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## Dr. Troy Elander Installed as Medical Association President

By DANIELLE GILLESPIE  
*Staff Writer*

Pacific Palisades resident Dr. Troy Elander was installed as the 140th president of Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) during a dinner reception on June 30 at the Bel-Air Bay Club.

"I am proud to be a doctor, and I am even more proud to represent doctors," Elander told about 150 colleagues. "I believe in us, in our profession, and I look forward to advocating for us. I know you are counting on me, and I appreciate that; I am humbled by that, and I will work hard for you."

An ophthalmologist with a private practice in Santa Monica, Elander has served on the county board for the past six years.

Established in 1850, LACMA represents physicians in every medical specialty and practice as well as medical students, interns and residents. The organization is devoted to the betterment of the medical profession and has led campaigns to reduce smog in the county and ban tobacco use in buildings. The association also publishes the award-winning Southern California Physician monthly magazine.

Elander, who grew up in the Palisades and graduated from Palisades High in 1977, graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts and Cornell Medical School in New York. He completed his ophthalmology residency at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York and a corneal fellowship at Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco.

While in college, Elander chose to become an ophthalmologist after spending a month in Abak, Nigeria, assisting his father, Richard, also an ophthalmologist. In 1990, he joined his father's practice in Santa Monica, where they worked together for nearly 20

years.

"His health is failing him now," said Elander, noting that his father retired a few years ago. "I know that both of us appreciated the great fortune it was to work side by side."

A philanthropist, Elander is a member of Orbis International, a nonprofit group dedicated to teaching ophthalmologists in the developing world. He has traveled to Uganda, India, the West Indies, China, Armenia and Bangladesh. In Uganda, he performed the country's first corneal transplant.

Elander serves on the American Academy of Ophthalmology Cornea Compass Panel and the Medical Executive Committee for the Santa Monica Surgery Center. Plus, he teaches at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.

At the June 30 dinner, Rev. Howard Anderson of St. Matthew's Parish Episcopal Church (which Elander attends) gave the invocation.

Keynote speaker Dr. Warren Bennis, the founding chairman of USC's Leadership Institute, talked about the qualities of a strong leader. Then board member and former LACMA president Dr. Clayton Patchett swore Elander in as the new president for a one-year term.

"Troy, it is an honor to serve as the president of LACMA, and I think it is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon you by your colleagues," Patchett said.

Elander thanked his family, especially his wife, Diane, a food stylist and recipe developer. The couple has three children: Samantha, who will attend Wake Forest University in North Carolina this fall; Annie, an incoming junior at PaliHi; and William, who will be a fifth grader at Marquez Elementary.

He then acknowledged his staff and everyone associated with LACMA for their support. Some



*Pacific Palisades resident Dr. Troy Elander and his wife, Diane, celebrate his installation as president of Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) on June 30 at the Bel-Air Bay Club.*

of his goals as president include starting a mentoring program for physicians who are new to their practice or the community and creating a legal affairs committee to ensure that insurance companies are not taking advantage of doctors and their patients.

"My 9-year-old son, William, asked me a riddle the other day," Elander said. "He said, 'You have

100 gallons of ice cream in this hand and 100 bananas in the other hand; what do you have?' And the answer is 'really big hands,'" Elander said to laughter. "And that is what I think we need in organized medicine these days, really big hands as we deal with all the different issues that are facing us."

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