



American Society of
Cosmetic Dermatology
& Aesthetic Surgery

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

ASCDAS Physician Profile



This month's physician profile features **Dr. Wm. Philip Werschler**, the second president of ASCDAS and Associate Editor-in-Chief of *Cosmetic Dermatology*®.

Name: Wm. Philip Werschler, MD

Hometown: I was born in Tucson, Ariz, although we moved often because my father had a career in the Air Force. My family eventually settled in Medical Lake, Wash, very close to where I currently reside.

College: Eastern Washington University, Cheney (BS, biology; BA, sociology)

Medical school: George Washington University, Washington, DC

Internship (postgraduate year 1): University of Arizona, Tucson

Fellowship (postgraduate years 2–5): George Washington University

Academic affiliation: Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine/Dermatology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle

Current practices: Spokane Dermatology Clinic, Aesthetic Image Medical Spa, Spokane, Washington

Greatest accomplishment: Right now, I would have to say it is juggling my dermatology practice, cosmetic practice, lecturing, training, teaching, writing, consulting, and advising, along with my family, fiancée, friends, and a little bit of fun, of course.

Most important mentor in life: Douglass Gwynn, PhD. He was the chair of the sociology department at Eastern Washington University and the first to recognize my skills in verbal communication, making me lecture to his introductory sociology classes. I didn't like it very much at the time. However, it set the stage for my professional career. He remains a very close and dear friend to this day. He is a brilliant man, truly a scholar, and has taught me so much about people, their interactions, and the world around us; his mind amazes me.

Favorite book, quote, or movie: "Hope is not a strategy." I am not sure who said this, but I like it because it conveys that we are in control of our future and that hard work and tenacity allow us to succeed in life.

Favorite fun thing to do: Spending time at our lake cabin in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is so beautiful and pristine, and very relaxing. Also, traveling with my kids and taking them to new places around the country. It is so much fun to experience their enthusiasm and watch their excitement while exploring, having new adventures, and learning about the world around them.

Favorite place to be or go: Home! I don't get to spend nearly enough time there anymore.

ASCDAS PHYSICIAN PROFILE

Best thing about being a dermatologist: The emotional impact we make in our patients' lives every day, from curing acne to treating skin cancer.

Favorite cosmetic dermatology procedure: Injecting. I love the concept of pan-facial sculpting with fillers and toxins; it is hard to contain my enthusiasm. With the myriad of new and unique products on the market at this time, it is very exciting to contour, redefine, and restructure the cosmetic patient's face nonsurgically. I really enjoy the artistic aspect of it. Sometimes I get friendly and gentle ridicule from my colleagues who say that I can't put the syringe down; they call me "Phil-Tox" and say, "Phil-er-up!"

In another life, I would be...: I have had a secret desire to become an attorney for some time. After living in Washington, DC, for so many years, I have developed a deep fascination and respect for the interpretation and expression of the law and the legal system in general. I was recently appointed to the judicial council of our state medical association, so I guess it is a vicarious thrill!

If I had one wish, it would be...: I am not trying to be trite, but it would really be for world peace. This is an unsettling time globally, and I pause to consider what could be accomplished if our efforts and resources were channeled in other, more humane directions. ■