

Interactive Cosmetic Education Continues to Receive Enthusiastic Feedback

Over 80 dermatology residents gathered in Dallas, Texas, on April 17-19 for the 2026 ASDS Premier Annual Resident Cosmetic Symposium. Educational topics spanned a variety of cosmetic procedures, device overviews, live patient assessments, anatomy demonstrations, hands-on training and interactive discussions. Each resident received up to \$300 as a reimbursement towards their expenses to attend.

The [Premier Annual Resident Cosmetic Symposium](#) was created in 2015 to provide dermatology residents with additional training on cosmetic dermatologic procedures, a common gap in many program curricula.

The 2026 course helped dermatology residents and post-residency fellows-in-training relate the principles of facial anatomy, symmetry, diverse aesthetic ideals, patient assessment and aging to minimally invasive cosmetic procedures and therapies. The content addressed widespread aesthetic concerns, such as wrinkles, volume loss, skin tightening, skin rejuvenation and resurfacing, jowling, the aging neck and facial / body contouring.

Through interactive teaching elements, the expert faculty shared case studies, identified danger zones and described how to minimize and manage complications. They also discussed the science of skin care, career paths and fielded questions in an "Ask Me Anything" panel discussion. Additionally, attendees received access to bonus on-demand content for facial anatomy, cosmeceuticals, hair loss and sclerotherapy.

Course Evaluation

The residents' feedback was very positive, with many commenting on the value of receiving real-time feedback from the faculty and learning from their extensive experience. Their evaluations rated the course at 4.9 out of 5, with 100% of attendees agreeing that the content was relevant to their educational needs. All evaluations indicated the course improved their competence. 97% felt the educational format was conducive to learning and appropriate for the content, while 90% felt the education was free of commercial bias.

This enthusiastic feedback validates the importance of offering engaging, interactive cosmetic dermatology education to new dermatologists who are eager to expand their skillset and get hands-on practice that will ensure optimal outcomes and safeguard patients' health.

Expert Faculty

- Thomas Rohrer, MD, Co-Director
- Susan Weinkle, MD, Co-Director
- Kimberly Butterwick, MD
- Sue Ellen Cox, MD
- Deirdre Hooper, MD
- Omar Ibrahimi, MD, PhD
- Rebecca Kazin, MD
- Kavita Mariwalla, MD
- Kristel Polder, MD
- E. Victor Ross, MD
- Jennifer Rullan, MD
- Nazanin Saedi, MD



ASDS Resident Representative Nisrine Kawa, MD, served as the on-site reporter, capturing photos, videos and interviewing attendees and faculty.



Passport Winners

The Passport game provided a fun activity that encouraged attendees to visit all 10 exhibitor booths and get a stamp on their "passport." Once completed, attendees received a complimentary physical copy of the [Cosmeceutical Compendium](#) (value of \$169) – which helps bridge the gap in dermatologic education about the ingredients in over-the-counter products – and [ResQ flashcards](#) to help prepare for the American Board of Dermatology's certification.

- **Complimentary Registration to Energy-Based Devices Resident Workshop** – Elizabeth Dao, MD; Renee Haughton, MD; Jennifer Su, MD
- **Complimentary "How I Do It: Lasers" On-Demand Course** – Laila Abbas, MD
- **Complimentary "How I Do It: Injectables" On-Demand Course** – Sidney Harrison, MD



Generous Corporate Support

Attendees engaged in a dynamic selection of sponsor-supported educational sessions, gaining valuable insights into emerging trends, in-depth perspectives on cosmeceuticals and strategic approaches to partnering with industry to enhance their practices. ASDS extends its sincere appreciation to Galderma, L'Oréal Dermatologic Beauty and ZO Skin Health for their contributions in delivering impactful on-site education.

ASDS
American Society for
Dermatologic Surgery
resident symposium

ASDS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRY PARTNERS FOR THIS SYMPOSIUM

DIAMOND		PLATINUM
GALDERMA EST. 1981	L'ORÉAL Dermatological Beauty	Allergan Aesthetics an AbbVie company
GOLD		SILVER
MERZ AESTHETICS*	ZO SKIN HEALTH	CYNOLURE LUTRONIC
BRONZE		

ASDS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING GRANT PROVIDERS FOR THIS SYMPOSIUM

"It was a life-changing experience for me! This conference is a catalyst for career growth, opening doors to new opportunities that can change the trajectory of your career. I wouldn't miss it for anything! Everyone is so approachable, and the dermatology community truly feels like a family!" — Valeria Gonzalez-Molina, MD



Drs. Kavita Mariwalla, Kimberly Butterwick and Jennifer Rullan led the small group breakout session, "Hands-on: Injectables Tools, Dilutions, Reconstitution."



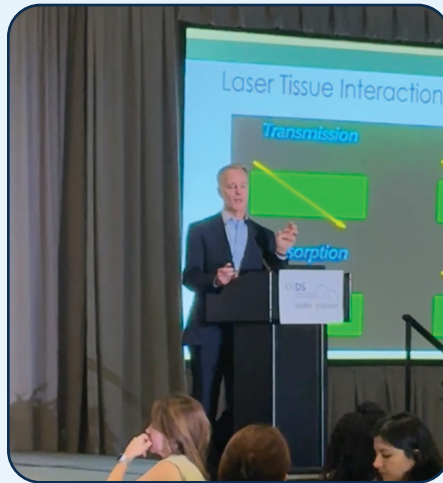
Susan Weinkle, MD, led the Symposium's first session, a deep dive into "Visualizing Injectable Anatomy" with a live patient demonstration.



RESIDENT CORNER



Kristel Polder, MD, co-led the small group breakout session, "Hands-on Injection Techniques With Needles and Cannulas."



Thomas Rohrer, MD, began the Saturday agenda with a presentation on "Laser Physics."

"This course provided great exposure to parts of procedural dermatology I didn't even know existed and broadened my understanding of what is possible in my career." — Paul Vance, DO

"Everything was great. I loved how open the faculty were to questions. The case based learning on Sunday morning and the injection demos were my favorite."

— Jonwei Hwang, MD



Lauren Truax, MD



Residents were able to meet with corporate supporters like Acclaro to learn about new products and services.



First-year residents from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (from left: Drs. L. Lourdes Lopez, Dana Pham Hua, Felix Yang, Sama Alazawi and Sidney Harrison).

"The Symposium has inspired me to integrate more procedures and devices into my practice. There were so many pearls from hands-on assessment, technique and complication management. Seeing how various dermatologists with years of experience performing these procedures is invaluable. Hearing their stories and experiences in their career is so helpful in addition to the didactic information, as it shows me that there is so much potential with room to grow and evolve in my career." — Kayla Fourzali, MD

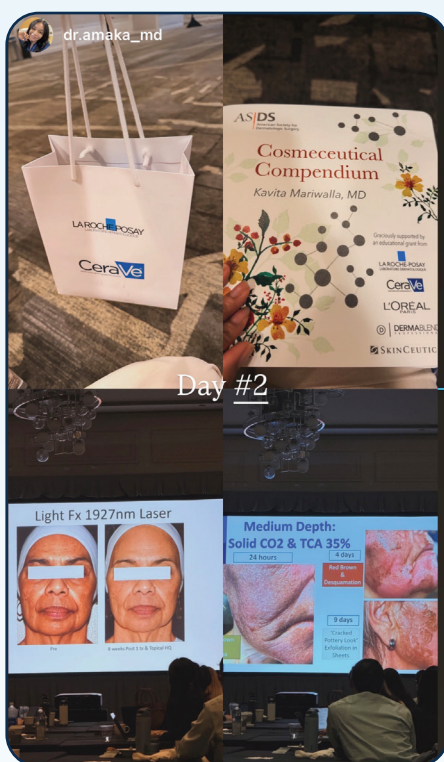


Drs. Susan Weinkle and Sue Ellen Cox led the small group breakout session: "Patient Assessment and Case Studies: Injectables."



From left: Drs. Margaret Kreher, Kavita Mariwalla, Gabrielle Schwartzman and Sarah Millan

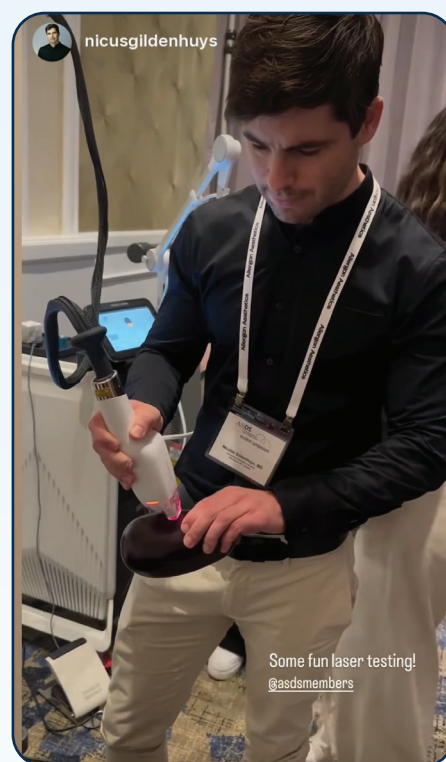
"Everything about this conference was high yield. The lectures were all taught at a level that was appropriate for residents, and the live demonstrations were incredibly useful and well curated. My favorite sessions were the expert panels because it was so helpful to hear different perspectives on topics like early career private vs PE and how partnerships with industry can be helpful. The hands-on stations allowed us to practice what we learned the day before. Best conference I have ever been to."—Maham Ahmad, MD



Chiamaka Okorie, MD, shared her experience on Instagram.



Drs. Renee Copeland and Jennifer Su posted to their residency program's social media.



Nicolas Gildenhuys, MD, tested a laser on an eggplant.

"Attending the Symposium transformed my understanding of cosmetic dermatology from a perceived adjunct into a rigorous, high-stakes and intellectually grounded component of dermatologic practice. Overall, the Symposium enhanced my clinical judgment and confidence, while motivating me to seek structured training opportunities and advocate for stronger cosmetic dermatology education within my program." — Reina Gonzalez Barreto, MD