

# EDUCATION RESEARCH PHILANTHROPY



>> Improving the lives of dermatology patients

Dear DPAF friends,



As I look back on 2017, I am amazed at how much the DPAF has accomplished in just two years of existence. Because of the great support we have received from individuals, industry, and fundraising events we have been able to aggressively pursue our foundation's mission to help support research, education and philanthropy to advance the field of dermatology.

The first fundraising event of the year was our charitable run/walk/sleep event. This was the first year it was organized as a "virtual event" instead of a live event at the summer meeting. Participants could register from all over the world and run, walk, or sleep from the comfort of their own town, even if they couldn't make the meeting. Even so, we also had a group of runners that decided to get together and run as a group for the event at the summer conference in San Diego. The event was a great success with this year's participants raising over \$2,000. With DPAF's matching grant, we were able to donate over \$9,500 to our chosen charity: The National Alopecia Areata Foundation.

Our next event, the 2nd Annual Silent Auction, was scheduled to occur at the Fall SDPA Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Maria, the SDPA was forced to cancel the conference. The Board of Trustees decided to continue with the silent auction but without a conference to showcase the items it was converted to an online only event. Despite the change, the event raised over \$7,000 and with DPAF's matching grant we were able to generate \$20,000 for a very worthy cause. This money will be used to send 10 children with various skin diseases to Camp Wonder and send two PA volunteers to help at the camp.

Having to cancel our conference in Puerto Rico was disappointing, but what happened to the people of Puerto Rico was devastating. I was so proud of the outpouring of support we received from our members to help those in need. The DPAF and the SDPA joined together to raise funds to help with recovery efforts. In less than two weeks, over \$10,000 was raised from DPAF donors. DPAF and SDPA each matched \$5,000 bringing the total funds raised to \$20,000. The money was donated to the organization Americares which specializes in emergency programs that respond to natural disasters and had a huge presence in Puerto Rico.

Finally, I would like to personally thank our donors. It is because of your generosity, trust and support that our foundation has been able to flourish in its infancy.

As we plan our year ahead, I am excited to see the direction our foundation is headed. Please consider donating your time and money to help this foundation grow. We are steadfast in fulfilling our mission.

Thank you,

Roberts, PA-C.

Vicki S. Roberts, PA-C Chair | vroberts@dermpafoundation.org

# **EDUCATION·RESEARCH·PHILANTHROPY**

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Leah Reily Managing Director

# WHO WE ARE

The Dermatology PA Foundation (DPAF) is the culmination of the Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants' (SDPA) years of philanthropic endeavors. In 2015, the SDPA's Board of Directors decided to form a stand-alone foundation to serve as the charitable leader for the dermatology PA community. After being formed in late 2015, the DPAF officially kicked off in June 2016.

The DPAF is led by a ten-person Board of Trustees (BOT) and supported by a two-person staff. The Trustees, along with staff, work to identify and outline charitable programs and events that align with the DPAF's mission to provide PAs with the opportunity to give back to their community and patients through education, research, and philanthropy.



#### MISSION

Our mission is to seek to fund and promote education, research, and philanthropy to advance the field of dermatology.

### EDUCATION

The DPAF is committed to promoting and funding educational and community outreach opportunities for dermatology PAs by funding education with the strategic goal of helping develop and retain tomorrow's clinicians, educators, and researchers.

### RESEARCH

The DPAF works to support and sponsor research within the specialty of dermatology. With an emphasis on sponsoring PA led research projects including support for studies that explore how PAs impact both access to care and the quality of care within the specialty of dermatology.

### PHILANTHROPY

As the philanthropic arm of the SDPA, the DPAF works to expand upon the Society's long history of charitable initiatives.

# • WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

### 2017 CHARITABLE RUN/WALK

#### In Honor of The National Areata & Alopecia Foundation

The SDPA has been hosting charitable races since 2012 when it first partnered with the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) and it's Miles for Melanoma (MFM) 5k Run/Walk. That partnership allowed SDPA members to contribute back to the patients they served. In 2015 when the DPAF was founded as the formal philanthropic arm of the SDPA they took over coordinating charitable runs. In 2016 the DPAF held it's first charitable run/walk event in honor of the Melanoma Research Foundation as the SDPA had done for more than 4 years.

In 2017 the DPAF turned its focus towards the National Alopecia and Areata Foundation (NAAF). Alopecia Areata is a common autoimmune skin disease, causing hair loss on the scalp, face and sometimes on other areas of the body. In fact, it affects as many as 6.8 million people in the U.S. with a lifetime risk of 2.1%.

2017 marked the first time that participants could register for the race online from anywhere in the world. Each registrant was mailed their race bib and commemorative medal and could complete the race in their own time. Participants also had the chance to sleep in for a cause (because who doesn't love to hit snooze?).







Thanks to dedicated runners, the Foundation was able to raise over \$2,000 for NAAF. Combined with a matching grant from the Foundation, the DPAF donated just over \$9,500 towards NAAF's goal of finding a cure for Alopecia Areta.

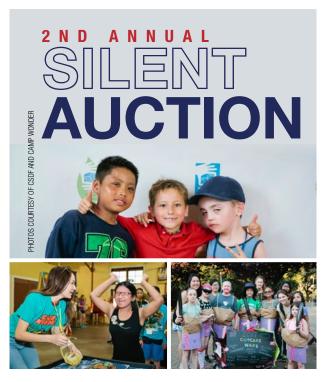


### 2ND ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

#### In honor of Camp Wonder

The DPAF hosted its 2nd Annual Silent Auction from November 20 to December 12, 2017 in honor of the Children's Skin Disease Foundation (CSDF) Camp Wonder. Due to the unfortunate cancellation of the SDPA's 15th Annual Fall Dermatology Conference scheduled to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the auction was held online only. That didn't stop our supporters from winning some fantastic items all while giving back to children in need!

The Foundation was thrilled to have raised over \$7,000 for contribution towards Camp Wonder. Thanks to a matching grant from the DPAF the Foundation contributed a full \$20,000. This contribution will allow 10



lucky children with severe or life-threatening skin disease to attend the 2018 session of camp. Our contribution also allows two PAs to attend as volunteers.

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our generous silent auction item donors! It is because of their continued support and efforts that we are able to achieve the Foundation's goals and mission.



#### **Donors:**

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- Rosemary Fanti Illustrator
- Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA)
- The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
- Westin Buckhead
- Vicki Pettersson

#### Krista Smith, PA-C and DPAF Trustee Tom Fitzgerald spent a week volunteering at the 2017 session of Camp Wonder.

### AN AMAZING WEEK AT CAMP WONDER

There's a reason we choose to contribute to Camp Wonder year-after-year. Camp Wonder provides children with chronic and life-threatening skin diseases with a place where they can simply be a kid. Don't take our word for it! Each year we sponsor two PAs to attend Camp Wonder as volunteers. In 2017 we sent Krista Smith, our first ever PA Volunteer to the 2017 session of Camp Wonder.



In 2017, the DPAF sent it's first volunteer, Krista Smith, PA-C, PA to Camp Wonder as part of our \$20,000 contribution. *Read about Krista's life changing experience at Camp Wonder*.

"Camp Wonder," hearing the name alone, begs the question, "What is Camp Wonder all about?" That is precisely what I am excited to share, given that I recently returned from the camp and was able to experience the "wonder" of it all firsthand.

Imagine that you are a kid or adolescent, faced with a rare, debilitating, and possibly fatal skin disease, that you live with on a daily basis, always present, and incurable. Not only do you feel it's constant presence, often experiencing excruciating pain, burning, itching, dry eyes, trouble swallowing, blisters, etc. It is visible, staring you in the face every time you look in the mirror or



down at your very own hands. This is not a hidden disease; it is not only there for you to see, but it also there for the world to see, and there is no hiding. from it or running from it. Meanwhile, as you suffer the physical effects, you are also unable to escape the stares, the avoidance of others, the questions, the bullying, and often the isolation that comes from it. Our skin, our largest organ, meant to protect us from harm, yet causing us physical and emotional pain.

Now imagine a place, a refuge, escape, from the daily hardship that you experience. A place where you can be yourself and be seen, liked, admired, respected, and celebrated for what is inside your heart, and not what you

look like on the outside. Where you can play carnival games, eat cotton candy, swim, do arts and crafts, make simores, perform skits or a talent show, go on a scavenger hunt, climb the rock wall, ride horses, and go to the prom. All in one week, in a safe, caring, and judgment free environment. Where you see tears replaced by smiles, hearts being healed, strong friendships being made, bonds that will never be broken and where acceptance and love are the norm....That is what Camp Wonder is.



@Camp Wonder and CSFD

I had the privilege and honor of volunteering this year at Camp Wonder, as part of the medical team, on behalf of the Dermatology PA Foundation (DPAF) and Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA). The DPAF is a wonderful nonprofit organization, whose mission is to provide education, research to dermatology PAS, as well as to help derm PAS expand philanthropic activities to help and give back to others. "Imagine a place, a refuge, an escape from the daily hardship that you experience; that is what Camp Wonder is." – Krista Smith, PA-C

I first heard about Camp Wonder, from Dr. Stefani Takahashi, who is the medical co-director of the camp, (along with Dr. Jenny Kim), who was my supervising physician from 2007-2013. I witnessed firsthand, the excitement and passion she had for the camp. She frequently would talk about stories of camp and showed me pictures, and as I would listen and I observed her love for the camp, my interest grew.

At that time I had two young boys that made it difficult to leave for a week, but I always knew it was not "if," but "when" I would be able to volunteer.

This year, it became possible for me, to go, and with my family's unwavering support behind me, I set off to experience Camp Wonder for myself.

Admittedly, I was a little nervous. Even with 14 years working as a dermatology PA-C behind me, I knew that there would be skin conditions that I had never seen in real life, but had only read about in text books, such as ectodermal dysplasia and Netherton syndrome. I was worried I wouldn't know what to do, or how I could help, but my worries were quickly absolved once I arrived and met the kind medical staff whose hearts were bigger than life itself, and they were not worried about my scope of knowledge, but instead, only that I was there to help.

Though I felt a little green, my motto was "put me to work," and before I knew it, I was learning the ropes about how the "med shed" operates, how to do GII-tube feedings, and what I would expect during a 3 hour dressing change for the campers with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).

From the get go, I was greeted with lots of friendly smiles and sensed the sincerity of all the people volunteering, from the administration, the doctors, the camp counselors, to the nurses, and residents. I got to spend some time getting to know Francesca Tenconi, the Chairman of the camp and learned of her journey with a rare skin disease, and how that shaped who she is and her passion for founding Camp Wonder.

The length of time also struck me, many of the volunteers and campers many of whom are now

counselors, had been involved with the camp. It was not unusual to hear that many such volunteers, had been coming back annually, since the camp's inception.

The moment I began seeing the campers arrive I experienced firsthand why volunteers come back year after year. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the campers, and hearing the excitement in their voices, was all it took. It took all but a minute, and I was sold for life.

The week was filled with so many activities, and special moments, however, there were two that stood out to me and can't help but want to highlight and share.



The first, was when a ten-year-old girl, named Amaya, was trying to pick out her prom dress, on the rack of donated dresses (which is another wonderful testimony of the camp and all those involved!), but she was having a hard time finding one that fit. She looked sad and discouraged; she wanted to give up. However, a kind resident named Dorota, and I were determined to help her find something that she liked and felt special in, for the Prom, that would be held at the end of the week. After some searching, Amaya finally found the dress. However, the straps were too long for her. Given that I can suture, I offered to sew the straps for her so that it would fit her properly. She was so grateful, and for the first time I saw her sigh a sigh of relief, and she gave a big smile. On a grand scale, my actions were not much, but sometimes it is those little moments and the small things that make your heart swell up

with joy. Knowing that doing a little something extra for her, was all it took to make her feel confident for her from, and for me, being part of that what priceless.

Another memorable moment for me was getting to see the kids participate in karaoke. It was a hot day, right after lunch and several of the campers were seeking refuge from the heat and hanging out in the activities center. I grabbed the karaoke machine, and turned it on, disco lights flashing and all, and started taking song requests. At first, several of the campers just listened to the music, and held the microphone, shyly singing, when all of the sudden, a girl named Lexi, took the stage stole the show. She got the party started by singing "Party in the USA," all the while, dancing, and smiling ear to ear. Her energy



was contagious, and before you knew it, the whole audience was clapping along and singing too. After her performance, the excitement for karaoke grew, and it became a hit, and many songs were sung and dancing broke out for a great deal of time. Many of the campers asked for karaoke the next day and no one was shy after that. It was a huge hit. Lexi stole the show and my heart!!!

I came home from camp with stories upon stories like the ones I described above, but until you experience it for yourself, it is just a story, and it is impossible to describe the "wonder" of it all until you are part of it firsthand.

I cannot encourage you enough to volunteer and make your own stories at Camp Wonder, by making a difference in the life of someone today! I am better because of Camp Wonder and will be forever changed.

Until next year Camp Wonder...l'll be seeing you again!

### **HELPING PUERTO RICO RECOVER**

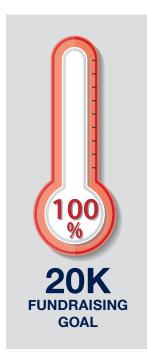
Each year the DPAF's counterpart the Society of Dermatology PAs (SDPA) hosts two annual conferences. In September as the SDPA was excitedly preparing for their first ever destination event in San Juan, Puerto Rico. More than just a destination event the SDPA has been working for more than two years to raise awareness of PAs and the positive impact they could have on Puerto Rico's healthcare infrastructure. Unfortunately, not days after the SDPA and DPAF watched Hurricane Irene narrowly miss Puerto Rico, Hurricane Maria made direct landfall.

The devastating effects of the hurricane on Puerto Rico's already strained infrastructure and economy were devastating. Hurricane Maria was the first Category 4 hurricane to hit the island in 85 years . It left 3.3 million people without power or water and a death toll which was estimated to be as high as



THE SDPA HOPES TO BRING IT'S CONFERENCE BACK TO PUERTO RICO IN THE FUTURE AND CONTRIBUTE TO ITS RECOVERING ECONOMY.

1,000 people. It caused major infrastructure damage which seriously limited health care access and resulted in an estimated \$94 billion in damage.



While the SDPA, DPAF, and it's conference attendees were saddened to have to cancel their November conference, their main concern was helping Puerto Rico recover. With multiple requests from attendees to donate their conference registration fees back to Puerto Rico's recovery efforts the DPAF and SDPA banded together to raise funds for the island. DPAF donors contributed \$10,000 in less than two weeks. The DPAF and SDPA each contributed a \$5,000 matching grant bringing contribution total to \$20,000.

In December of 2017 the DPAF wrote a \$20,000 check to Americares. Americares specializes in emergency programs which prepare for and respond to natural disasters. Since the hurricane they have contributed more than \$40 million wroth of medicine and supplies to communities in Puerto Rico, the Dominica, and the Virgin Islands. Their mobile response team in Puerto Rico has provided 1,029 patient consultations including 199 house calls for patients unable to travel to a health facility.

<sup>1-3</sup> Americares: https://www.americares.org/en/what-we-do/emergency-programs/ep-hurricanes2017/

### EDUCATION

As a one of the DPAF's founding goals, education is at the center of our annual activities. In 2017 the DPAF held two complimentary education sessions for dermatology professionals.



### THE MENTAL HEALTH COMORBIDITIES OF PSORIASIS

In November of 2017 DPAF leaders and staff packed up and headed to New York to film a special two hour Category I CME program "The Mental Health Comorbidities of Psoriasis." Brining together subject matter experts Dr. Richard Fried, Dr. Jeffrey Weinberg and Bethany Grubb, MPAS, PA-C, the session offers learners a different setting and tone than traditional conference CME. During the two hour session faculty held a conservational discussion on the mental health comorbidities of psoriasis such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideations and screen tools and plans of action which practitioners can use to help patients. This complimentary two hour program will be available on the <u>SDPA</u> online Learning Center in March of 2018 until March of 2020.

This program was made possible by a grant from Ortho Dermatologics.

### CLINICAL RESEARCH PANEL LET'S GET THIS STARTED!

During the SDPA's Annual Summer Dermatology Conference in San Diego, California the DPAF held a unique complimentary education session "Clinical Research Panel Let's Get This Started!" During the session five SDPA and DPAF thought leaders: Bethany Grubb PA-C, MPAS, MPH; Mark Hyde MMS, PA-C; Martha Sikes MS, RPh, PA-C; Travis Hayden MPAS, PA-C; Kristen Grippe MPAS, PA-C each shared their extensive experience conducting research. During a lively conservation the panel give attendees tips and guidance on how PAs can engage in scientific and clinical research and what moving parts go into clinical research and scientific publishing.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2017, the DPAF's Total Liabilities and Net Assets were \$265,130. Of the collected \$160,784 in donor contributions and sponsorships, 60% was contributed back into the dermatology PA community and towards the patients they serve. Below is a summary of 2017 contributions. Each year our programs and activities are increasing thanks to the continued support of our donors and sponsors!

### FY 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

# **\$20,000** was

contributed to Americares towards disaster recovery and relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

### **\$20,000** was

contributed to the Children's Skin Disease Foundation's (CSDF) Camp Wonder to sponsor ten campers and two PA volunteers. An additional \$500 was contribute to The Wonder Run benefiting Camp Wonder.

## **\$9,500** was

contributed to the National Alopecia and Areata Foundation (NAAF) towards their efforts to find a cure. Of that \$7,500 was contributed by the DPAF and \$1,994 was raised by race participants.

Thanks to our generous corporate donors and individual contributors the DPAF was able to expand is philanthropic and educational reach in 2017.

As the DPAF looks ahead to 2018, its programs and projects are already expanding. New educational grants are underway, it's recurring programs continue gain momentum and it's contributions back to the patients community are a continuous focus.

### CORPORATE DONORS

The DPAF, its Board of Trustees, staff and constituents would like to extend a special thank you to our Corporate Donors. It is because of their generosity and support that we are able to continue our efforts to provide education, research and philanthropy to the dermatology community.

### CORPORATE DIAMOND (\$50,000+)



The Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA) is a 2,800+ member strong 501c6 non-profit professional organization composed primarily of PA

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members who provide dermatologic care or have an interest in the medical specialty of dermatology. The Dermatology PA Foundation (DPAF) is the official philanthropic arm of the SDPA. The SDPA generously contributed over \$100,000 towards the DPAF's goals and missions in 2017. Learn more about the SDPA and their programs at; **DermPA.org**, **SDPAConferences**. **org**, **HireADermPA.org** or **Dermcast.tv**.

### **CORPORATE GOLD (\$25,000)**



At Janssen Immunology, we help people take back their lives through breakthrough science. We understand the impact serious autoimmune conditions can have on peoples' lives, and work with urgency to revolutionize their treatment experience. Having pioneered one of the first biologic medications for autoimmune disease, we take pride in our rich legacy and have the scientific rigor and passion for continuing this level of innovation. Working across Rheumatology, Dermatology, and Gastroenterology, we are committed to empowering those impacted by autoimmune conditions through excellence in everything we do. Janssen Immunology is part of Janssen Biotech, Inc., and the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. Learn more at: http://www.janssen.com/ immunology

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The Georgia Dermatology Physician Assistants (GDPA)



The Illinois Society of Dermatology Physicians Assistants (ISDPA)



The Pennsylvania Dermatology Physician Assistants (PDPA)

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### THANK YOU TO OUR **2017** INDIVIDUAL DONORS!

# EDUCATION-RESEARCH-PHILANTHROPY

### **GET IN TOUCH**



#### **DERMATOLOGY PA FOUNDATION**

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Be sure to follow us on Twitter and Facebook, to stay up to date with our events and activities!

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