

THE WOMAN DERMATOLOGIST

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The twentieth century is prosperous for women. They are increasingly participating and assuming greater responsibilities around the world. Women also have succeeded in getting more higher educations. They are attracted to professions like nursing and medicine.

Medical schools are having the most intellectuals of higher schools graduates and those who succeed in becoming doctors are the cleverest.

Dermatology as a branch of medicine has become one of the most attractive subjects especially after the advances in the branch of cosmetology. It allures women's doctors. The importance of cosmetic appearance has been more emphasized these days.

Dermatology is increasingly sifting out from the qualified doctors, those who wish to continue in practice. Dermatology is compatible with bringing up a family. It is a model of how women can cope with a professional career. Within that specialty, numerous women are tempted to become top doctors.

The number of women choosing dermatology as their specialty is on the rise. This is quite evident in Ain-Shams University, one of the largest universities in Cairo, the capital of Egypt. The department of dermatology and venereology in the year 1962 had 8 staff members; out of them there was just one female dermatologist and the remaining 7, were men dermatologists. During a 40 years period, in the year 2002, the staff members within the same department had

been increased to 55 dermatologists, 26 were women and 29 men. This increase in the percentage of women dermatologists, from 12.5 percent in the year 1962 to 47 percent in the year 2002, shows evidently that within the last 40 years the number of women dermatologists in Egypt had vastly increased and approaching the number of male dermatologists. The same is happening in other places all over the world, according to recent studies conducted by the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA). Overall, the percentage of female practicing dermatology increased from 18 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 2002, reports the AADA's 2002 Dermatology Practice Profile Survey. Again it was reported in the United State that women make up an even greater percentage of new dermatologists entering practice. In 2002, 57 percent of the respondents to the Resident Workforce Issues Survey were women, up from 52 percent in 1999.

This clearly denotes the attraction of dermatology to women doctors and its suitability as a practice. There is still an understanding trend for women to fulfill the majority of the childcare and household duties.

As the number of women dermatologists is progressively increasing over the years, we thought of having a society in Egypt for women dermatologists. The society was not only planned to be scientific, but its activity was extended to include charity programs, health services and social activities.

Since the beginning of the Egyptian

Women's Dermatologic Society (EWDS) in 1991, we had a yearly international scientific meeting. We had also joint meetings with the international society of dermatopathology, the second and third regional dermatopathology colloquium held in Cairo, in the years 1992 and 1995 respectively. These are in addition to diverse scientific symposia in dermatology, around the year.

We hope to enrich our yearly meetings and to have a tripartite meeting, the EWDS, with

the Women's Dermatologic Society in the United State of America, which had been well, established many years ago and the European Women's Dermatologic Society, which are just few years old. Looking forward to get this achievement in the near future.

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