

— Editorial

THE EVOLUTION OF THE DERMATOLOGIST AND OF DERMATOLOGY PER SE

For those of us who had the opportunity to learn from our teachers that diagnosis was based on our knowledge, our eyes, and the aid of a magnifying glass and that treatment was established according to our therapeutic judgment for each condition it is undeniable that time has not passed in vain. Little by little, dermatopathology, imaging techniques, dermoscopy, confocal microscopy, laboratory techniques that allow for accurate diagnosis of various infectious diseases, and, needless to say, advances in immunohistochemistry and oncologic and genetic research have all become deeply involved with current dermatological pathology.

Laser therapy, for example, which began with Albert Einstein's theory of stimulated emission introduced in 1916 and was first used in dermatology by Leonard Goldman in 1963 for the treatment of melanoma, today extends not only into the realm of dermatological pathology therapy but also into the field of cosmetic dermatology and the treatment of conditions such as vitiligo, psoriasis, pigmentation disorders, skin aging, and many other alterations increasingly addressed within the scope of laser therapy. Light-based therapies undoubtedly have distinctive dermatological brilliance. Cutaneous pharmacotherapy has evolved significantly, and today we see biological medicine attempting to find every disease it can act upon—often with excellent results, although time will determine its true value. In the field of aesthetics, chemical peels, fractional radiofrequency, light sources such as ablative and non-ablative lasers—which gained greater safety and efficiency with the advent of selective photothermolysis—hair therapies, and all treatments aimed at skin maintenance and rejuvenation, involving various devices and a wide range of injectable substances such as hyaluronic acid and biostimulators, seek to achieve the longed-for skin rejuvenation. Ultimately, all these advances in one field or another aim not only to prolong patients' lives but also to enhance their appearance and joy of living. This has made it essential for the dermatologist and the aesthetic dermatologist to increasingly engage with the study of these innovations if they wish to have the opportunity to use them for the benefit of their patients.

That is why dermatology postgraduate programs must align all these new therapeutic advancements within their teaching curriculum, if they wish to train dermatologists who are attuned to knowledge and research. The intricate path of dermatology must be cleared with the desire to advance and with the knowledge acquired—without forgetting, as William Osler once said: *"Medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability."*

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