



The Association of Professors of Dermatology Urges Public Health Expertise and Science to Guide Prompt COVID-19 Pandemic Management

July 30, 2020

The Association of Professors of Dermatology (APD) is the recognized leadership organization of academic dermatology in the United States. The Association and its almost 700 members most strongly urge all levels of government to utilize the scientific consensus amongst the expert public health community, including, but not limited to Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Robert R. Redfield, Director of the Center for Disease Control, Dr. Deborah Birx, Dr. Jerome Adams and Dr. Francis Collins, members of the White House Task Force to formulate a plan to rapidly, aggressively and effectively address the public health emergency caused by the current pandemic.

As dermatologists, we deal with the cutaneous manifestations and complications of COVID-19 infection on a daily basis. We are painfully aware of the magnitude of the morbidity and mortality afflicting the American population from infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease. Most disturbingly, this is disproportionately affecting racial and ethnic minority groups. At this point, more than 140,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. Many dermatology patients suffer from autoimmune disorders for which they take medications that may increase their risk for the development of severe complications from SARS-COV-2.

Our Association is unequivocally convinced that the best way to combat the pandemic is with evidence-based treatments and prevention practices that follow from the available and developing science. As COVID-19 cases, severe illnesses and deaths are surging throughout most of the United States, the Officers and Board of Directors of the APD emphatically recommend that government at all levels, including the Federal government, mobilize the resources and take the actions necessary, based on science, to protect the health and well-being of the entire American population at this critical time.

The APD Mission: *To advance dermatology through exceptional education, science, and clinical care.*

Contact: admin@dermatologyprofessors.org