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Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal

“The practice of medicine is an art, not a trade: a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head. Often the best part of your work will have nothing to do with the powders or potions, but with the exercise of an influence of the strong upon the weak, the righteous upon the wicked, the wise upon the foolish.”

— *William Osler*

The Dermanities Journal is a free, online journal for dermatologists and non-dermatologists, for medical students, residents as well as other health professionals, patients and their families.

This Journal, conceived by David Elpern MD, of Williamstown, Massachusetts, formerly of Kauai, and Benjamin Barankin MD, a dermatology resident of Edmonton, Alberta, aims to enrich Dermatology as well as the entire medical community by emphasizing patient care, physician experiences, as well as the interplay of medicine with the social and psychological sciences.

Elpern and Barankin conceived of Dermanities when they noticed the lack of coverage of the humanities and patient care in the dermatology literature. They publish four issues online annually and often publish “rough” articles after peer and editorial reviews as they become available. All of this is free, but a voluntary contribution of \$25 or more is asked to cover expenses. Contact dermanities@yahoo.com for more support information.

I was aware of the online plans for dermanities.com two years ago when David Elpern asked me to submit a “Dermography,” a biography and philosophical thoughts on my practice and about medicine in general. The first dermatography was by Walter B. Shelly MD, on February 10, 2003, and the second by Albert M. Kligman MD on May 20, 2003, two giants of dermatology.

At the recent Hot Spots in Dermatology 2003 meeting held on Maui, Ben Barankin spoke about the present status and the future plans for Dermanities as well as the Alliance for Humane Dermatology, a repository of physician and patient communication, book and movie review, web links and conference planners. The Alliance and

www.dermanities.com

The Journal of Dermatology, the Humanities and the Social Sciences

its sister online journal, Dermanities, focus on physician-patient encounters through emphasis of psychology, sociology, and anthropology with essays, humor, poetry, and the shared wisdom of the global community. This is a journal not just for dermatologists, but for all in the medical community.

When you want a stimulating break away from your charts, EKGs and lab reports, log onto dermanities.com.



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