

**Position Statement
on
Dermatology Residency and Fellowship Training Nomenclature Exclusivity for
U.S. Based Dermatology Residents and/or Fellows
(Approved by the Board of Directors: May 18, 2019)**

Education of physicians and non-physician clinicians is entirely different. Physicians undergo rigorous training programs that have been accredited by various agencies. Historically the terms “residency training” and “fellowship training” have been used to indicate physician training. This lexicon has become standard across the medical profession. There have been individuals/programs that are training non-physician clinicians in “advanced practice residencies” or “advanced practice fellowships.” These programs are not formally recognized nor standardized in their training. This labeling is misleading to the general public as it portrays a level of training that has not been established. It is the position of the AAD that the term “residency” in reference to training in dermatology apply only to allopathic and osteopathic physicians (MD’s and DO’s) trained in Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) accredited residency training programs and that the term “fellowship” in reference to clinical or research training in dermatology apply only to MD’s and DO’s so trained.

This Position Statement is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It is intended to offer physicians guiding principles and policies regarding the practice of dermatology. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal or medical standard of care. Physicians should use their personal and professional judgment in interpreting these guidelines and applying them to the particular circumstances of their individual practice arrangements.