

Emery A. Wilson Academic Enrichment Program

Dear Emery A. Wilson Program Committee,

Thank you for your support of the Dermatology Interest Group and our community outreach mission. With the grant we received, we were able to purchase a portable projector!

We would like to comment for a moment on the technical specifications of this projector. After receiving the grant we did some additional research into different types of projectors to ensure we purchased one that would best suit our needs. After much deliberation, we decided on an Epson 5200. These are some of our favorite features:

- It has a 1024 x 768 pixel display, which creates a crisp bright picture.
- It can adjust to display at different heights and sizes.
- It is compact and lightweight, which are two attributes that are a big help as we carry in the signs, brochures, flyers, and portable skin analyzer that make up the rest of our equipment.
- The projector has the capability to play audio through built in speakers, which is useful when showing the short movie about skin cancers.
- Best of all, it is “plug and play,” meaning that unlike projectors that require a specific and often cryptic key sequence to sync with the computer, this one connects with any computer and instantly and automatically projects the image on the screen. This may sound like a small issue, but it is a major victory when you consider the number of different Dermatology Interest Group members we hope will use this machine in the years to come.

One of the first events to benefit from our new projector was an evening seminar for local high school kids. Six College of Medicine students donated their Friday night to helping spread the word about sun safety, skin protection, and skin cancer. The projector was an immediate success! We were able to set up our entire presentation in less than 5 minutes, and were then able to devote the remainder of our time to talking with the kids about facts and myths of sun exposure, signs of sun damage, and the nature of skin cancers. With our improved ability to clearly illustrate concepts like the ABC's of melanoma, the teens were some of the most interactive participants we have ever had. This give-and-take type atmosphere was great for our leaders too, as it got the ball rolling for some excellent and enjoyable teaching experiences.

This projector represents a major advancement in our resources for community outreach. As such, we have elected to create a new position in our group for the Chair (or currently Co-Chairs) of Community Outreach. These two COM students are working closely with the Dermatology Interest Group members to plan outreach events open to all College of Medicine students. In addition, we have been able to expand some opportunities to include undergraduate students interested in learning more about medical careers. Since there are other interest groups run by College of Medicine students that would benefit from the use of a projector at certain community events as well, our executive board has and will continue to share our blessing to meet those requests.

Moving forward, we have several projects on the horizon that are sure to benefit from our new projector. We would like to tell you about one in particular: we recently launched a new program called Sun Savvy, in which we reach out to UK undergraduate students with information about protecting our skin from sun damage. In addition to providing another layer of teaching experience for College of Medicine students, this has been a great way for our student-leaders to build a mentoring partnership with undergraduate students interested in health careers. In the beginning stages, our main visual aids for this event have been two posters and flyers. Clearly, our new projector will bring a whole other dimension to our presentations, one that will really enhance our message. With that in mind, we are eagerly anticipating 'Sun Savvy Summer'!

On a final note, we would like to thank you again for your generous contribution to our community outreach efforts. It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Members of the Dermatology Interest Group