

A Woman You Should Know Dr Amy Derick—Most Likely to Succeed!



“Motivation, sense of purpose, commitment to excellence!”

Her father woke her up with these words every morning before school. Dr. Amy Derick was taught from a young age that school was her job. “My focus on studies and participation in sports took up all my time,” she says. When she wasn’t studying, she was participating in soccer, volleyball or cheer leading. It paid off. She was named “most likely to succeed” when she graduated from William Fremd High School in 1994.

Succeed she did. She was accepted to the University of Notre Dame as a Notre Dame Scholar and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in pre-medicine *summa cum laude*. She then attended the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, where she decided she wanted to be a dermatologist, and received her medical degree with honors. She was given the American Medical Women’s Association Award for outstanding scholastic achievement and the Catherine Dobson Prize for her clinical research.

Following an internal medicine internship at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, she returned to the University of Chicago Medical Center for her dermatology residency. She served as chief resident and received a Women’s Dermatologic Society’s Mentorship Award to study cutaneous laser surgery. Her father’s words played over and over in her head as she made it through the equivalent of the 24th grade.

After her residency in 2006, and with the support of her family, she opened Derick Dermatology. “I knew that by launching my own practice, I would be able to help the community where I grew up,” she says. Her patients are most important to her, and she wanted to create a place where they would always have the best treatment and the best environment. Every day she sees patients of all ages and needs, and she customizes treatment for each.

On the medical side, the most common issues she sees are skin cancer, acne, rashes and warts, and on the cosmetic side, her specialty, she offers a host of treatments for aging or sun-damaged skin, including Botox, injectable fillers for deep wrinkles and lasers for discoloration. “It is an exciting time to practice cosmetic dermatology,” Dr. Derick says, noting that the latest treatments would not have been possible just a few years ago.

Derick Dermatology also offers tattoo removal, a subject with which Dr. Derick is especially familiar. “Body art is a fascinating topic,” she says. With tattoos and body piercings becoming more prevalent in mainstream society, Dr. Derick sought to quantify the trend and highlight some medical and social risks that patients face. “My research helped shed light on this nationwide phenomenon,” she says. She will continue to conduct related research in the future because the increasing prevalence of tattoos will cause people to seek better information about their (or their children’s) tattoos.

“My favorite part of my job is educating my patients about their skin,” Dr. Derick says. “I enjoy helping them feel and look better.” She appreciates the relationship she has with each patient, and she strives for the highest quality care and customized treatment. Because Dr. Derick is a board certified dermatologist, her patients can feel confident they are receiving the best advice for their medical and aesthetic concerns. With an increase in ads from spas in shopping malls and untrained physicians offering laser treatments and injections, Dr. Derick’s goal is to provide safer options for patients. Derick Dermatology is preferred by patients who demand the highest quality treatments and procedures, performed by a physician who focused three years of her medical residency solely on the skin (dermatology).

Due to their caring nature, women often think of others more than themselves. “Taking care of your skin is an essential part of living a healthy life,” Dr. Derick reminds us, “and women should feel good devoting time to their own health and happiness.” Women devote a lot of energy attending to the needs of their parents, their husbands and their children, but they need to carve off a little time each day for themselves as well.

Dr. Derick understands the need for balance because she has a growing family of her own. In 2005, she and Michael Derick (who is now her husband) lived in the same building in Chicago’s West Loop but never crossed paths. When she finally noticed him, she asked one of the building’s gate house attendants about him, and the attendant told her Michael’s name. A few days later, another attendant told Amy he might have some interesting information for her. The next morning when Michael went to catch a cab for work, the gate house attendants mentioned that Michael had an admirer. Michael gave them his phone number to pass on. A week later, Michael found a note under his door that read: “I hear you have been asking about me. Why not join me for a party this Friday night?” Michael accepted the invitation and soon realized the attendants had been playing matchmakers. That Friday night was April 22, and a year to the day later, in 2006, Michael and Amy married. **In July of this year they had their first child—a boy.**

Dr. Derick will use her mom as a role model for how to work and care for a child. Although her mother was involved in the community, served on the school board and was a college professor, her mother made plenty of time for Dr. Derick and her brother. “I hope to use my mother as a model for how to be productive and still devote time to family,” she says. Dr. Derick already has the productive part down.

Aside from the time she puts in at work, Dr. Derick has written several scholarly articles, is a textbook author, gives national presentations and has been featured in media sources such as *CNN*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *the View* and *the New York Times*. To learn more about Dr. Derick and her practice, visit www.derickdermatology.com.