

PENNDERM

SKIN BIOLOGY & DISEASES RESOURCE-BASED CENTER



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SPRING 2019



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Did you know?

Pictured above are The Duhring Lithographs, original drawings of the patients of Dr. Louis Duhring. Dr. Duhring was a lecturer and eventual dermatology professor at the University of Pennsylvania from 1871-1910, where during his tenure, he established the first department of dermatology in the United States. Surviving several moves across campus, the lithographs were eventually re-discovered by Dr. Albert Kligman, who proceeded to have them framed and displayed around the Department. Dr. Duhring's will states that the lithographs are to be kept by the Department in perpetuity, and serve as a timeless reminder of his steadfast commitment to patient care and sensitivity in a time of little available treatment.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A note from Dr. George Cotrarelis, MD, Milton Bixler Hartzell Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Our Department maintains a long and robust history of excellence, and 2019 has so far proved no different. As we head into the summer season, I joyously reflect on the many recent accomplishments of our physicians and colleagues, who each deserve recognition for their exciting endeavors and activities.

This issue celebrates the work of several of our exceptional female physicians. Dr. Aimee Payne, spotlighted as the feature piece, has demonstrated just how powerful leveraging the benefits of precision medicine can be for pemphigus patients. She hopes to transform the landscape of treatment, and excitedly embarks on a new adventure with the founding of a company, Cabaletta Bio, a perfect complement to her research and clinical work here at Penn.

On the international front, we recognize the profound impact that Drs. Carrie Kovarik, Tori Williams, and Amy Forrestel have made abroad in Botswana. These physicians have increased access to world-class medical care in the Botswanan community, and thus have enhanced the medical scene in Africa in an unparalleled way.

Internally, we honor Dr. Susan Taylor's appointment to Director of Diversity and Inclusion and Dr. Temitayo Ogunleye's appointment to Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion, both within the Department

of Dermatology. Diversity significantly strengthens our Department, our community, and our country and I am deeply committed to supporting all of our physicians, faculty and administrative staff in Dermatology. We also recognize Dr. Ellen Kim's appointment to Medical Director for Dermatology at the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, a critically important role, and Dr. Misha Rosenbach and Dr. Sara Samimi's appointments as Residency Program Director and Associate Program Director, respectively. We wish all physicians luck in their new roles.

I am honored and grateful to lead such a successful Department of dedicated professionals and ask everyone to join me in recognizing, supporting, and celebrating our success in working together to further our important missions of clinical care, research, and education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Cotrarelis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

George Cotrarelis, MD
Milton Bixler Hartzell Professor and Chair



THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

How the power of changing one life translates to thousands of others

“We have great beneficiaries of our multi-modality treatment approach for Cutaneous T-Cell lymphoma—this reinforces in a positive way what we’re doing therapeutically,” shares Dr. Alain Rook, Director of the Cutaneous Lymphoma Program and Professor of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania. “It also makes us feel so wonderful to see that patients have a sustained remission or a continued markedly improved response,” Dr. Rook beams, with the palpable genuineness of a physician who truly loves his work.

The Cutaneous T-Cell lymphoma Treatment Team at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, led by Dr. Rook and his colleagues, is no stranger to spearheading successful firsts—firsts in researching, publishing, and utilizing novel treatment approaches to combat the development of this rare subset of skin-associated lymphomas. Cutaneous T-Cell lymphoma (CTCL), a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma of skin trafficking T-cells, results when these T-cells develop mutations and grow in an uncontrolled manner. This leads to disabling symptoms associated with severe itching, skin tumors, leukemic involvement, enlarged lymph nodes, occasionally visceral organ involvement and death.

When Dr. Rook initially began his career at Penn, there were only about 50 CTCL outpatient visits annually. Now, nearly 32 years later, there are over 2,500 outpatient visits per year for these patients. Since its inception in 1987, the photopheresis program has continued to expand. Now, Penn has its own CTCL

dedicated unit, where physicians carefully follow patients from all around the world and evaluate them on a regular basis. The treatment team, consisting of a group of full-time faculty members in Penn’s Dermatology Department, has continuously grown in magnitude in many different ways over the last three decades. In addition to Dr. Rook, members of the team include Drs. Paul Haun, Ellen Kim, Sara Samimi, Jennifer Villasenor-Park, Carmela Vittorio and dedicated nursing staff.

In the early years of the program, Penn’s CTCL team was interested in the immunopathogenesis of CTCL, most specifically in the nature of immunologic dysfunction that occurred among patients. “We were able to harness our understanding of these immunologic abnormalities early on to develop novel therapeutic approaches to the treatments of CTCL,” says Dr. Rook. “The CTCL program practiced immunotherapy long before it was in fashion.” Beginning with the minimalist immunotherapy approach to Sezary Syndrome—a particularly aggressive form of CTCL—Penn was the first major health center to pair photopheresis together with other immunotherapeutic modalities (such as interferons, GM-CSF, and skin-directed therapy) that could further augment an immune response. “Now we are in the era of Toll-like receptor agonists and immune checkpoint inhibitors.”

Dr. Rook shared a memory of one of his most beloved patients, Stacey Mobley who came to the clinic in the mid-1990s seeking treatment for Sezary Syndrome. After utilizing the multi-modality approach, Dr. Rook

reports that Stacey remains in clinical remission for nearly 20 years, despite the fact that current textbooks still claim that Sezary Syndrome is invariably fatal. Stacey and his wife Joan have since been exceptionally generous supporters of Penn Dermatology and the CTCL work that Dr. Rook and his team do, allowing thousands of others affected by the disease to be helped just as Stacey was.

Other members of the CTCL team have made valuable contributions. For example, experiments conducted by Dr. Sara Samimi, when she was a medical student, confirmed that malignant T-cells derived from patients with Sezary Syndrome express high levels of the immune checkpoint molecule, Programmed Death Domain 1 (PD1), on their surface. This finding served as the basis for an important clinical trial using anti-PD1 to treat CTCL, which proved highly successful for patients with advanced, refractory disease. Further, Dr. Neha Jariwala, the current fellow in the CTCL program, demonstrated the abnormally high expression of a newly identified immune checkpoint molecule, TIGIT, on the malignant T-cells from CTCL patients while she was performing research in Dr. Rook's laboratory as a medical student. This finding may also have important relevance for future therapeutic protocols. These are just a few examples of the daily groundbreaking work carried out in the CTCL unit.

The CTCL team is currently immersed in three high-impact clinical trials, working with novel drugs to treat CTCL. One trial focuses on the drug Resiquimod, another uses combined anti-PD1 and interferon gamma therapy, and the third with Hypericin, a compound that patients can apply on their skin which is then activated by visible light. Dr. Rook conducted the phase two Hypericin trial which proved it to be effective. The phase three multicenter trial, with Dr. Ellen Kim as the multi-center principal investigator, is now nearly complete. If the trial shows significant benefit, the FDA will likely approve Hypericin for patient use, potentially changing the landscape of CTCL treatment. Though the CTCL team has many exciting projects in progress, it is always interested in pursuing new treatment directions. "We're starting to work with a number of different groups in the cancer center...giving them cells for study from our leukemic

patients to determine if they can make Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T (CAR-T) cells against the malignant cells of our patients," says Dr. Rook. "We're hopeful that this, too, will be possible at some point in the future."

Dr. Rook believes that the true long-term success of the research program can be attributed to grateful donors. "Support from individuals like Stacey and Joan Mobley has been absolutely essential," notes Dr. Rook. "It's expensive to maintain a lab, and for it to survive long-term. Funding from grateful donors is absolutely critical to perpetuate the work. Stacey and Joan have been exceptionally charitable to us," he adds, showing just how directly donor funding impacts the CTCL's translational research program and enables it to grow.

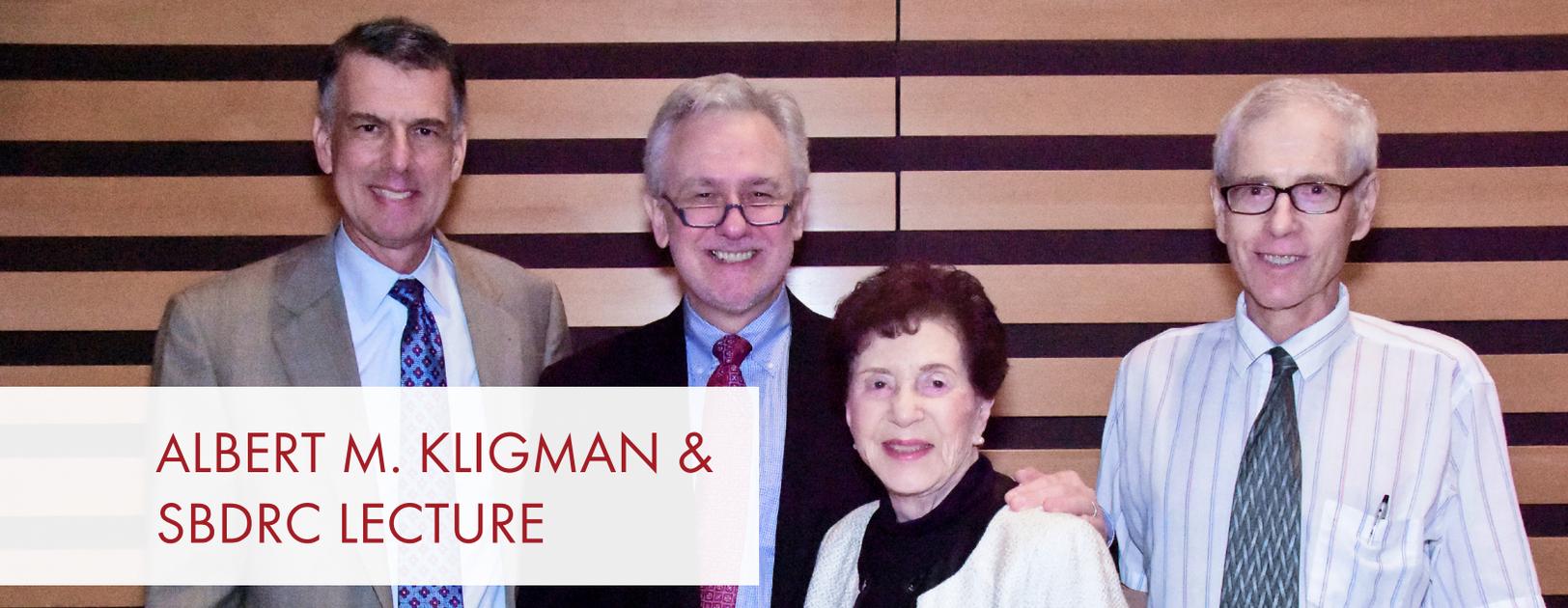
Dr. Rook also attributes the long-term success of the CTCL unit to the superb working environment of the Department of Dermatology, led by Dr. George

Cotsarelis. "Being able to do what I've done with this hugely important population of patients here...I'm so grateful for the clinical colleagues I have, our very unique group focusing on CTCL that has allowed us to achieve these accomplish-

ments," says Dr. Rook. He went on to speak about the remarkable CTCL physicians and the nursing staff in the photopheresis program. He shared that there has been significant stability of our faculty and staff for decades, and he has watched some of his most outstanding medical school mentees, such as Drs. Kim and Samimi, become his colleagues, and they are now among the best clinicians and educators in academic dermatology.

When asked about the future of the CTCL group, Dr. Rook smiled and said that "one of the advantages of all of the current trials is that we're able to offer very safe and effective drugs to our patients who can't get access to better treatments or who are uninsured." He adds, "While we can't predict the future, we do have the privilege of saving the lives every day of those who are on death's doorstep. There's nothing better than a future filled with that."

“Funding from grateful donors is absolutely critical to perpetuate [our] work.”



ALBERT M. KLIGMAN & SBDRC LECTURE

The Kligman Dinner and SBDRC Lecture welcomed Andrzej Dlugosz, MD from the University of Michigan's Rogel Cancer Center

The 8th Annual Albert M. Kligman Lectureship was held on September 6, 2018 at the Smilow Center for Translational Research at the University of Pennsylvania. This lecture series commemorates the exceptional legacy of Dr. Kligman and his insurmountable contributions to our Department for over half a century. Dr. Kligman's dedicated work as a clinician, mentor to young faculty, and extensive research and discoveries have left an outstanding legacy in our Department and the field of dermatology as a whole.

This year, we were honored to host Andrzej Dlugosz, MD, Poth Professor of Cutaneous Oncology, Associate Chair for Research and Professor of Dermatology, Professor of Cell & Developmental Biology, and Co-Director of the Cancer Biology Program at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center. Dr. Dlugosz received his MD from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine and completed his dermatology residency at the University of Pennsylvania, where he served as Chief Resident in his final year. Following his medical training, Dr. Dlugosz became a research fellow first in the Laboratory of Cellular Carcinogenesis and Tumor Promotion in the Division of Cancer Etiology and then in the Basic Research Laboratory (formerly the Laboratory of Tumor Virus Biology) in the Division of Basic Sciences, both at the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Dlugosz has served in his current role as professor in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Michigan since 1997, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology since 2009. Research in Dr. Dlugosz's laboratory centers on defining the functions of the Hedgehog

signaling pathway in epithelial appendage biology and tumorigenesis, with a major emphasis on basal cell carcinoma (BCC), medulloblastoma, and gastric cancer. Using genetically-engineered mouse models developed in his laboratory, Dr. Dlugosz helped establish a central role for deregulated Hedgehog signaling in BCC initiation, expansion, and maintenance. He also defined critical interactions between the Hedgehog pathway and other signaling pathways in tumorigenesis, and elucidated the importance of cell of origin, timing of oncogene activation, and magnitude of Hedgehog signaling in determining tumor phenotype. In more recent studies, Dr. Dlugosz has been dissecting the role of Merkel cell polyomavirus transforming antigens in the pathogenesis of Merkel cell carcinoma.

In addition to receiving the title of Poth Professor of Cutaneous Oncology, Dr. Dlugosz has also been awarded the Marion B. Sulzberger Memorial Award and Lectureship from the American Academy of Dermatology, and the University of Michigan Medical School League of Research Excellence. He has published 126 peer-reviewed papers, review articles, commentaries, and book chapters. These publications include several novel contributions to areas such as signal pathways in tumorigenesis and the pathogenesis of specific types of carcinoma. We were thrilled to have Dr. Dlugosz on campus to share his findings with us.

Pictured Above: (L-R) George Cotsarelis, MD (Chairman), Andrzej Dlugosz, MD (Visiting Speaker), Lorraine Kligman, PhD, Douglas Kligman, MD



TRAINEE RESEARCH DAY

On March 14, the Department was delighted to host the 2019 Dermatology Trainee Research Day. This symposium offers pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral research fellows the opportunity to present their work to our community. Members of the Penn Dermatology faculty, staff, and students came together to discuss and learn from one another about relevant topics and current research trends in the field. This year's event opened with a diverse selection of presentations—from CAR-T melanoma therapy to explorations into apical extracellular matrices—which were followed by a fascinating talk from this year's guest lecturer, Dr. Tamia Harris-Tryon, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Harris-Tryon captivated the audience with her research on the unique microbiome of the skin and gut, exploring just how essential these bacteria are in maintaining the body's overall health and well-being.

Following the keynote lecture, attendees enjoyed lunch and a chance to navigate the broad selection of research posters from students and faculty of the Department. The day closed with a brief awards ceremony in which post-doctoral researcher Dr. John Barbieri, MD, MBA, was awarded first place for his presentation entitled "Use of antibiotics for dermatologic procedures from 2008-2016: Geographic variation and trends in utilization." Post-baccalaureate student Christian Hopkins, of Dr. George Cotsarelis' lab, was awarded first place for his poster entitled

"Overexpression of cyclooxygenase-2 in the skin of adult transgenic mice leads to sebaceous gland hyperplasia and thinning of hair shafts."

The Penn Dermatology Research Training Program has been supported by an NIH T32 Training Grant for over 35 consecutive years. As Dr. Elizabeth Grice, PhD, Co-PI of the T32 Grant remarked, "Our Department has a strong tradition of commitment to research training and education. The annual Trainee Research Day celebrates this commitment as well as the breadth of high quality research being conducted by trainees across the Department."



Pictured Above: Dr Tamia Harris-Tryon presenting her talk during the annual T32 Research Day.

Alumni Q&A: SPOTLIGHT on WILLIAM JU, MD

From his time as a medical student and resident here at Penn to becoming a dermatological entrepreneur, Dr. William (Bill) Ju, MD, reflects on his career trajectory and current goals as a physician focusing on a non-clinical setting. He is President and Co-Founding trustee of Advancing Innovation in Dermatology, Inc, which is "...a not-for-profit organization committed to catalyzing the development of new dermatologic solutions for patients and healthcare providers by bringing together stakeholders who can enable, encourage and support new products for skin conditions."

Q: Why did you choose to go into Dermatology?

A: I went to medical school here at Penn. During my fourth year, I was invited by Thomas Fitzpatrick to take a one-month elective in Dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital. I did that and found the field fascinating! I then applied for a dermatology residency, and was very fortunate to have matched at Penn when Dr. Gerry Lazarus was chair.

Q: What has your career trajectory been like?

A: I think that I've been very lucky; I've had a diverse range and series of experiences and jobs, each with excellent and supportive mentors. After Penn residency, I worked at the National Cancer Institute in the lab of dermatologist Dr. Doug Lowy. While there, I got to interact with many other dermatologists, including Dr. Steve Katz, the head of the Dermatology Branch. After that, I went into industry. I started with large pharmaceutical companies (Roche, Merck, Pharmacia) and then moved to smaller companies such as



PTC Therapeutics, and one which came out of Penn, called Follica – a company founded on Dr. George Cotsarelis' discoveries. Dr. Cotsarelis was a medical student while I was a resident here, and even then he was doing his landmark stem cell research – we were all amazed that he was publishing in the very best journals. After I left Penn, I got to work with Dr. Cotsarelis very closely on Follica, starting around 2009 after he founded the company, and he brought me in as the Chief Executive Officer.

Q: Can you tell us more about Advancing Innovation in Dermatology and the exciting work that it supports and facilitates?

A: It's a nonprofit and the title pretty much sums it up: Advancing Innovation in Dermatology. The mission is "...to bring various stakeholders together to build an ecosystem, and by doing so, provide opportunities to create and bring to market innovative, new products that can substantially improve skin health." We work in four main areas:

- 1) Helping educate and develop future leaders/change agents that are interested in product innovation for dermatology;
- 2) Assist partner groups/societies that would like to do innovation (e.g. SID, ESDR, AAD) as part of their various initiatives;

Pictured Above: Dr. William Ju, MD, graduated from the Perelman School of Medicine in 1982 and finished his residency here at Penn Derm in 1987.

3) Provide a place for people interested in product innovation in dermatology. The Dermatology Summit and Dermatology Innovation Forum at the AAD every year are “homes” for people who are like-minded in their interest in product innovation, where they can meet and interact with each other. In addition to the meetings, there is an infrastructure to keep people connected;

4) Inspire action by spreading ideas: “thought leadership.” We try to publish about dermatology innovation.

Q: What does a typical week at Advancing Innovation in Dermatology look like for you?

A: We fundamentally build an ecosystem, but a lot of time is spent bringing people together and building teams. We identify people who are interested in product innovation, try to understand what their needs are, and then link them up with other people who would find the partnership and collaboration fruitful.

Q: What do you enjoy most about taking your clinical acumen into the pharmaceutical arena?

A: One thing, which is important with medical training, is that it helps me (and all physicians who go into industry) to think about how an invention or technology could address an unmet need, and that patients would think it is worth solving. Understanding the clinical problem is very important in terms of whether a product is going to be successful, both clinically and financially. There are two people who understand this best: the patients, themselves, in terms of what they need, and the physicians who have to deal with these unmet needs on the frontline.

Q: You’ve done a lot since your time here at Penn. How has the training you received here contributed to your success?

A: I was very fortunate to be here at Penn. The training I received – both clinically and in the lab – were top notch experiences. For somebody who’s heading into biopharmaceuticals, those are foundational elements. The people in the Department back then were truly exceptional; you learn a lot just by watching and learning from the example of superb people.

MOHS SURGERY

*At the Penn Dermatology Oncology Center, we do more than cure skin cancers.
We find innovative ways to make our patients’ lives easier.*

From our vast experience operating on more than 5,000 skin cancers each year, we have improved cure rates with advanced Mohs micrographic surgery, restored appearance with precise reconstructive surgery, and improved quality of life with tailored care plans. Since 2006, we have pioneered Mohs surgery for more than 3,000

melanomas of the head, neck, hands, feet, and lower leg. More than 99% of our patients remain cancer-free at their surgery site. By comparison, 10% of patients with special site melanomas recur after conventional surgery. *We have prevented cancer recurrences for hundreds of patients in the Philadelphia area alone!*

Expert Mohs Surgeons + Groundbreaking Research = Unparalleled Patient Care



Christopher Miller, MD,
Director



Joseph Sobanko, MD



Thuzar Shin, MD, PhD



Nicole Howe, MD



Jeremy Etkorn, MD



Shobana Sood, MD



PRECISION MEDICINE & PEMPHIGUS: THE ROAD TO REMISSION

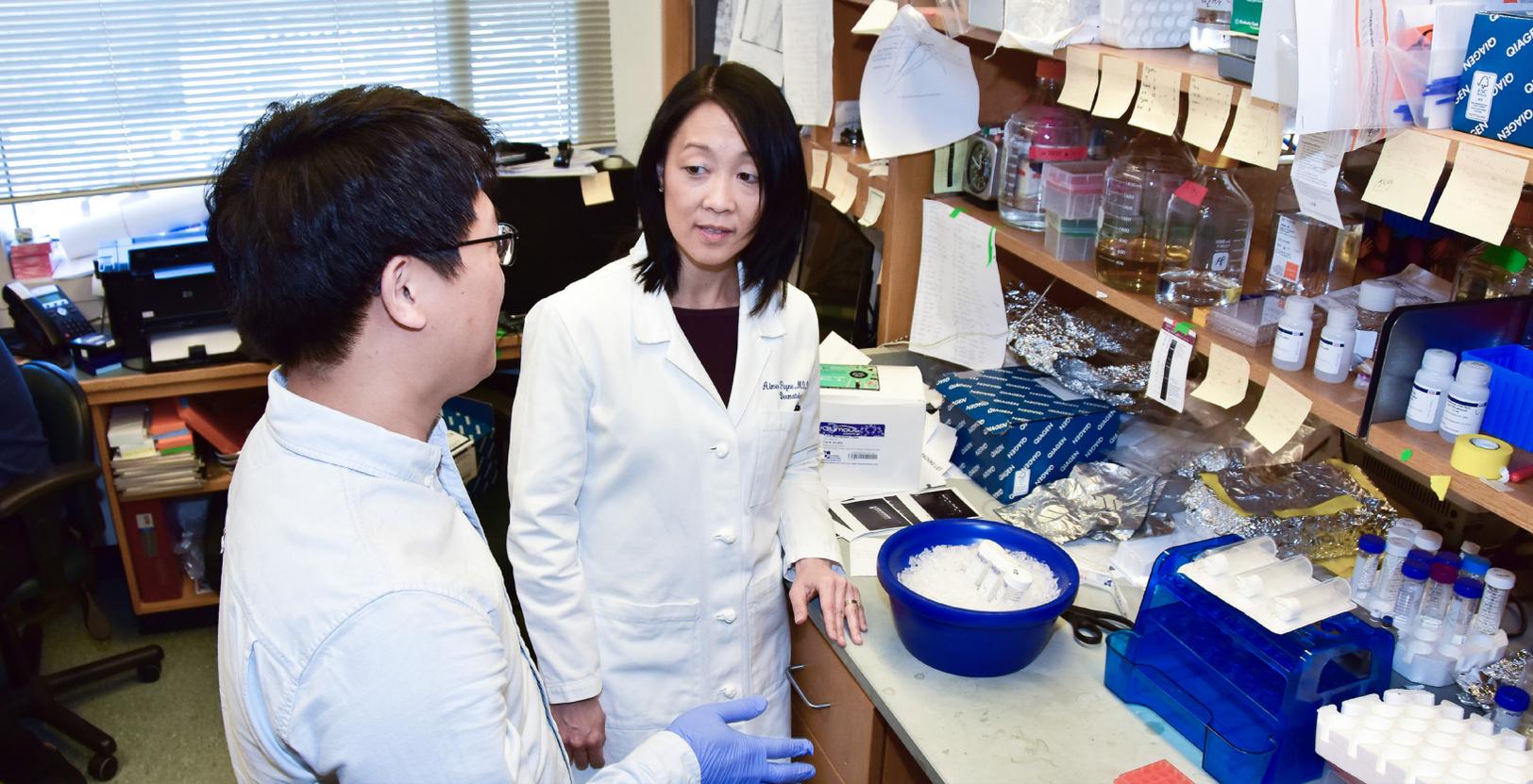
Aimee Payne, MD, PhD, and her quest for precision medicine in the treatment of pemphigus

"If we can really understand the B-cell repertoire at the molecular level, we can ultimately develop better targeted therapies for diseases," shares Dr. Aimee Payne, MD, PhD. "This was the rationale for setting up my lab, and I continue to do everything with this goal in mind."

A highly valued member of the University of Pennsylvania Health System since 2001, and a champion of its tri-partite mission, Dr. Payne is among the very few leading the way in pemphigus research. Early on in her career as a post-doctoral fellow, Dr. Payne identified a stark gap in dermatologic knowledge as it related to pemphigus—knowledge that was integral to pushing the field forward. A complex and medically-challenging autoimmune blistering disease, pemphigus painfully affects the skin and mucous membranes as antibodies attack the skin protein desmoglein, which is necessary for the sticking together of skin cells. Due to the rareness of the condition, patients often go misdiagnosed for months as their symptoms worsen, with some cases becoming highly severe and devastating, even interfering with daily activities such as talking and eating. "It is a very challenging disease to take care of, but I wanted to master my understanding of what causes disease, and help patients," Dr. Payne reflects. "And, I believed that the general principles of [pemphigus] could be appli-

cable to many autoimmune diseases," she adds. This was the appeal for her pursuit of a dermatology fellowship in the lab of Dr. John Stanley, Professor and Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Dermatology, where Dr. Payne focused on cloning and characterizing B-cell repertoires from pemphigus patients in the hopes of uncovering shared features in immune responses.

Interestingly, at that same point in Dr. Payne's academic trajectory, oncology was becoming one of the greatest areas of focus for precision medicine, an approach to patient care that allows doctors to select treatments that are most likely to help patients based on a genetic understanding of their disease. In parallel with Dr. Payne's research interests, there was a major push in the cancer field to develop more efficient targeted therapies. In 2011, Penn's Dr. David Porter, Director, Cell Therapy and Transplantation and the Jodi Fisher Horowitz Professor in Leukemia Care Excellence, had published the first reports of long-term remission of B-cell leukemia and lymphoma that came out of Penn, based on a drug entitled CAR-T19 (in trials known as CTL019, now tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah™)). This milestone was incubated and developed here in the University of Pennsylvania Health System by a team of researchers under Dr. Carl June, and inspired Dr. Payne and her lab in their quest



to create precision medicine treatments for pemphigus.

The brilliance of the CAR-T concept is its unbelievable potency and specificity. As CAR-T cells proliferate, they create memory CAR-T cells that can potentially live for the life of the individual. In fact, the therapy is so effective, that it can actually eradicate all B-cells in a patient—leading to permanent remission but at the same time, inducing unintended chronic immunosuppression. The B-cell is the perfect system for targeted B-cell depletion, as B-cells display an antibody that they ultimately secrete once activated. By definition, every pemphigus B-cell has an anti-desmoglein antibody on its surface. A post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Payne's Lab, Christoph Ellebrecht, became so enthused with CAR-T technology that he began discussing how to re-engineer CAR-T cells to treat autoimmunity with a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Milone's lab. This collaboration paved the way for Dr. Payne and her lab to develop targeted therapies for pemphigus. With the genesis of the desmoglein 3 cell, the Chimeric Autoantibody Receptor (CAAR)-T was successful in the elimination of anti-desmoglein B-cells without any detectable off target effects. 'Cell-Icon Valley,' as Penn has been aptly termed, had created an environment ripe for innovation.

A lover of continuous learning and unique opportunities, Dr. Payne now embarks on her latest adventure:

developing a biotech company, Cabaletta Bio, a spinoff of her precision medicine research. When her laboratory initially published its findings on desmoglein 3 CAAR-T cells in 2016, Dr. Payne's chief concern was earning the NIH grant to propel her research forward. "The thought of starting a company never crossed my mind. But, the phones started ringing...people were asking questions, and there was a lot of interest in the work we were doing," shares Dr. Payne. Through an introduction to the Penn Center for Innovation and Wharton professor, Dr. Steven Nichtberger, Dr. Payne prepared to take the next leap in her professional career. The infrastructure already in place at Penn, combined with the sheer volume of available resources, gave her team access to strategic development, coalitions of investors, patent assistance, and more. Additional funding and support was also provided by the Office of Clinical Research, Institute for Immunology, Penn Center for Precision Medicine, and the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies.

"Penn has been very supportive structurally and financially—their philosophy is to take technologies developed in laboratories of faculty members and ultimately translate them into first in-human proof of

Pictured Above: (L-R) Sangwook Oh, PhD, (Postdoctoral Fellow) with Aimee Payne, MD, PhD (Attending Physician and Principal Investigator).

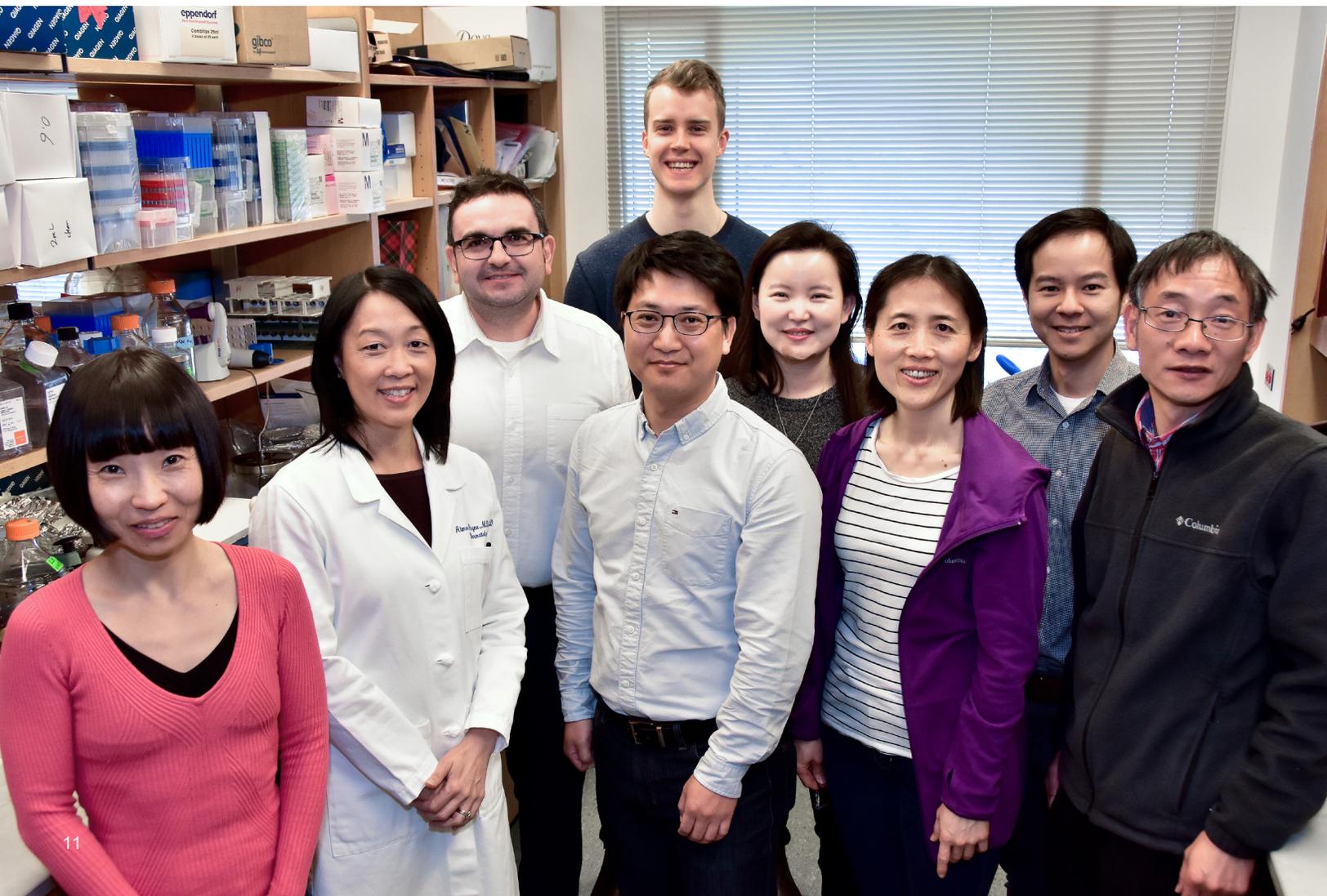
concept phase 1 trials—that's their sweet spot," notes Dr. Payne. And, that is exactly what happened. Dr. Payne's team plans to launch the first in-human desmoglein 3 CAAR-T cell trial in 2020. This big breakthrough in the Payne lab has opened up the opportunity to see if there is real potential for remission of autoimmune diseases in the same way that technologies have led to remission of cancer. It is, in actuality, the perfect scientific experiment—taking the exact product that worked for B-cell leukemia, removing the cd19 domain, and replacing it with desmoglein to induce targeted B-cell depletion rather than total B-cell depletion. "It's such a simple replacement to make it a precision medicine therapy, rather than a blanket therapy that wipes out the entire B-cell repertoire," says Dr. Payne.

Citing the unparalleled research infrastructure, histology cores, and collaborative environment in the Department, Dr. Payne shares that "the ecosystem here is something you can't get everywhere." She adds that "I've been very fortunate to work with leadership that values research inquiry over clinical profit." Dr. Payne has been especially grateful for the structural

support of Chairman Dr. George Cotsarelis, who has been a source of support throughout her career. Noting that rare disease research often means rare disease level funding and how, at times, it has been challenging to obtain grants and publish papers, the endowment awarded to her by the Department was critical for supporting her research salary and laboratory. "That kind of commitment—I will never forget," Dr. Payne reflects.

When not focusing on Cabaletta, Dr. Payne immerses herself in clinical care, research, and education—the core tenets of Penn's tri-partite mission. The autoimmune blistering disease patients she sees in her clinic

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Pictured Below (from L to R): Eun Jung Choi, MS (Lab Manager), Aimee Payne, MD, PhD (Attending Physician and PI), Silvio Manfredo Vieira, PhD (Senior Research Investigator), Daniel Lundgren (Research Specialist), Sangwook Oh, PhD (Postdoctoral Fellow), Jinmin Lee, PhD (Postdoctoral Fellow), Baomei Wang, MD, PhD (Senior Research Investigator), Napatra Tovanabutra, MD (Visiting Fellow), Xuming Mao, MD, PhD (Senior Research Investigator)



fuel her curiosity and drive targeted studies that are consistently underway in her research laboratory. Teaching the Derm 200 course on autoimmune blistering diseases, along with directing the Medical Scientist Training Program here at the University, complements Dr. Payne's passion for education and mentorship, and offers her the opportunity to interact with aspiring physicians and researchers. Advising the Association for Women Student MD/PhDs, too, allows Dr. Payne to develop meaningful relationships with young female scientists who hope to be in her position someday. "I have my dream job," Dr. Payne says, beaming. "I am so lucky to be around such phenomenally accomplished people who are doing great things."

Dr. Payne is also a force for female empowerment at Penn. An involved member of FOCUS on Health and

Leadership for Women, she takes advantage of the myriad resources at the faculty programming level that aid female employees in navigating their paths and enhancing their professional growth. Citing learning opportunities, such as negotiation strategy and understanding unconscious bias, Dr. Payne seeks to tackle the challenges faced and the issues observed over time that might lead to inequity. Her passion for effecting change has led to identifying root causes of inequity and determining how to rectify these problems, making Dr. Payne a role model for female colleagues across campus.

"I'm really excited going forward in this next phase of my life," Dr. Payne shares. "If you have an idea that you're passionate about, go do it. There's nothing that should stop you," Dr. Payne encourages. We certainly can't wait to see where Dr. Payne's latest project takes her and wish her immense luck and success in this next chapter of her career.

I've been very fortunate to work with leadership that values research inquiry over clinical profit.

NEW DERMATOLOGY FACULTY



Maryam Haque, MD

Clinical Associate of Dermatology

Dr. Haque received her MD from the Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. She then completed her internship at the University of Pittsburgh and thereafter returned to Philadelphia to complete her residency in dermatology at Drexel University. She sees patients at our Penn Medicine Radnor Practice.

Dr. Haque's clinical interests include general and medical dermatology, and skin cancer detection and prevention.

CPUP SAFETY AWARD

Congratulations to Erica Dougherty, BSN, RN on her CPUP Safety Award!

This past March, Erica Dougherty, BSN, RN became the inaugural recipient of the Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania (CPUP) Safety Week Annual Award for dedication and commitment to ensuring the highest levels of quality and safety for our patients.

Erica is a nurse in our Mohs practice, and joined our department in 2016. Patients and colleagues alike note Erica's kind demeanor and patience, and thoroughly enjoy having her on their team. We are very proud of Erica and want to congratulate her on this wonderful honor.



Pictured: (top and bottom right) Erica accepting her CPUP award; (middle right) Erica and Christopher Miller, MD, Penn Dermatology Oncology Center Director

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to our talented staff on their promotions and/or new positions!

Christian Covington

Promoted to Manager of Administration and Finance

Brandi Eldridge

Promoted to Administrative Coordinator

Christine Marshall

Promoted to Resource Technologist C

Lauren Pepito

Promoted to Promoted to Revenue Cycle Specialist

Bernadette Stanko

Promoted to Grants Coordinator B

Kristina DiGiacomo

Promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Dermatopathology Medical Director/Fellowship Coordinator

Michelle Machamer

Promoted to Lab Operations and Compliance Manager

Jim Nicolai

Promoted to Financial Operations Supervisor

Ilya Sharkansky

Promoted to Lead Application Developer

Matt Zarkos

Promoted to Technology Director



43rd ANNUAL SAMITZ LECTURE

Pictured (L-R): Mrs. Phyllis Samitz-Cohen, Mr. Miles Cohen, Dr. Justine Cohen, Dr. Steven Cohen, Dr. Victoria Werth, Mrs. Harriet Samitz, Mr. Joel Samitz, and Dr. George Cotsarelis

The Forty-Third Annual M.H. Samitz Lectureship in Cutaneous Medicine was held on November 15th, 2018 at the University of Pennsylvania. The Samitz Lectureship honors the legacy of Dr. Morris H. Samitz, a gifted clinician and educator with a great passion for dermatology.

Dr. Samitz was a dedicated clinician and served as one of Philadelphia’s premiere dermatologists. His expertise in complex dermatologic issues was often sought out by both patients and colleagues alike. He was also an outstanding teacher who inspired students during his many prolific years within the Penn Dermatology Department. Dr. Samitz was adored by patients, students and colleagues for his endearing and compassionate personality, as well as his exceptional knowledge and clinical intuition.

When Dr. Samitz retired in 1975, students and colleagues in the Department wanted to honor his legacy by undertaking a fundraising campaign to create a lectureship series in his name. Dr. Samitz was grateful for their enthusiasm and devotion to this lectureship, and Penn continues to utilize this event as a tribute to Dr. Samitz’s exceptional career.

This year, the Samitz Lectureship series featured Dr. Victoria Werth, Professor of Dermatology and Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Dermatology at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Werth attended medical school at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She then completed a residency in internal medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, followed by a dermatology residency and immunodermatology fellowship at

the New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Werth joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and has developed a distinguished program in autoimmune skin diseases.

Dr. Werth’s presentation, entitled “Progress towards evidence-based therapies in autoimmune skin diseases,” discussed her interest in and the importance of validated disease severity tools now used in many international trials in lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis, and autoimmune blistering diseases, with a goal of advancing evidence for current and new therapeutics targeting these diseases. She also discussed the heterogeneity of autoimmune skin diseases and how the wide variety of responses to treatment provides further opportunity for insight and research into the pathogenesis of these diseases. Her laboratory studies mechanisms of cutaneous lupus and dermatomyositis, biomarker studies in cutaneous lupus and dermatomyositis that relate to pathogenesis, and ultraviolet light effects on skin. Recent clinical studies have examined mechanistic effects of therapeutics in Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (CLE), as well as subset-specific expression of cytokine signatures. Her work has been funded by the Dermatology Foundation, the NIH, the VA, numerous autoimmune disease foundations, and industry.

Dr. Werth is the co-founder and former president of the Rheumatologic Dermatology Society. She has received the Founders Award from the Philadelphia Dermatological Society, is a Castle Connelly Exceptional Women in Medicine awardee, and has served as a member of the Committee on Scientific Programs for the Society of Investigative Dermatology. We were thrilled to have Dr. Werth speak as the Forty-Third Annual M.H. Samitz Lecturer.



EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SKIN RESEARCHERS

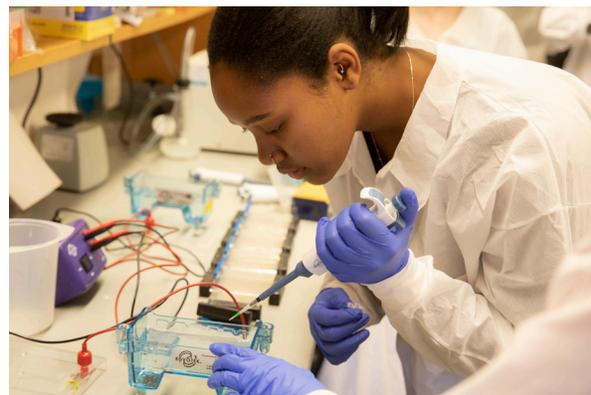
Talented young scientists devote their summers to laboratory research positions at Penn Derm

Penn Dermatology hosts a number of exciting mentored summer research opportunities in and around the labs. These opportunities were recently formalized under the Department's newest training initiative, ECuRE (Early Cutaneous Research Experiences). ECuRE provides short-term opportunities in the cutaneous sciences for students at any point in their academic journeys, from high school through medical school. In addition to mentored research experiences, ECuRE interns will participate in summer trainee programming including scientific presentations, responsible conduct of research, and career and networking opportunities. Penn Dermatology generously funds 2 scholarships for summer interns. This year's inaugural recipients are Christina Murphy (Leung Lab), and Aylar Bayramova (Bernardis Lab).

Other ECuRE interns are supported by PASH (Penn Academy for Skin Health), a department and NIH-supported community outreach program that provides Philadelphia-area high school students access to educational and laboratory experiences in dermatology. PASH is in its third year and runs for four consecutive Saturdays each spring semester. At its culmination, summer scholarships are awarded to especially motivated students who have completed the

program. Students are selected to work in labs here at Penn Dermatology and at Jefferson University Dermatology. This year's recipients are: Mahir Johnson, Jessica Lvov, Zakaria (Zak) Sines, Valerie Sutiono, Danny Jiang, Megan Shelton, and Kaylah King.

We want to congratulate all scholarship recipients and can't wait to see how the students grow from these opportunities!



Pictured Above: High schoolers train with doctoral students and Penn Derm faculty to learn lab techniques and dermatological processes.

FAREWELL, DR. SARAH MILLAR!

This March, we celebrated the remarkable career of Sarah Millar, PhD, and the incredible impact she has left in her twenty years as a member of our Department. Members of Dr. Millar's family, friends, and the Dermatology faculty attended this memorable and delightful event. Dr. John Stanley, Professor Emeritus, shared touching words, reflecting on his recruitment of Dr. Millar to our faculty over two decades ago, and Department Chair Dr. George Cotsarelis noted her kind and warm presence as a mentor, as well as her outstanding contributions to the field as a scientist.

Dr. Millar's contributions to the field of dermatology are both abundant and extraordinary. Her work on molecular mechanisms that control development, regeneration, and stem cell activity in skin, hair, teeth, taste buds, and mammary glands continues to be recognized by top national and international scientific journals. Dr. Millar has been a role model and a highly valued mentor to many junior faculty members and trainees, and is particularly sought out by women



faculty and trainees for her advice on strategies for success as a woman in science. We extend our most sincere thanks to Dr. Millar for all that she has done to contribute to the enduring success of the University of Pennsylvania Department of Dermatology, and we wish her the very best with the next steps of her career as she embarks on a new journey as Professor on the Investigator Track at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

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- Cutaneous Lymphoma

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- Oral Preneoplasia, and Cancer



How three Penn physicians are empowering dermatologic change in Botswana

The premier faces of Penn Global Dermatology in Africa – Drs. Carrie Kovarik, Victoria (Tori) Williams, and Amy Forrestel – are taking on the task of effecting change internationally by storm. Through the long-standing Botswana-UPenn Partnership (BUP), established in 2001, these three physicians play a crucial role in enhancing healthcare offerings abroad. BUP, a collaboration between the Government of Botswana, the University of Botswana, and the University of Pennsylvania, works to improve health and healthcare capacity, offering the country’s inhabitants greater access to leading dermatological care.

Dr. Kovarik, who spearheaded Penn Dermatology’s global programming in Botswana when she joined our Department in 2006, shared that “what started as sending a few residents over [to Botswana] really ballooned into a full-fledged operation...it’s been a real vision of improving dermatology capacity over time.” At the outset, just 6 dermatology residents were sent over through an American Academy of Dermatology Resident International Grant. Now, 15 US and Canadian dermatology residents are offered the opportunity to contribute to and learn from Botswana each year. With the recent opening of the University of Botswana Medical School, Botswana students and residents are now also afforded the opportunity to train in dermatology, pathology, and dermatopathology. Penn Dermatology, which has sustained this continually-growing presence in Botswana for 12 years now through strong partnership with the Ministry of Health in Botswana, touches the lives of over 4,000 patients in person annually and numerous more here in Philadelphia through the utilization of teledermatology and telepathology, which allows for the timely assessment of clinical cases and biopsies halfway around the world.

It was not only Dr. Kovarik who developed a passion for international service here in Penn’s Dermatology Department. Dr. Williams saw the need for a full-time dermatologist in Botswana, wanted to fill this need, and provide this care. She was then offered a joint-employment position under the Botswana-UPenn Partnership and the Ministry of Health in Botswana. After accepting the first position of its kind, Dr. Williams picked up and moved to Botswana for two and a half years. “My decision to take on this role was fueled by a passion to utilize my [dermatology] training somewhere where there weren’t other options. I wanted to contribute long-term and really make an impact,” she notes. Dr. Williams truly fulfilled her goals by immersing herself in this new environment and taking on the challenge of caring for patients across Botswana as the only dermatologist in the public healthcare system.

Now back in America for most of the year (she continues to spend three months in Africa annually), Dr. Williams is delighted by the flourishing state of the clinic in Botswana. “We got the clinic functioning and in a place where we could follow up with patients, get slide readings back in a short time, make diagnoses and start treatment quickly thereafter,” she shares. “We get to train residents to be fully functional in the local healthcare system in just four weeks – this is not something most international rotations offer. Residents get to have a major hands-on role in patient care,” she adds. Here on-site at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Williams remotely helps manage the clinic in Botswana, especially complicated cases, and provides teaching, mentorship and administrative assistance. One thing she continues to stress is how valuable it is for US clinicians to learn to work in a



resource-limited setting. It allows them to develop new problem solving skills and learn to look at the whole patient picture instead of relying on the multitude of technology we are privileged to have here in the United States.

Dr. Amy Forrestel, who recently completed the dual Dermatology-Internal Medicine residency at Penn, is the most recent addition to the global health team in Botswana. She shared that “a large reason I wanted to come to Penn for residency was because of its strong presence in global health...I knew that I could fully explore my global interests here.”

Dr. Forrestel now spends three months of the year abroad immersed in global health work – seeing patients and teaching local medical students, trainees, and physicians. During the remainder of the year in Philadelphia, she and Dr. Williams remotely supervise the dermatology residents on the ground in Botswana, review plans for complex patients weekly, field daily questions and consults through WhatsApp from resident and physicians around Botswana, and provide administrative support. She notes that her frequent contact with the team keeps her actively involved and tuned in and affords her the opportunity to continuously see clinical cases and learn and grow as a physician.

From the outset, these global efforts could not have been possible without Departmental support and the continued assistance of the Center for Global Health. All three physicians shared that Penn Dermatology invested in them fully and confidently. “To be in an environment where people understand that global health is important and to have a supportive chairman and colleagues who also work in global health – it’s incredible to be part of such a Department that’s interested in this work,” says Dr. Williams. Dr. Forrestel, too, notes that “I am lucky to join a program that is

well established and has made great achievements thanks to years of dedication by Carrie and Tori and the support from our Department and the Global Health Center. It is an exciting time to work in global health at Penn; it’s exciting to plan for the future.” Mike and Peg Kramer, too, have generously given in support of our residents and physicians who travel abroad to Botswana throughout the year, and all three agree that the continued growth of Penn Dermatology Global Health could not have been possible without them.

Excitingly, Botswana now employs more dermatologists in the public sector than it ever has. With this success, the Penn Global Dermatology team is looking to transition over ownership of care to local providers. “This was always our goal...to provide the expertise needed for patient care and training, get them ready and then start stepping back,” reflects Dr. Kovarik. “They are at the point [in Botswana] where they can handle this...seeing their confidence, and taking on responsibility – they are getting to that self-sustainable point,” she adds, with a proud smile. Dr. Williams, too, notes that the goal moving forward is not to be providing direct care, but rather to enhance the local system so that it can move forward without us there. With this vision in mind for her next trip, Dr. Williams will focus on teaching workshops aimed at primary care physicians in rural areas to teach basic dermatology, so that they have the ability to diagnose, triage, and manage long-term care of the Botswana population. Also in the works are plans for diversifying and expanding to new locations in South Africa, Peru, and Indonesia.

The three clinicians all ended their reflections by emphasizing how important global health is, and how it leaves lasting effects—not only in communities in need, but also in the lives of participants. Says Dr. Williams, “coming back from these experiences...I have endless gratitude and so much appreciation for everything in my life. [Global health work] changes your whole perspective – on everything.”

Previous Page: (left)(L-R) Karen Mosojane (local Medical Officer in Botswana), Carrie Kovarik, MD, Tori Williams, MD, (right) Amy Forrestel, MD,
Pictured Above: (right) Tori Williams, MD

PARTNERING WITH PENN DERMATOLOGY

Penn has consistently moved the field of dermatology forward through personalized care and therapeutic advances. The Department of Dermatology works continuously to develop new techniques and therapies through research and to educate the next generation of outstanding physicians and researchers.

To maximize our expertise and potential, improvements to our research infrastructure are required. Basic, translational and clinical research activities are the hallmark of our clinical care and patient outcomes. With significant philanthropic investments, this department will move forward to address pressing medical challenges in dermatologic care and will be instrumental in improving diagnoses, new surgical techniques and quality of life. Lastly, offering the best multidisciplinary care for our patients remains a top priority.

Department of Dermatology Fundraising Priorities

Pilot Research Projects

Honoring Leaders

As the oldest dermatology department in the country, Penn Dermatology has been shaped by many great leaders whose legacies live on through their scientific breakthroughs. Established in 1874 by Dr. Louis Duhring, Penn Dermatology follows the traditions of many great 19th and 20th century physician researchers who worked collaboratively and across disciplines, such as with the engineering school. As a contributor to pilot research projects in cutaneous regeneration, Penn investigators gain the ability to impact patients worldwide with novel approaches to skin diseases, innovative treatments and potential for cures.

Fellowship Training Programs

Supporting New Investigators

Penn Dermatology's training programs attract the most outstanding candidates, developing leaders in dermatologic research, academic, and clinical dermatology. Funds directed toward fellowship training programs guarantee Penn Dermatology's long tradition of educating exceptional scientists and physicians.

Endowed Professorships

Rewarding Innovation

Supporting the work of Penn's physician scientists is of utmost priority. Endowed professorships in investigative dermatology provide Penn Dermatology with the ability to retain and attract exceptional faculty. For decades, Penn's preeminent dermatologists and researchers consistently receive recognition for excellence in patient care, research discoveries and education. Endowed professorships are instrumental in permanently recognizing the dedication of the Department's faculty and their important work.

Laboratories and Research Facilities

Promoting Scientific Advancement

Research space is a critical and fundamental necessity in achieving our goals. New laboratories and instruments provide the path to great discoveries. With the right resources, Penn Dermatology will develop a cutaneous regeneration and tissue engineering effort focused on developing new treatments for skin disorders.

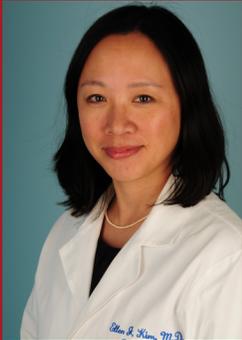
Private philanthropy meets funding needs not covered by government grants or insurance reimbursements. Your donation enables us to break new ground and to improve upon existing therapies.

Philanthropic gifts of all sizes to support our research, educational and clinical endeavors are greatly appreciated. Naming opportunities within the Department begin at the \$25,000-level. Additionally, any gift can be given outright, through a planned giving vehicle, or can be structured to be paid over a 5-year period.

For more information about partnering with Penn Dermatology, please contact **Caitlin Crowe Doelp** at Penn Medicine Development & Alumni Relations at **(215) 746-2167** or **ccrowe@upenn.edu**.

NEW FACULTY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Medical Director for Dermatology at the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine



Ellen Kim, MD

Dr. Kim has recently been appointed as Medical Director for Dermatology at the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine. Dr. Kim shares thoughts on her new position: “It’s been a privilege to be part of the Penn Dermatology family for over a decade. The PCAM Dermatology Clinic has grown tremendously in recent years with 33 dermatology faculty and nurse practitioners offering a diverse array of general and specialty dermatology services. I look forward to working with my colleagues, management team, and staff to continue our mission of delivering dedicated and innovative clinical care for our patients.” Her areas of expertise are diagnosis and management of cutaneous lymphomas and clinical trials of novel treatments for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL). She currently serves on the US Cutaneous Lymphoma Consortium Board of Directors and is Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion in the Department of Dermatology



Susan Taylor, MD

Dr. Susan Taylor has recently been appointed as Director of Diversity and Inclusion in the Department of Dermatology. Dr. Taylor will focus on ways to promote diversity and facilitate inclusion excellence across the Department. Her primary responsibility in this position is to serve as Diversity Search Adviser, which entails working with the Chair of Dermatology and departmental leadership to assess, develop and promulgate best practices to ensure the broadest applicant pools, and attract the most qualified candidates for positions in the Department.

Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion in the Department of Dermatology



Temitayo Ogunleye, MD

Dr. Temitayo Ogunleye has recently been appointed as Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion in the Department of Dermatology. One of her main responsibilities and goals within this position is to increase awareness about the opportunities within dermatology for students of color. This initiative includes increasing diversity within dermatology as a whole, and specifically within the residency program. Dr. Ogunleye encourages undergraduate and medical students from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds, especially those who may have never had any personal experience seeing a dermatologist, to understand more about the world of dermatology and learn about how they can make a difference in underrepresented populations. As part of this initiative, Dr. Ogunleye has helped coordinate Penn representation at the national conference for the Latino Student Medical Association in Lubbock, Texas and the Student National Medical Association national conference here in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCOVERIES

Topical Targeted Therapies Show Promise in Treatment of Skin Cancer

Adapted from www.pennmedicine.org

Lesions called actinic keratoses and squamous cell carcinoma in situ are known precursors to cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. Today, many of the topical drugs used to treat these lesions include 5-fluorouracil, imiquimod, diclofenac, and ingenol mebutate, but these agents have limitations. Some cause inflammation, have suboptimal results, or are very costly. The topical kinase inhibitor known as KX2-391 was shown to be safe and effective in phase III clinical trials recently, but **Dr. John T. Seykora, MD, PhD**, an associate professor of Dermatology, and his team are the first to compare the inhibitor to current standard of care. The Penn team tested the efficacy of dasatinib, BEZ-235, and 5-fluorouracil using a transgenic mouse model in two separate experiments. In this model, the skin cancer shows activation of Src-family tyrosine kinases and downstream signaling pathways, including PI3K/mTOR, Ras/MAPK, and JAK/STAT, which are known drivers of the cancer in humans, making it a useful tool to screen kinase inhibitors. Researchers measured the size of the lesions and took biopsies of treated mice and controls to assess tumor regression, inflammation, and epidermal ulcers at designated time points over a five-week time period. The results of this study "suggest that topical application of small-molecule kinase inhibitors may be useful for treating cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma and related precursor lesions," claimed Dr. Seykora. "These data also raise the possibility that topical application of multiple small-molecule kinase inhibitors together may be more effective than a single compound."

What Is Syphilis, and Why Are Rates Rising?

Adapted from health.usnews.com

Syphilis is a bacterial infection transmitted during either sexual activity or childbirth. The bacteria,

Treponema pallidum, is actually quite "wimpy" since it's easily killed off by penicillin, says **Dr. Amy Forrestel, MD**, an assistant professor of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania, who has expertise in infectious and HIV-related skin disorders and complex medical dermatology. And despite its "wimpy" nature in some regards, if left untreated, syphilis can "wreak a lot of havoc," Forrestel says. Syphilis is known as "the great mimicker," Forrestel says, because the way it manifests itself – liver inflammation, cardiac issues, rashes and swollen lymph nodes – can be chalked up to so many other causes. However, patients can develop neurosyphilis and ocular syphilis – or syphilis that has spread to the nervous system or brain – at any stage of the disease. Fortunately, syphilis is detectable with a simple blood test and first and second stage syphilis is easily treatable with antibiotics. The challenge is preventing – and when that fails, identifying – the condition before it has a chance to damage the body in untreatable ways.

New drug for alopecia shows promise: What you need to know

Adapted from www.abcnews.go.com

While many people may brush off losing hair as simply a cosmetic issue, alopecia is often more than that. Alopecia can take an emotional and psychological toll on patients, and the unpredictability of the hair loss can also be frustrating. The traditional treatments include steroid injections into the small bald spots, which can chase immune system cells away from the area and allow hair to grow again. However, for those with advanced forms of the disease, it is rare to see lasting hair regrowth even when traditional treatments are used. Only about 10 percent of alopecia universalis patients see a full recovery, according to the NIH. Still, **Dr. George Cotsarelis, MD**, Chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, believes there's hope. "Stem cells are still present, so they always have the ability to make new hair," he told ABC News. Since 2014, several clinical trials have shown

promising results in alopecia patients who took JAK inhibitors. Roughly two-thirds of those who used them reported regrowth of their hair. But there are downsides to the drugs as well. After people stop using them, for example, the hair that they grew back is likely to fall out again. “I feel like you are putting patients on a roller coaster if they walk in with [alopecia] totalis,” Cotsarelis said. “And then what, how do you get them off?” The effects that the drugs have on the immune system also increase a person’s risk of infection and even some cancers. “I’d be very reluctant to keep someone on a broadly immunosuppressive treatment like this for five, 10 or 20 years,” said Cotsarelis. To circumvent these side effects, doctors have begun looking into topical forms of the oral JAK inhibitor medications.

Dealing with Prescription Prior Authorization in Dermatology

Adapted from www.practicaldermatology.com

Dr. Bruce Brod, MD, a clinical professor of dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, is not convinced that safety and efficacy are the key drivers that land drugs on the Prior Authorization (PA) requirement list. He also thinks that drug PA requirements, as they’re currently structured, overstep reasonable bounds and interfere with clinical decision-making. “Many of the drugs requiring PA have been safely used for a long time—the risks, which are minimal, are known and haven’t changed for quite some time,” says Dr. Brod, who is deputy chair of the American Academy of Dermatology Association’s Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy and has worked on drug pricing issues with the academy. “The bottom line is that insurance companies use utilization management tools to control prices in response to fluctuations of drug prices much more so than in response to their concerns about safety and efficacy.” Dr. Brod adds that, when making treatment decisions, he “puts the patient first” but also uses good stewardship regarding the cost of the treatment. “I carefully weigh all of those factors, and I think physicians have the training, education, and knowhow to make judicious decisions. Insurance companies aren’t providers, so when they impose those rules, they’re acting as medical decision-makers,” he says. For his part, Dr. Brod urges insurance plans to keep in mind that physicians are caring for real people in real time, and that any PA standards they impose regarding newer therapies

should be the same that they would expect—and accept—for themselves.

4 Reasons to Add a Dermatologist to Your Diabetes Care Team

Adapted from www.everydayhealth.com

1. **Dr. William James, MD**, a professor of dermatology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, recommends that a dermatologist can help you stay on top of signs of infection. Infections are the most common skin concern for people with diabetes, and bacterial infections are more common and severe for people with diabetes, according to the aforementioned Clinical Diabetes study. According to Medline Plus, people with diabetes are at increased risk for staph infections, which are sometimes difficult to treat because of increasing resistance to antibiotics. Fungal infections can occur in the genital area, folds of the skin, nails, and other areas. The fungi thrive in sugary environments, so elevated blood glucose can increase the risk of fungal infections.
2. A dermatologist can teach you how to inspect your feet to prevent ulcers, which are open sores. Open sores can become infected if you don’t feel or treat them. So inspecting your feet, or having someone else inspect your feet, is a cornerstone of preventing problems, adds Dr. James.
3. In the wintertime, many people experience dry skin, but dry skin can be tricky for people with diabetes. “Dry skin is often itchy, and scratching can break the skin and open it to infection. Dermatologists can educate people on how to keep their skin from drying out and how to moisturize well,” says Dr. James.
4. People with diabetes are also at increased risk for edema, per a study published in May 2017. Dr. James reports that this swelling in legs and feet can squash toes together, causing sweat and excess moisture in between toes. This creates a breeding ground for bacteria and fungi that can cause infection. He adds that a bacterial infection can travel up the legs, damaging blood and lymph vessels and worsen the edema.

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS

Our talented faculty, clinicians, and instructors receive numerous awards and recognition for their outstanding contributions and achievements



Brian Capell, MD, PhD

- Received a Developmental Research Grant from the Penn-Wistar Skin Cancer SPORE, entitled, "Defining and Restoring Histone Methylation Dynamics in Squamous Carcinogenesis"
- Received a Dermatology Foundation Research Supplement Award
- Received a Charles and Daneen Stiefel Scholar Award in Skin Cancer from the Dermatology Foundation



William James, MD

- Inaugural recipient of the AAD's William D. James Mentor of the Year Award
- Recipient of the AAD's Mentor of the Year Award



Aimee Payne, MD, PhD

- Recent paper, entitled, "Breaking Bad: IgG4 in Autoimmunity" was featured on Science Trends



Cory Simpson, MD, PhD

- Appointed to the Society for Investigative Dermatology Membership Committee for 2019-2021
- Received a Commitment Presidential Citation Award from the AAD
- Was awarded a World Congress of Dermatology Travel Scholarship from the AAD
- Recipient of an AAD Presidential Citation Award for work on relaunching the AccessDerm Teledermatology Program
- Received a Physician-Scientist Career Development Award from the Dermatology Foundation
- Received a Diversity Research Supplement Award from the Dermatology Foundation



Misha Rosenbach, MD

- Received a Philanthropic and Commitment Presidential Citation Award from the AAD for his work on climate change and dermatology



Elena Bernardis, PhD

- Awarded the American Skin Association (ASA) Research Grant for Childhood Skin Disease/Disfigurement for 2019



James Treat, MD

- Helped secure a Frontiers Program to establish a multidisciplinary vascular anomalies center at CHOP



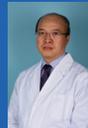
Emily Chu, MD, PhD

- Received a Dermatology Foundation Diversity Supplement Award to mentor Jessica Brown, a medical student from Case Western Reserve, this summer



John Stanley, MD

- Recipient of the American Skin Association Martin Carter Mentorship Award



Ming-Lin Liu, MD, PhD

- Awarded a grant from NIH-NIAID entitled: "Extracellular vesicle-associated MAVS and INF β in dermatomyositis"



Joel Gelfand, MD, MSCE

- Awarded a grant from Pfizer entitled: "Risk of major health outcomes in patients with atopic dermatitis in the United Kingdom"



Victoria Werth, MD

- Recipient of the Rose Hirschler Award from the Women's Dermatologic Society
- Recipient of the American Skin Association's Research Achievement Award in Autoimmune and Inflammatory Skin Disorders



Carrie Kovarik, MD

- Received CPUP PMSN Good Catch Award for reporting and helping to improve patient safety



Jeremy Etzkorn, MD

- Received a Clinical Career Development Award in Dermatologic Surgery from the Dermatology Foundation



David Margolis, MD, PhD

- Was inducted into the Association of American Physicians



John Seykora, MD, PhD

- Received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Basic Science Teaching, which recognizes teaching excellence and commitment to medical student teaching in the basic sciences



Todd Ridky, MD, PhD

- Received a Charles and Daneen Stiefel Scholar Award in Skin Cancer from the Dermatology Foundation



Elizabeth Grice, PhD

- Received a Sun Pharma Research Award from the Dermatology Foundation



Patrick McMahon, MD

- Received a Chairs Initiative to further the Teledermatology Program



Leslie Castelo-Soccio, MD, PhD

- Received a Pediatric Dermatology Career Development Award from the Dermatology Foundation



Mackenzie Wehner, MD, MPhil

- Received a Public Health Career Development Award from the Dermatology Foundation



Ashwin Agarwal, MD

- Received an Excellence in Patient Care Award from the AAD



Zelma Chiesa-Fuxench, MD, MSCE

- Received a Medical Dermatology Career Development Award from the Dermatology Foundation



Aditi Murthy, MD

- Received a Chairs Initiative to further the Teledermatology Program



Albert Yan, MD

- Helped secure a Frontiers Program to establish a multidisciplinary vascular anomalies center at CHOP



Bruce Brod, MD

- Appointed to serve as a panelist on the FDA Generic Drug Public Workshop in May 2019, providing input for recommendations on irritation and sensitization of topical transdermal drug products
- Received an American Contact Dermatitis Society Presidential Citation for serving as the ACDS Advocacy and Health Policy AMA representative



Junko Takeshita, MD, PhD, MSCE

- Received a Dermatology Foundation Research Supplement Award
- Received 2019 American Society for Clinical Investigation Young Physician-Scientist Award
- Received a Diversity Research Supplement Award from the Dermatology Foundation



Joseph Sobanko, MD

- Received a Dermatology Foundation Diversity Research Award



Roman Bronfenbrener, MD

- Completed the JAAD Editorial Fellowship he was awarded in January



Donna Brennan-Crispi, PhD

- Received a Science of Human Appearance Career Development Award from the Dermatology Foundation



Jenna Streicher, MD

- Helped secure a Frontiers Program to establish a multidisciplinary vascular anomalies center at CHOP

TOP DOCTORS

A Number of our faculty were awarded Philadelphia Magazine's 2019 Top Doctors recognition:

Bruce Brod, MD

Edward Bondi, MD

George Cotsarelis, MD

Cherie Ditre, MD

Joel Gelfand, MD, MSCE

William James, MD

Ellen Kim, MD

Christopher Miller, MD

Michael Ming, MD

Alain Rook, MD

Misha Rosenbach, MD

Adam Rubin, MD

Joseph Sobanko, MD

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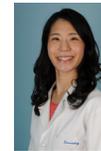
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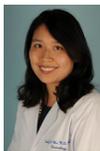
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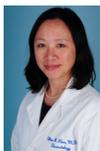
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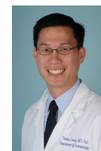
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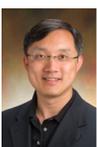
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DUHRING GRAND ROUNDS SCHEDULE

<p>June 20, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>September 26, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>December 12, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Lecturer: Jaehyuk Choi, MD, PhD Ruth K. Freinkel Assistant Professor in the Departments of Dermatology and Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University Title: TBD; Location: SCTR Auditorium</p>
<p>June 27, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>October 3, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	
<p>July 4, 2019 Independence Day, No Grand Rounds</p>	<p>October 4, 2019 9th Annual Kligman Lectureship</p>	
<p>July 11, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>October 10, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Lecturer: Thomas P. Sollecito, DMD, FDS, RCSEd, Professor and Chair of Oral Medicine, Associate Dean of Hospital and Extramural Affairs, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Chief of Oral Medicine at the UNiversity of Pennsylvania Health System, Title: "The Complexity of Oral Potentially Malignant Disease;" Location: SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>December 19, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>
<p>July 18, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>		
<p>July 25, 2019 Summer AAD Conference, No Grand Rounds</p>		
<p>August 1, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>October 17, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	
<p>August 8, 2019 No Grand Rounds</p>	<p>October 24, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	
<p>August 15, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>October 31, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	
<p>August 22, 2019 No Grand Rounds</p>	<p>November 7, 2019 44th Annual Morris H. Samitz Lectureship 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium 10:00 AM Lecturer: John Harris, MD, PhD; Title: TBD; Location: SCTR Auditorium; (No Grand Rounds)</p>	<p>PennDermAlumni@uphs.upenn.edu</p>
<p>August 29, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>November 14, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	
<p>September 5, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>November 15, 2019 Philly Derm Conference</p>	
<p>September 12, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Lecturer: Eleni Linos, MD, DrPH Professor of Dermatology, Stanford University Title: "New approaches to skin cancer prevention using technology;" Location: SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>November 21, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	
<p>September 19, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	<p>November 28, 2019 Thanksgiving, No Grand Rounds</p>	<p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:</p> <p>We wish to thank all of the faculty, staff, and friends of the Department whose continued efforts make this newsletter possible!</p>
	<p>December 5, 2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Patient Viewing, PCAM Suite 1-330S 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Patient Discussion, SCTR Auditorium</p>	