



Development of Molecularly-Targeted Therapies for Skin Diseases

**The Role of the American Academy of
Dermatology**

65th ANNUAL MEETING

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DISCLOSURE OF RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY

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Forum 556

I have no relevant relationships with industry
to disclose.



Rare heritable skin disorders- the problem

- *The Science is there; the means to translate the science to prevention or treatment of disease is not.*
- Number of gene defects identified: 1000
- Number of therapies currently available as a result of these discoveries: 0



How can the AAD help in the effort?

We are interested; we are engaged in the debate.



The American Academy of Dermatology

- The largest organization of dermatologists in the world
- 15,832 total members
- 93 percent of Board-certified dermatologists in U.S.



American Academy of Dermatology Mission Statement

The American Academy of Dermatology is committed to excellence in:

- ✦ *Patient Care*
- ✦ *Education*
- ✦ *Research*
- ✦ *Professionalism*
- ✦ *Member Service*



What can we do to change this?

- Recognize that all of dermatology has a stake in this
- Get organized to speak with a clear voice;
- Listen, learn and actively engage in the debate; and,
- ***Highlight research challenges, support the future of research***
 - ***Issues in Dermatology Conference, December 1-3, 2006, Phoenix, AZ***



Issues in Dermatology Conference, Dec. 1-3, 2006

- Focused on **the future of dermatology**
 - The financing and delivery of medical care
 - Education
 - The AAD and global dermatology
 - **The future of research in dermatology**



Issues in Dermatology Conference: Research Discussion Topics

- Direction and pace of pharmaceutical research
- Government and private sector research funding
- Research/academic manpower
- How might the Academy position itself to work with other organizations and agencies to advance dermatologic science and research



Conference Conclusions:

- The Academy needs to do a better job of publicizing significant breakthroughs in the understanding and treatment of skin disease
- Dermatology needs to find a way to support and encourage physician scientists and researchers
- The Academy needs to develop an infrastructure to support clinical trials



Things the AAD can do to facilitate the development of molecularly targeted therapies for skin disease

- Serve as a forum for discussion and ideas
- Bring together thought leaders, researchers, practitioners, patients, industry leaders
- Facilitate discussion among like-minded organizations
 - Society for Investigative Dermatology
 - Medical Dermatology Society
 - Dermatology Foundation



What the AAD might be able to do

- Create and maintain a supporting infrastructure
- Offer its fundraising expertise
 - Department of Development
 - Committee on Development and Industry Relations
- Refer ideas to the Academy's Department of Science and Research



AAD's Department of Science and Research

- Established in 2006
- Guided by an ***Ad Hoc Task Force on Science and Research***
 - Chairman: Henry Lim
 - Members:

■ Karl Beutner	Robert Swerlick
■ Barbara Gilchrest	Martin Weinstock
■ Michael Heffernan	Evan Farmer
■ Mark Pittelkow	Kim Yancey
- Senior Staff: Judith Magel, PhD, MBA



Mission of the AHTF on Science and Research

- *To define the direction and focus of the Academy's science and research activities*
- *To provide insight and knowledge about science and research needs and trends in dermatology*
- *To determine the appropriate role of the Academy in addressing those needs*



Ideas under consideration by AHTF on Science and Research

- Find out what other specialty societies are doing
- Serve as a ***clearinghouse of patient registries of rare skin diseases***
- Investigate the possibility of establishing a ***clinical research consortium***



Benefits of a Clinical Research Consortium

- Creation of a catalogue of research experts for each disease
 - Academicians/Academic medical centers
 - Private practitioners with affected patients
 - Patient support groups
 - Industry representatives interested in specific diseases
- Facilitate communication between these groups
- Creation of a comprehensive database documenting effectiveness of treatments



Next Steps

- Any specific ideas or proposals for future efforts for AAD involvement in achieving the goal of development of therapies for rare genetic disease would go to the Board of Directors and the Science and Research Department
- Then to the Priorities Committee for funding

We can agree that:

Successful treatment of a limited number of rare genetic skin diseases would enable more rapid translation of treatments for other diseases.





**We're just starting the
discussion...**

**We have a long way to go.
But at least we've started.**