

COMPELLING COMMENT

Celebrating 150 Years of the American Dermatological Association: Honoring the Past, Advancing the Future

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In 2026, the American Dermatological Association (ADA) will celebrate its sesquicentennial—marking 150 years of continuous leadership, scholarship, and service to the specialty of dermatology. Founded in 1876 by a visionary group of American physicians, the ADA is the oldest national dermatologic society in the world. From its inception, the Association has stood as a beacon of academic excellence, collegial exchange, and professional integrity in cutaneous medicine.

During the past century and a half, the ADA has played a foundational role in shaping American dermatology. Its early leaders helped establish the American Board of Dermatology (1932), the Society for Investigative Dermatology (1937), and the American Academy of Dermatology (1938). As an organization of distinction, the ADA has limited its membership to those with exceptional contributions in education, research, leadership, and clinical excellence. To date, only 1583 dermatologists have been inducted as members.

The ADA's annual meetings serve as dynamic forums where cutting-edge science

is shared, enduring friendships are formed, and critical issues in dermatologic health and education are addressed. These gatherings reflect the organization's founding mission: to foster collaboration, promote excellence, and advance the care of patients through scholarship and leadership.

As it approaches its 150th year, the ADA remains committed to ensuring that dermatology maintains its vital place within the House of Medicine. Recent initiatives have included strategic planning on climate change, advocacy for teledermatology and equitable access, leadership development, and support for underrepresented populations in dermatologic care. The ADA continues to invest in the future through its Research and Educational Fund (ADARE), supporting trainees and fostering innovation. This year marks a new strategic planning session to set the agenda for the next 5 years. ADA leaders and members have committed to become more visible, leveraging the productivity and expertise of members to publish position papers and cutting-edge reports that can serve to move our field forward towards improved societal and personal health. We welcome our

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newest members (**Figure 1**). You can learn more about the ADA at ada1.org.



Figure 1. Newest members of the ADA, Class of 2025

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