

Award Winners

Marianne Tawa Receives Candela Dermatology NIWI Award

Marianne C. Tawa, MSN, RN, ANP, received the Candela Corporation Dermatology Nursing in Washington Award at DNA's 23rd Annual Convention in New Orleans in February 2005. She is a nurse practitioner in cutaneous oncology and dermatology, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA.



Marianne C. Tawa (center) accepts the 2005 Candela Corporation Dermatology Nurse in Washington Award from 2004-05 DNA President Robin Weber (r) and from Candela representative Annette Goins.

The purpose of the award is to enable a DNA member to participate in the Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) program in Washington, DC. Marianne detailed her experiences at the 3-day internship in the September/October 2005 issue of *Focus*. She received a \$2,000 educational grant provided by Candela Corporation to cover the costs associated with attending the NIWI program.

Marianne has been involved in dermatology for over 10 years and has been a DNA member for over 9. She has served on numerous DNA committees and other volunteer activities. She is a clinical instructor and a frequent lecturer.

"Marianne brings intelligence, dedication, and a love of the profession to her role as a dermatology nurse," notes Maryellen Maguire-Eisen, MSN, RN, CS, OCN, executive director, Sun Protection Foundation. "In every professional experience that I have shared with Marianne, I found her to have the highest moral and ethical standards and strong work ethic. She is a competent nurse and superb educator."

"Marianne has worked hard and effectively on behalf of the DNA for several years. She is part of the reason we have succeeded in offering quality services to our members," explains Robin Weber, MN, RN, FNP, DNC, former DNA president. "Marianne has reached across many barriers to work with all segments of our organization and she shares her knowledge freely and skillfully with our members."

Congratulations Marianne. We look forward to your expertise and guidance in your continued service to the DNA membership.

New Nurse Educational Scholarship Awarded to Olga Munoz



Olga Munoz (r) received the 2005 New Nurse Educational Scholarship from 2004-05 DNA President Robin Weber.

Olga Munoz, CMA, was awarded the New Nurse Educational Scholarship at DNA's 2005 Annual Convention earlier this year in New Orleans. The purpose of the award is to encourage DNA associate members to become an LPN/LVN or an RN. Olga received a \$2,000 educational grant from DNA to assist in her pursuit of a nursing degree.

Olga has been a dermatologic medical assistant for 10 years, and is currently employed at the Texas Dermatology Psoriasis & Photomedicine Clinic, Dallas. She is experienced in Mohs' surgery, phlebotomy, psoriasis, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, and cosmetic dermatology. She is pursuing an associate's degree in nursing at Navarro College, Waxahachie, TX. She plans to obtain a bachelor's degree, then become a nurse practitioner.

"Some of the unique and delightful characteristics about Olga are her humor, her work ethic, and her tender heart. She is always the first at work each morning, and the first to volunteer for the difficult duties and extra days," relates Melodie Young, MSN, RN, A/GNP, DNA president-elect. "She is the person the staff turns to for questions about procedures, patient issues, and leadership regarding a multitude of issues. Patients know her by name and ask for her specifically whether it is for an appointment or a little TLC."

"Words can not convey the responsibility and compassion that Olga has for patients," explains Jennifer Clay Cather, MD, of the Texas Dermatology Psoriasis & Photomedicine Clinic. "In our practice we have patients from all socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. Olga treats all patients with the same degree of respectful care....When Olga finishes her degree, the DNA will enjoy more of the exceptional qualities I have come to appreciate in this unique individual."

Congratulations Olga. Best of luck in school and thank you for your commitment to dermatology patients.