

David C. Leach Award



Named to honor the ACGME's former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997-2007), and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident/fellow-led projects and innovations.



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About the Project:

"When the recent Novel Coronavirus pandemic hit our world and our communities, the need for our patients and staff to minimize face-to-face interaction became paramount. However, the need to evaluate and treat our more than 300 patients per week did not cease. Dr. Lezanski was tasked with starting an asynchronous store and forward telemedicine department to be utilized by our seven staff and 18 residents with 48 hours' notice. She was able to create templates, handouts, and set up the online infrastructure to support this task with ease."

"When it was clear that the country was moving beyond just "social distancing" and that there would be significant changes to the way we interact as Americans for the foreseeable future, Dr. Lezanski-Gudja, knowing there were more than 75 patients scheduled for Monday, realized that both caregivers and patients would be at great risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. In less than one day, Dr. Lezanski-Gujda created a program and work-flow plan with step-by-step instructions for residents and faculty alike to shift as many possible face-to-face appointments to telehealth appointments. She and her fellow residents, with the help of the nursing staff, all called each patient to redirect them to telehealth, if possible. The next day, she reduced the number of in-person visits to 10, saving lives of both patients and care givers and contributing to the Surgeon General's imperative of flattening the curve. "Dr. Lezanski-Gudja did in one day what we as a faculty failed to do in my ten years here- initiate a telehealth service, ultimately benefiting both residents and patients alike."

"Because of Dr. Lezanski's quick initiative, our face-to-face encounters were reduced by over 66% within the first week. This will amount to hundreds of patients per week staying out of our hospital, allowing us to see and triage those affected by this contagious virus. Our patients have

expressed gratitude that their dermatology issues can be handled safely and confidentially from the comfort of their home.”

“Dr. Lezanski's tele-dermatology program has been so successful, that she has been contacted by numerous dermatology and non-dermatology programs within the military healthcare system and has trained their providers to utilize this system which will impact thousands of patients throughout the world during this time of crisis and beyond.”