TX 76104 4454
(817) 336-8131
stmaberry@juno.net

TDS Legislative/Socioeconomic Chairs

Michael Graves, MD
4419 Frontier Trl Ste 110
Austin, TX 78745-1567
(512) 444-7208
mikesgraves@gmail.com

Laura Jennifer Haygood, MD
FAAD 455 Rice Rd Ste 104
Tyler, TX 75703-3604
(903) 597-3376
ljhaygood@gmail.com

TDS STAFF

Executive Director

Laura Madole
401 W. 15th Street Austin, TX 78701
(512) 370-1502
Laura.madole@texmed.org