

Kingfisher

In 1988, during the clinical meetings of the North American Contact Dermatitis Society (NACDG), I described a group of patients whose “purpuric” cobalt patch test reactions had been biopsied. The biopsy results surprised us in that there was no histologic purpura, but rather an unusual alteration of the acrosyringium, the terminal portion of the eccrine sweat gland.

I alluded to these findings in an article I wrote for a *Cutis*[®] issue edited by Dr. Fisher in 1993.¹ Good intentions fell by the wayside, and only now (again at Dr. Fisher’s irresistible prodding) do I commit these observations to print.

Ninety-three years young—very young—Alexander Fisher has maintained an energy and mental acuity that daunts all of us who have stood in his shadow and on his shoulders. Even now he outperforms most of us and continues to demonstrate what a truly challenging and seductive discipline the study of contact dermatitis is.

In 1988, the members of the NACDG gave Dr. Fisher a plaque at a fete in his behalf. It said:

CONTACT DERMATITIS ELUCIDATOR NONPAREIL
ALEXANDER A. FISHER

We come to sit at your feet and applaud your endless talents.

Inspired Author
Enticing Lecturer
Incessant Scholar
Consummate Physician
Perpetual Student
Forever Youthful
Lover of Knowledge
Irrepressible Humorist
Naughty but Nice
Mind-boggling Energy
Devoted Husband
Delighted Father
Adoring Grandfather
Incipient Great-Grandfather

We have been simultaneously awed, thrilled, and inspired by our fortunate association with a real

KINGFISHER!

All these appellations remain true today with the exception of “incipient great-grandfather.” That incipient state has now been actualized many times over. HAIL ALEXANDER FISHER—THE KINGFISHER!
—Frances Storrs, MD

The first experience one has with a particular dermatologic condition is usually the most impressive and memorable. I was fortunate to have had many such experiences while working with Dr. Fisher in his Woodside, Queens office in the late 1970s. One of the most striking was a patient that he reported with allergy to intralesional and topical corticosteroids. We patch tested her to a number of corticosteroid creams and witnessed, with amazement, strong positive reactions. This seemed incredulous then, but, of course, time has supported these observations. This only solidified my belief that Dr. Fisher was THE LEADER in the field of contact dermatitis. Some things don’t change. Congratulations, Dr. Fisher!
—Ron Brancaccio, MD

If one has ambitions in science, choose a great teacher. I had the rare privilege of having found Dr. Alexander A. Fisher. I am delighted to have this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation for his inspiration and guidance.
—A. Goossens, MD

In early 1979, Alexander A. Fisher, MD began a monthly series in *Cutis*[®] and graced our pages with *Current Contact News* for 250 issues. Alex and the word “enthusiasm” are one in the same. The root theos, meaning “godlike,” describes Alex, as few others.

—John T. McCarthy, MD
Editor-in-Chief