

## **The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Dr. Ana M. Duarte Empowering Scholarship**

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF) is an international charitable organization that networks families affected by a vascular birthmark, anomaly, or related syndrome (VBARS) to the appropriate medical professionals for evaluation and/or treatment, provides informational resources as well as sponsors physician education, mobilizes medical missions, and supports research and programs that promote acceptance for individuals with birthmarks. VBF accomplishes its mission through research, education, and advocacy on the international, national, state and community levels. Since its inception in 1994, VBF has successfully networked thousands of children and adults into treatment, sponsored significant research, educated physicians and affected family members about the diagnosis and treatment of vascular birthmarks, and has established chapters all over the world.

VBF is pleased to offer the Ana M. Duarte, MD, Empowering Scholarship. This annual scholarship honors Dr. Duarte for her tireless efforts to promote scholarship, academics, and empowerment in women. Ana M Duarte, MD, FAAD, FAAP graduated from University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 1988. She completed two residencies, Pediatrics in 1991, and Dermatology in 1995. She also completed a 1-year fellowship in Pediatric Dermatology in 1992. Her training took place at Jackson Memorial Hospital, University of Miami School of Medicine. She was boarded by the American Board of Medical Subspecialties (ABMS) in Pediatrics and remains boarded in Dermatology (ABMS) and Pediatric Dermatology (ABMS). She is licensed to practice medicine in Florida. In 1995 she became Director of Dermatology at Nicklaus Children's Hospital and founded the Children's Skin Center, PA located on the campus of Nicklaus Children's Hospital. She is an Associate Professor for Nova Southeastern University Department of Dermatology as well as Voluntary Faculty at the University of Miami Department of Dermatology. She is a Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Dermatology, Florida International University, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. Her main area of interest is in the treatment of vascular lesions and in 1995 she developed the Laser Center at Miami Children's Hospital, a center focusing on the laser treatment of vascular lesions. In 2009 she developed and was appointed Director of The International Birthmark Institute (TIBI) at Nicklaus Children's Hospital: a multidisciplinary team of subspecialists dedicated to the treatment of all birthmarks with a special focus on vascular anomalies.

On a personal note, Dr. Duarte became a competitive figure skater in 2012. She won 1st Place in the US Figure Skating (USFS) Sectional Title for Ladies PreBronze Free Skate on 03/10/2013. Dr. Duarte won 1st Place USFS National Title Adult Nationals 2014 Bronze Ice Dance. She also won 1st place Title ISU World Championship 2014 Bronze Ice Dance Oberstdorf, Germany. In 2016, Dr. Duarte won 1st place USFS National Title Silver Ice Dance.

Scholarships will be limited to \$1,000 each. The VBF Scholarship Committee will evaluate each of the applicants and make their decision in the spring of each calendar year. It is at the discretion of the VBF Scholarship Committee to determine how many scholarships will be awarded each year. GPA is not a prerequisite.

### **Criteria:**

- Applicants must be enrolled or anticipate enrollment as a full-time student in an undergraduate or graduate degree program (freshman or greater status).
- Applicants must have a vascular birthmark and provide documentation of their birthmark.

- Applicants must be a US citizen or legal resident living in the US and enrolled in an accredited US university.
- Applicants will be required to conduct a Day of Awareness campaign on their college campus to advocate and raise funds for VBF.

**Requirements:**

- Applicants must provide a Personal Statement (maximum of 800 words), including brief personal history about their life with a birthmark, educational/career goals, extracurricular activities, and reasons why they should be selected by the VBF Scholarship Committee.
- Applicants must provide two (2) Letters of Recommendation (one must be from a teacher, employer, or academic advisor).
- Applicants must provide a copy of their high school/college transcript.
- Applicants must agree to allow VBF to use their name, picture, and story in future scholarship materials.
- A photograph of the applicant's birthmark must accompany their application.

**How to Apply:**

Apply online at [www.birthmark.org/scholarship/](http://www.birthmark.org/scholarship/). You may also attach your application, supporting materials, etc. and email to Chris at [chris@birthmark.org](mailto:chris@birthmark.org) or mail to:

Scholarship Committee  
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