



Women in Medicine

September is our month to celebrate women in medicine, and celebrate we did! Many thanks to Drs. Alexandra Dresel and Matt Lovitt for opening their beautiful home and sponsoring the DCMS Women in Medicine (WIM) event for 2019—The Sip & Shop Soiree. By all reports it was a spectacular success and set a high bar for DCMS events to come.

Congratulations to the DCMS Women in Medicine Forum, chaired by Dr. Sue Bornstein, for planning this wonderful event. Our Forum members this year are Drs. Hania Alaidroos, Greta Brodsky, Chevelle Brudey, Donna Casey, Alexandra Dresel, Michelle Ho, Temple Howell-Stampley, and Angela Moemeka. Earlier this year they conducted a survey to assess DCMS women's interest in a wide range of topics with work/life balance, career options, and leadership opportunities topping the list. The poll showed a desire for networking and social opportunities and also noted the need for a mentorship program for female medical students and residents. And, that men were welcome as long as they share the WIM objectives. Based on these survey results, the Forum set out to create a signature event to entice the participation of our female physicians.

Dr. Dresel volunteered the use of her private home, which made for a welcoming location. Dr. Donna Casey

used her contacts with the NorthPark marketing department to help sponsor the event, which they enthusiastically agreed to do. As the presenting sponsor, NorthPark coordinated with the retailers—Diptyque, Eiseman's Jewelers, Fresh Skincare, Longchamp, Nordstrom, Oliver Peoples, Season 52 and Stuart Weitzman—to set up a shopping extravaganza in the backyard. Wine was donated by Classic Wine Storage. Alexandra and Matt arranged for catered pizza, prepared and cooked onsite, and music by a local DJ. Each attendee was given a raffle ticket for prizes donated by DCMS Circle of Friends members and NorthPark retailers. The raffle prizes were a huge hit!

Some 70 women physicians attended and enjoyed shopping with the retailers while wining and dining and visiting with each other. According to Dr. Bornstein, it was a special gathering not only because it was well attended, but because there was good representation of many medical specialties, practice types, and various regions of Dallas County. They really got to know their colleagues on a different level. There was also much energy and enthusiasm for planning a similar event next year and NorthPark indicated they would be happy to help again. What a great recruiting tool this event could be!

We have come a long way since Dr. Lee Ann Pearse established the DCMS Women in Medicine Forum during her presidency in 2016 and, without

question, we still have a long way to go. The ratio of men to women physicians at both DCMS and TMA is still about 2:1 even though enrollment ratios at UT Southwestern and medical schools around the country have moved closer to 1:1. We need to recruit these new women if we are to remain an inclusive body representing all physicians. Last year the TMA created its Women in Medicine section to give female physicians better TMA representation and leadership opportunities.

There is much work to do regarding the issues of not only leadership, but also compensation and opportunity gaps for women physicians. And, we all need to be sensitive to, and vigilant to recognize, gender bias and sexual harassment and eliminate them from our workplaces. I am optimistic and hopeful that together we will continue to make medicine better for all physicians. Thanks to our DCMS Women in Medicine Forum, we are definitely on our way to meeting that goal. **DMJ**



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