

Assessing the needs of dermatology

AAD initiates membership survey

What are the most important socioeconomic issues facing dermatology today?

Is the present supply of dermatologic manpower sufficient to meet the country's health care needs?

What can help the physician to reduce the cost of practicing medicine?

These are a few of the questions that plague medicine today.

The Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology needs your opinion on the present directions and future trends of dermatology in order to plan for the orderly growth and development of the specialty.

The questions in the following membership survey were designed to solicit the opinions of Academy members on a variety of subjects that impact on the practice of dermatology.

Please review the questions and complete the answer sheet provided. This detachable answer sheet is similar to the one used for the JOURNAL CME evaluation quizzes. Please return your answer sheet to the Academy office by Nov. 15, 1980.

Thank you in advance for taking a few moments to take part in the future of the Academy and the specialty.

Socioeconomic

Directions for questions 1-5: In your opinion, what are the most important socioeconomic issues facing dermatology today? For each of the items listed below, rank in order of importance, with 1 being *least* important and 5 being *most* important.

1. Government involvement
2. Cost of care
3. Oversupply of dermatologists

4. Distribution of dermatologists
5. Direct access of patients to dermatologists

Directions for questions 6-13: Give single response.

6. A study of the practice of dermatology (*Arch Dermatol* 114:1456-1462, 1978) indicates that the mean number of outpatient encounters per week in a dermatologist's office is 136. How many outpatients do you see in a typical week?
 1. Fewer than 50
 2. 50-99
 3. 100-200
 4. 200-300
 5. 300 and above
7. The above study reports that the mean number of weekly professional hours worked by a dermatologist is 40.9. How many professional hours do you work in an average week (includes direct patient care, administration, telephoning, along with reading, teaching, or research)?
 1. Fewer than 25
 2. 25-34
 3. 35-44
 4. 45-54
 5. Greater than 55
8. How would you evaluate the supply of dermatologists in your immediate service area?
 1. Marked undersupply
 2. Slight undersupply
 3. About right
 4. Slight oversupply
 5. Excessive oversupply

9. What percentage of your patients are seen as members of a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)?
 1. 75%-100%
 2. 50%-74%
 3. 25%-49%
 4. 1%-24%
 5. None
10. What percentage of your patients are seen as members of Individual Practice Associations (IPAs)?
 1. Over 50%
 2. 26%-50%
 3. 11%-25%
 4. 1%-10%
 5. None
11. Do you maintain more than one office?
 1. Yes
 2. No
12. Do you turn away patients because you are too busy?
 1. Occasionally
 2. Frequently
 3. Never
13. Do you currently employ any type of allied health personnel (physician extender) to assist you in diagnosis or treatment?
 1. Yes
 2. No

Directions for questions 14-18: If you answered "yes" to the above question, identify the types of extenders that you employ by marking number 1 on the answer sheet for *each* position on staff.

14. Nurse practitioner
15. Physician assistant
16. Laboratory technician
17. Nurse
18. Nonprofessional trained by me

Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology

Directions for questions 19-25: For each item listed below, rate on a scale of 1 to 5 on the answer sheet, with 1 being *least* important and 5 being *most* important, the components of the JOURNAL most important to you.

19. CME articles
20. Self-Assessment quizzes
21. Clinical and laboratory reports
22. Meeting reports

23. Current issues
24. Editorials
25. Book reviews

Directions for questions 26 and 27: Give single response.

26. As part of reporting answers to CME quizzes, the Editorial staff provides a reference guide indicating where the correct answer is in the CME article. Should this reference guide be continued?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. No opinion
27. An average issue of JAAD carries 13 to 15 articles. On the average, how many do you read?
 1. 1-3
 2. 4-6
 3. 7-9
 4. 10-12
 5. All articles

Directions for questions 28-32: Using a rating scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being least useful and 5 being most useful, rate *each* of the following journals according to the amount of useful clinical information they provide for your practice.

28. *Archives of Dermatology*
29. *Cutis*
30. *International Journal of Dermatology*
31. JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY (JAAD)
32. *Journal of Dermatological Surgery and Oncology (JDS&O)*

Academy election procedures

Directions for questions 33-35: Give single response.

33. Do you favor the present election procedure whereby two candidates are presented for president-elect and two candidates for vice-president?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. No opinion
34. Do you favor an election procedure whereby two candidates are presented for president-elect with the one gaining the highest vote assuming this office and the one with the next highest vote assuming the office of vice-president?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. No opinion

35. How many candidates should be nominated for each vacancy on the Board of Directors?
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - No opinion

Academy projects

Directions for questions 36-42: For each item listed below, please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 on the answer sheet, with 1 being *least* important and 5 being *most* important, the following existing and planned Academy programs and projects.

36. Regional continuing education programs.
37. Encouragement and sponsoring of activities to develop further understanding of mechanisms of disease and the development of new therapies in dermatology.
38. Expansion of programs of public education on matters of cutaneous diseases (e.g., pamphlets, newspaper articles, radio and TV announcements).
39. Development of services that will assist and support the dermatologist in his practice (e.g., development of an Academy-sponsored service bureau to develop computer systems for office management, patient record keeping, and billing services).
40. Development of more joint educational programs and meetings with other medical societies (American College of Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, etc.).
41. Development of joint educational programs and meetings with foreign dermatologic associations.
42. Provision for Academy-sponsored courses and other information on practice management.

Annual meeting

Directions for question 43: Give single response.

43. It has been suggested that in order to minimize time away from practice the annual meeting begin Thursday A.M. and conclude Tuesday noon. Do you favor such a change in schedule?
- Yes
 - No
 - Retain present schedule (Saturday through Thursday)
 - No opinion

Directions for questions 44-50: For each item listed below, rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being

least beneficial and 5 being *most* beneficial, each of the following components of the annual meeting.

- Courses
- Symposia
- Lila Gruber lectures
- Forums
- Informal discussion groups (IDGs)
- Gross and microscopic dermatology
- Dermavision

CME meetings

Directions for questions 51-53: Give single response.

51. In addition to attending a CME meeting for its educational value, which of the following items is most important in determining your attendance? Rank in order of importance, with 1 being *least* important and 5 being *most* important.
- Recreational features
 - Fellowship
 - Earn CME credit
 - Tax benefits
 - Planned activities for spouses
52. What is your preference toward the location of a CME meeting?
- Large city
 - Local area
 - Resort area
 - Uncertain
53. What is your preference toward a specific site for a CME meeting?
- Major hotel
 - Medical school
 - Hospital
 - Conference center
 - Convention hall

Malpractice insurance

Directions for questions 54 and 55: Give single response.

54. Should the Academy undertake the development and sponsorship of a nationwide malpractice insurance program for Academy members?
- Yes
 - No
 - No opinion

55. If you answered "yes" to the above question, what type of plan do you favor?

1. Excess professional liability
2. Umbrella professional liability
3. Both

Public perception of dermatology

Directions for questions 56-58: For each item listed below, rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating *strong disagreement* and 5 indicating *strong agreement*, your opinion and perception of the following statements.

56. The general public has a strong understanding of dermatology and will visit a dermatologist for proper skin care and treatment.
57. The general public has a positive image of dermatology as a medical specialty.
58. There is a need to improve health education among schoolchildren as it pertains to skin and hair.

Business management

Directions for questions 59 and 60: Give single response.

59. If you are utilizing a computer service to do patient billing, what is your average monthly cost for such service?

1. Less than \$500
2. \$501 to \$1,000
3. \$1,001 to \$1,500
4. \$1,501 to \$2,500
5. Over \$2,500

60. Please indicate in which of the following you spend at least 50% of your professional time.

1. Solo practice
2. Group practice
3. Research
4. Academic institution
5. Government