

Cutting a niche

Pioneer in laser technology also accomplished Mohs surgeon

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New York — Roy G. Geronemus, M.D., made his mark in dermatology before actually becoming a dermatologist.

While he was a fourth-year medical student at University of Miami School of Medicine, Dr. Geronemus wrote a paper, still quoted today, on the use of topical antibiotics and the rate of wound healing.

The success of that paper (Geronemus RG, Mertz PM, Eaglestein WH. Wound healing. The effects of topical antimicrobial agents. *Arch Dermatol.* 1979 Nov;115(11):1311-4.), and the fact that Dr. Geronemus got the sense during his rotations that dermatologists were happier than most

CO₂ lasers," Dr. Geronemus says.

The dermatologist is not only drawn to exploring the interaction between light and tissue, but he also has a strong interest in Mohs surgery. In a sense, he says, he had split professional lives: using the Mohs surgical practice and, at the same time, developing the laser program, providing clinical services to patients in New York and conducting clinical studies.

In addition to the pulsed dye laser, Dr. Geronemus had the opportunity to work with other lasers as they became available in the early clinical phase.

"By having the opportunity to work with these devices early on, there were multiple turning points in my practice, with one breakthrough after another as the

enjoyed reconstructive surgery and using his hands.

More recently he has been devoting his time to clinical studies utilizing fractional resurfacing lasers (Fraxel, Reliant Technologies; light emitting diodes and newer vascular lasers).

"I think in having a large clinical practice and being in a highly visible environment like New York, you have the opportunity to treat a wide variety and a large number of patients, so you learn basically how far one can push the envelope and what the potential compli-

cally. Nonablative laser technology has helped to fuel the cosmetic surge in the field, and Dr. Geronemus continues to pioneer the use of budding technologies, such as the Fraxel Laser.

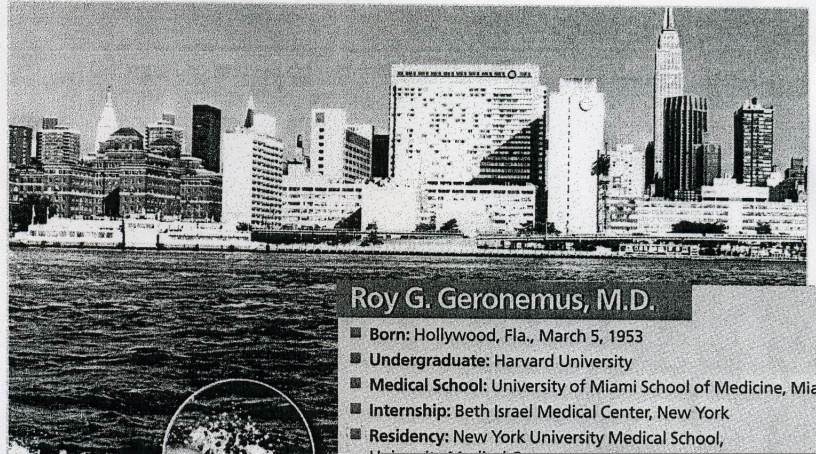
On a personal note

A New Yorker at heart, Dr. Geronemus says his personal experience on September 11 remains clear in his mind. His practice is not far from where the Twin Towers fell.

"We were working that day. We went over to the NYU and Bellevue hospitals



Dr. Geronemus



Roy G. Geronemus, M.D.

- **Born:** Hollywood, Fla., March 5, 1953
- **Undergraduate:** Harvard University
- **Medical School:** University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami
- **Internship:** Beth Israel Medical Center, New York
- **Residency:** New York University Medical School, New York