

Perspectives From the Program Director: How You Are Perceived Is Influenced by the Words You Choose

The dermatology residency program at Valley Hospital Medical Center (VHMC), Las Vegas, Nevada, will be entering its fifth active year of training on July 1, 2010. I can honestly say that the residency program is maturing progressively thanks to committed faculty, excellent residents, and a program director who provides dedication to continued leadership and vision. In a day and age where financial support for education is more limited, our dermatology residency program at VHMC has continued to improve.

A major focus of the residency program is professional development, which integrates aspects of personal growth. This includes heavy emphasis on development and optimization of scientific writing and speaking skills. I stress to our residents, interns, and students that: "No one can take away your knowledge, your ability, and your achievements," and that being a clear and sound presenter and writing meaningful articles are both noteworthy achievements that will follow you throughout your entire career.

Have you ever considered how well you express yourself when trying to explain your thoughts or ideas? We cannot assume that others understand what our mind is trying to say, either in writing or verbally. How one is perceived is heavily influenced by the words they choose to express their thoughts, opinions, and ideas. The skills of writing and speaking serve to enhance your entire life. They teach you to think before you speak (or write) and to choose words that most accurately express what you are trying to say. These skills can translate over time into other aspects of your life in a positive manner without you even realizing it.

In this issue, I turned much of the editorial responsibility over to my senior resident, Saira B. Momin, DO. Dr. Momin was first responsible for making sure that manuscripts met submission deadlines, a responsibility that can sometimes be harder than herding a group of

cats. She also edited the manuscripts and provided feedback to the authors. Dr. Momin will be graduating from

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our program in June 2010 and is starting fellowship training in Mohs micrographic surgery in Miami, Florida, in July 2010.

In our dermatology residency program at VHMC, and through our dermatology research fellowship, we utilize many publication and speaking opportunities to help develop "young energetic



Dr. James Q. Del Rosso (center) with the 3 current Valley Hospital Medical Center dermatology residents and the dermatology research fellow who was accepted as a new dermatology resident starting July 2010 (left to right: Susun Bellew, DO; Saira B. Momin, DO; Brent Michaels, DO; Grace Kim, DO).

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minds” with interest in dermatology. At the end of the day, we find out how “energetic” their minds really are.

The figure shows myself with our 3 dermatology residents, Susun Bellew, DO; Saira B. Momin, DO; and Brent Michaels, DO; and our research fellow, Grace Kim, DO, who was accepted as our next dermatology resident starting July 2010. The VHMC residency program is very proud of its teaching faculty, which in addition to myself, includes Jaldeep Daulat, DO; Michael Bryan, MD; Jason Michaels, MD (cosmetic dermatology); Narciss Mobini, MD (dermatopathology); and Steven Hawkes, PA-C.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Momin and all of the authors for their efforts. We hope our readers find this third annual designated residency issue of *Cosmetic Dermatology*[®] to be meaningful in their day-to-day clinical practices. Additionally, I hope this stimulates other academicians to encourage residents to publish and present as much as they can. ■

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RESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

I am honored to have been selected as resident editor for this year's *Cosmetic Dermatology*[®] residency issue. This is the third year that our dermatology residency program at Valley Hospital Medical Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, has contributed to this publication.

Our program has always emphasized effective written and verbal communication skills. The 2 and a half years of my residency training have given me ample experience in academic writing and publishing. This experience has set a good basis for me as I prepare to graduate and enter a fellowship. Regardless of one's goals, broad experience in publication is a priceless tool that can be applied to all professional endeavors in

medicine, whether in private practice, academics, and/or clinical research.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated teaching faculty for their time and effort in providing us an excellent foundation in our educational endeavors in dermatology and their commitment to ever improving our program. I would also like to congratulate the lead authors for their hard work and commitment to this issue. Lastly, I would like to thank my family for their unconditional love, continued support, and encouragement. I would not have come this far without them. ■

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