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'Secret' predates Mohs method

Perry Nichols and the escharotic cancer cure

By **ANDREW BOWSER** STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Frederic Mohs is credited with developing in situ chemosurgical technique that set the stage for today's fresh-tissue Mohs surgery. However, the now-famous doctor may owe a debt of gratitude to a lesser-known figure, who in the late 1800s developed a "secret" escharotic substance that was eventually used to treat more than 100,000 cancer patients.

In the beginning, Perry Nichols did not have appeared much different from numerous other "irregular practitioners," many offering home-brewed remedies that had little, if any, basis in science. But based on early treatment success with his mysterious milky liquid, in retrospect bore similarities to the zinc chloride paste that made him famous, Nichols went on to found a clinic that culminated in a

community and possibly, even an influence on the more famous proponent of escharotics, according to Gary A. Dyer, M.D., associate clinical professor of dermatology with the University of Missouri

"I secretly wonder, deep down, if Mohs didn't have a look at one of Nichols' yearbooks, and it may have given him an idea," said Dr. Dyer, a dermatologist and dermatopathologist who practices in St. Joseph, Mo., just 13 miles from the city of Savannah, where the Nichols Sanatorium

Skin care line makes its debut in the U.S.

Washington, D.C. — Alchimie Forever face and body cosmeceuticals from Switzerland recently made their first appearance in the United States. The products are designed to help patients with home maintenance of in-office treatments such as laser hair removal, glycolic peels, rosacea treatments, and microdermabrasion.



For more information, contact Alchimie Forever at (202) 965-1205 or visit www.alchimie-forever.com.

Rethinking recruitment & retention

By **PAUL WYNN** STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National report — Aware of a shortage of medical personnel in the Philadelphia region, physician assistant Abby Jacobson was confident she would easily land a new job when she found out her supervising physician was selling his practice. She not only got a new position within a few weeks at a dermatology practice, but she received a salary increase, and negotiated a four-day workweek with Fridays off.

Across the country, medical practices are offering higher starting salaries, signing bonuses, comprehensive benefits packages, and flexible work schedules to help attract the