



American Society of
Cosmetic Dermatology
& Aesthetic Surgery

The American Society of Cosmetic Dermatology & Aesthetic Surgery (ASCDAS) Presents...

ASCDAS Physician Profile



This month, we are introducing a new feature to *Cosmetic Dermatology*®. In the coming issues, we will be highlighting ASCDAS board members to learn more about their back-

grounds, passions, and inspirations. Since this is the first profile, we thought it would be fitting to feature one of the founding members and first president of the society, **Dr. Chérie M. Ditre**.

It became apparent to me throughout my residency and practice that dermatology patients were seeking our providence for not only “sick” skin conditions, but in making their sick skin, as well as their healthy skin, look and feel better. Patients with psoriasis, rosacea, and acne, for example, are not only concerned about the medical implications of these conditions, but moreover about the way their skin appears to themselves and others. These concerns about appearance play a huge role in our patients’ psychosocial behavior and ultimately in their productivity and general welfare in society.

As dermatologists, we must not only focus on the medical aspect of our field, but also educate ourselves on the improvement of the appearance of the skin. Therefore, recognizing the need for a scientific venue dedicated to appearance-related dermatology, in 2001, I was one of the founding members and became the first president of ASCDAS. Today, our board of dermatologists’ mission of educating physicians has been actualized; in December 2006, ASCDAS celebrated its fifth annual meeting.

The next phase of our societal mission involves further evidence-based clinical research and resident

education; our society strives to push forward with this initiative. Many years ago, dermatology’s motto was, “Dermatology and Venereology/Syphilology.” With the cures and advancements of our science, this phrase has been abandoned. For now, we need to reorient our thinking so that we truly can be dermatologists for the lives of our patients’ skin—in sickness and in health.

Name: Chérie M. Ditre, MD, founding member and first president of ASCDAS

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa (the City of Brotherly Love)

College: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Medical school: University of Pennsylvania

Residency/fellowship: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (dermatology); Graduate Hospital, University of Pennsylvania (internal medicine); University of Pennsylvania (dermatology research fellowship)

Current practice: University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Penn Medicine at Radnor

Greatest accomplishment: Being able to return to my alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, and make a difference in the life of another (eg, my residents).

Most important mentor in life: My parents, Rodina and Joseph Ditre, without whom I would never be where I am. It is because of their unconditional, unwavering, and constant love and support through the many trials and tribulations of my life that I have been able to do, and by their example that I am able to be.

ASCDAS PHYSICIAN PROFILE

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the following people:

- My brother, Joseph P. Ditre, Esq, who taught me that the most important person I have to answer to is me.
- My high school Latin teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Baker, who encouraged me to keep the standard high.
- My high school friend Cathy Schneider Moran, who encouraged me to believe in myself.
- My college and medical school friend Dr. Robert Lanza, who encouraged me to take chances and reach for the stars.
- My lifelong friend Dr. Francis A.J. Kerdesky, who encouraged me into medicine.
- Dr. Leonard Perloff, who gave me my first surgical research study, and Dr. Maria Erecinska, who gave me my very first laboratory research opportunity and who taught me that women can succeed in science.
- Dr. Elliott Stellar (University of Pennsylvania Provost), who started the University Scholars program to advance studies at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Dr. John Voorhees at the University of Michigan, who taught me that one could excel at both the science and business of dermatology and who furthered my interest in cosmetic dermatology research.
- Sally Schaefer, RN, who is a true humanitarian and friend.
- Lyn McRorie, RN, who has helped me to make the practice more fulfilling.
- Dr. Ira Berman, who taught me that if it's not fatal, it's no big deal.
- Drs. Albert Kligman and Eugene Van Scott, who encouraged my thinking in cosmetic dermatology.

- And finally, Sharon Finch, publisher of *Cutis*® and *Cosmetic Dermatology*, who got ASCDAS off the ground and made this dream come true.

Favorite book, quote, or movie: I have 2 quotes that I particularly like. The first is, "Success is not final and failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that matters" (Winston Churchill). The other is, "Discovery consists in seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has thought" (Albert Szent-Gyorgi).

Favorite fun thing to do: Teaching, researching, and antique/art shopping (not necessarily in that order).

Favorite place to be or go: Home.

Best thing about being a dermatologist: The constant challenge and evolution of our medical and surgical skills and the ability to make a difference in a patient's life by employing these techniques and procedures.

Favorite cosmetic dermatology procedure: I am not sure that I have just one, but I would probably have to say chemical peels. I truly love the science of chemistry and like the idea of "applied science."

In another life, I would be...: A meteorologist, because no one hates you when you are wrong.

If I had one wish, it would be...: That I could change medicine in this constantly evolving world to better serve our patients by rekindling the spirit of scientific exploration without the bureaucracy. ■