



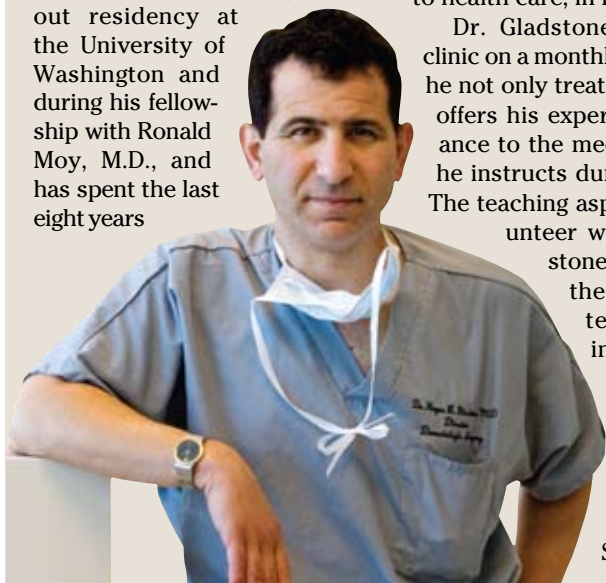
# Members Making a Difference

## Dermatologic surgeon treats cancers at free clinic

By John Carruthers

Stanford dermatologic surgeon and American Academy of Dermatology member Hayes Gladstone, M.D., was raised to believe that society has a collective responsibility to provide care as best it can for its more unfortunate members. He regularly puts this ethos into practice, both traveling the world to provide Mohs surgery to skin cancer patients in underserved countries and taking care of the homeless population in his own backyard through his work at a student-run health clinic.

When Dr. Gladstone was a medical student at the University of Rochester, he helped to start another student-run free care clinic. He continued to participate in similar efforts throughout residency at the University of Washington and during his fellowship with Ronald Moy, M.D., and has spent the last eight years



volunteering at the student-run Arbor Clinic at Stanford, making sure that patients on the lowest economic rung of society receive the expert care that he feels they deserve.

"There are a lot of less fortunate people who don't have the insurance to get care through normal means, and we don't want them to fall between the cracks. After helping start this type of clinic and participating in one in residency, and now working in one during my years at Stanford, these clinics are really a reflection of the failure of our health care system. In theory, they shouldn't need to exist. People should have access to health care, in my opinion."

Dr. Gladstone attends the clinic on a monthly basis, where he not only treats patients, but offers his expertise and guidance to the medical students he instructs during the week. The teaching aspect of his volunteer work, Dr. Gladstone said, is one of the most consistently rewarding aspects of his time at the clinic.

"I end up teaching Stanford undergrads and Stanford medi-

cal students, and they're always excited about dermatology, and that we're able to help the patients," he said. "It's rewarding, being able to teach medical students and Stanford undergraduates who are all whip-smart and excited and want to learn about dermatology and just understand that it's important to take care of this population."

Even with the care of experienced dermatologists, Dr. Gladstone says that treatment for many of the patients who attend his clinic proves challenging, as well as occasionally futile. The ever-important follow-up care, he said, is often not possible for patients with such unpredictable and difficult lifestyles.

"We try to follow up with them — we make appointments and we follow up to make sure that everything is okay with them, but it's difficult. With the medication, we have samples, but many times they can't afford any type of medication," Dr. Gladstone said. "There have been a couple of times where I've actually just given them money so that they could purchase the medication. How can you have someone who needs something for a bad rash, or an antibiotic and they can't afford it, and we don't have samples, what are we supposed to do? There have been a couple times — I wish it

could be more — that I've given them money under the table."

Despite recurring challenges and occasional setbacks, Dr. Gladstone finds his time at the Arbor Clinic to be very rewarding on a personal level.

"This is really the only time I practice medical dermatology. My work at Stanford is

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all surgical. I've picked up a number of skin cancers. It's kind of a thrill to still be able to do medical dermatology and see fascinating rashes and pick up skin cancer. I've picked up some bad skin cancers, which have gotten that bad just because the patient didn't have

the access to care, so that was rewarding," Dr. Gladstone said. "A lot of these conditions may not be able to be resolved just because we lose them to follow up. At least with the skin cancers I've diagnosed, I can follow up. I can see them at Stanford, or I can get them to county hospital and they can be taken care of."

Aside from his work with the Arbor Clinic, Dr. Gladstone is also highly involved with the Blade and Light society, a collaborative group of dermatologic surgeons that provides dermatologic care to severely underserved areas around the world. His work with the group has taken him to a variety of far-flung locales in order to provide Mohs surgery to patients who would otherwise go untreated.

"We usually go to countries where there are no Mohs surgeons at all. This is the underserved as well, but there's more of a focus on surgery. We do lectures for the local dermatologists, and we do about 20-something patients each," he said. "We work hard, but it's an extraordinarily rewarding experience. These people would never be treated — we've been told that. They'd never have had their skin cancers treated if we hadn't come and done the Mohs surgery." •

Hayes Gladstone, M.D., volunteers at a student-run clinic at Stanford University, treating skin cancer patients who might otherwise be left untreated.

The American Academy of Dermatology's Volunteerism Committee is interested in receiving information about volunteer activities by AAD members. If you or a colleague has been involved in ongoing volunteer efforts serving the profession or its patients, please submit the name of the individual, contact information, and a description of 50 words or less of his or her activities to the Committee via e-mail at [volunteer@aad.org](mailto:volunteer@aad.org). Subjects for *Dermatology World's* "Members Making a Difference" column may be selected from among the names submitted.



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