

PENN DERM

SKIN BIOLOGY & DISEASES RESOURCE-BASED CENTER

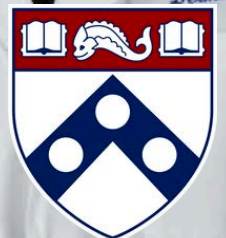
⁹ Advances in Understanding and Treating Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)

¹¹ The Ongoing Shortage of Pediatric Dermatologists

¹⁴ The Dermatopathology International Observership Program

PENNDOC AND 3D IMAGING ⁴

Implementing cutting-edge technology in cutaneous oncology care



Winter
2024

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Did You Know?

9 sites at which our faculty practice

faculty members **68**

19 Penn physicians named as 'Philly Top Doctors'

122,000 patients seen this year

24 Dermatology Programs and Services

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Penn Dermatology is renowned worldwide for its groundbreaking research, inspiring innovation, and exceptional patient care. These achievements are made possible by our commitment to team-based approaches in treating dermatologic diseases. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated faculty, staff, trainees, administrators, and community supporters who make this work possible.

In this issue, we focus on the power of collaboration—how our teams work together to understand disease processes, develop novel treatments, and implement evidence-based care. One example of this is our team at the Penn Dermatology Oncology Center (PennDOC), led by **Christopher Miller, MD**. Their relentless pursuit of excellence is reflected in the comprehensive and world-class care that they provide to our patients. In our feature article, you will learn more about PennDOC's multidisciplinary oncology care, its collaborations with other departments to achieve optimal patient outcomes, and the integration of the latest technology to strengthen preventative care.

We also highlight the work of **Victoria Fang, MD, PhD**, and the Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) group, who are advancing our understanding of this complex and underdiagnosed disease. By studying the mechanisms of HS in collaboration with the Institute for Immunology and Immune Health, they are developing more effective treatment strategies and care protocols. Penn Dermatology is proud to support

this pioneering research, which is positioning our HS group at the forefront of the field.

This issue also celebrates our diverse educational programs and congratulates our incoming and graduating residents & fellows. Since its inception in 2008 by **Rosalie Elenitsas, MD**, the Dermatopathology International Observership Program has continued to flourish, with our most recent International Fellow joining us from Tokyo, Japan. In partnership with CHOP, we offer three educational pathways to help train the next generation of pediatric dermatologists. We are also proud to write about our 8th annual Penn Academy for Skin Health (PASH), which introduces local high school students to the world of research and dermatology. Additionally, we honor our commitment to continuing education through our annual lectureships, including the 25th Annual Bernard L. Hohenberg Memorial Lecture and the 37th Annual Donald M. Pillsbury Lectureship.

Please join me in celebrating the retirement of **Edward E. Bondi, MD**, and in welcoming our newest faculty members and instructors. I also congratulate our faculty and research trainees on their numerous professional achievements, which are highlighted in this issue.

With over 150 years of leadership in groundbreaking research and innovation, we remain inspired to advance the frontiers of medicine and therapeutics. This ongoing progress is fueled by our exceptional faculty, residents, trainees, and the dedicated administration and staff who tirelessly support our patients and community. Our continued success in building on this rich legacy is made possible through national grants, generous philanthropic support, and state-of-the-art facilities.

Please enjoy reading this issue of the Penn Derm Newsletter and I wish you all the best for a warm holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Cotsarelis".

George Cotsarelis, MD
Milton B. Hartzell Professor and Chair

PENNDOC AND 3D IMAGING

Implementing cutting-edge technology in cutaneous oncology care

The University of Pennsylvania's Dermatology Oncology Center (PennDOC) was created in 2015 under the leadership of **Christopher J. Miller, MD**, Louis A. Duhring Endowed Professor of Dermatology. PennDOC encompasses four clinics that provide specialized care for patients with skin cancer: 1) the Pigmented Lesion Clinic; 2) the High-Risk Skin Cancer Clinic for Organ Transplant and Immunosuppressed Patients; 3) the Mohs and Reconstructive Surgery Clinic; and 4) the Rare Skin Cancer Clinic. These PennDOC pillars work in tandem to provide an exemplary standard of care, with a focus on a team-based approach to disease.

Penn Dermatology stands at the forefront of implementing state-of-the-art dermatological technology in practice. Since the 1980s, the Penn Pigmented Lesion Clinic (Drs. Rosalie Elenitsas, Emily Chu, Michael Ming, and Brian Capell) was one of the first to utilize Total Body Photography, a method of lesion monitoring over time that is more objective than relying on self-exams to detect early-stage melanomas. Previously, patients received standard printed photos taken by a specialized m

"I am excited to be a part of PennDOC and our imaging team and am grateful to have the opportunity to work to integrate innovative technologies like 3D whole-body photography with dermoscopy into clinical care. These tools offer immense potential for monitoring lesions in high-risk patients, enabling precise, non-invasive serial tracking of individual lesions over time. I look forward to better understanding how these advancements may continue to elevate the standard of care and improve outcomes for our patients."

-Dr. Jariwala

This year, PennDOC introduced a state-of-the-art 3D whole body photography system to allow for the integration of innovative, noninvasive imaging technology into our clinical, research, and educational programs. The new system is overseen by **Dr. Carmela Vittorio**, Director of Medical Imaging, and **Dr. Neha Jariwala**.

As one of only 17 such systems in the U.S., the 3D imaging system uses 92 cameras to capture images of the entire body's exposed skin in less than one second. These images are converted into a 3D avatar of the patient. The image files are large and require intense computing power, so the construction of the avatar takes 10-15 minutes.

The result, however, is worth the wait because AI analyzes the images and provides data on the parameters, diameters, contrast, border irregularity, color, class probabilities, and even a risk assessment of any irregularities of lesions. Dermoscopy tied into the system allows for thorough investigation of the surface structure and color of individual skin lesions. If a patient has serial 3D images, pigmentary changes and the development of new lesions are also specifically highlighted by the program, providing the opportunity to monitor the progression of the skin through time. Systems such as this launch our care for patients into the future.

Notably, these advances in patient care have been made possible by a generous donation by **George Weiss**, a major philanthropic donor to Penn.



3D Whole Body Imaging Device

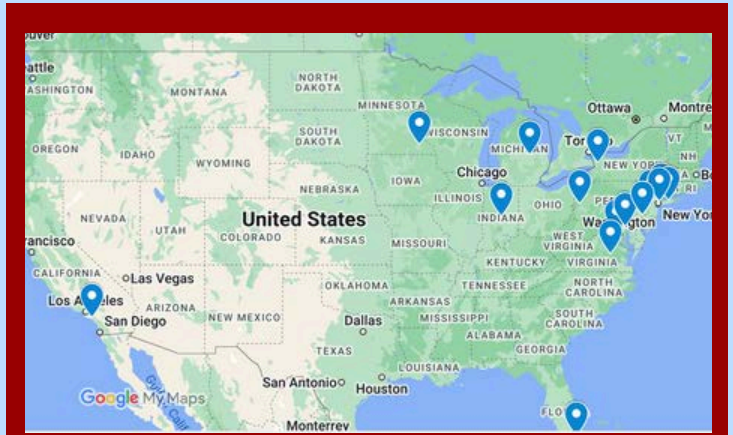
Penn Dermatology's *High-Risk Skin Cancer Clinic for Organ Transplant & Immunosuppressed Patients* is designed to provide comprehensive care for patients at increased risk for skin cancer, including solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow transplant recipients, patients on long-term immunosuppression for other indications and patients with certain types of leukemia such as chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

Established over 20 years ago, the High-risk Skin Cancer Clinic is comprised of medical and surgical dermatologists who collaborate closely with providers in the Penn Transplant Institute and the Abramson Cancer Center to provide expert, individualized care in skin cancer prevention and treatment for solid organ transplant recipients and oncology patients.

Skin cancer is the most common post-transplant malignancy in adult solid organ transplant recipients. The Penn transplant institute has performed more than 13,500 solid organ transplants, and there are currently more than 7000 solid organ transplant recipients being followed at Penn for their post-transplant care.

We've built strong collaborations with the Penn transplant groups and created a streamlined referral process to ensure transplant recipients are triaged appropriately so that they are evaluated and treated in an appropriate timeframe. We have also created a bi-monthly resident transplant clinic, staffed by **Dr. Katherine Steele**, which serves to enhance resident education in caring for this specialized patient population as well as further increase access to dermatologic care for high-risk transplant recipients.

Our team works closely with the Penn transplant teams to create a personalized skin cancer treatment plan to fit each patient's unique medical situation. We often utilize topical treatments such as topical 5-fluorouracil, in-office photodynamic therapy (PDT) and oral medications (e.g. acitretin) as preventative strategies to decrease the burden of actinic keratoses and reduce the development of new skin cancers. In patients with aggressive tumors or a high burden of skin cancers, we collaborate closely with the transplant team to modify immunosuppressive regimens, if feasible. In addition to medical management, the team provides comprehensive surgical management of skin cancers including Mohs surgery.



Currently, there are 16 of these devices in the U.S. 14 are located at 11 hospitals and health systems.

In rare cases in which a skin cancer is more advanced and has spread internally to lymph nodes or distant organs, we work closely with the patient's transplant physicians as well as surgical oncology, medical oncology, and radiation oncology to determine the most appropriate multidisciplinary treatment plan to maximize the possibility of a cure and preserve quality of life.

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In addition to providing excellent, comprehensive clinical care, patient outreach and education is a cornerstone of the team's mission. In recent years, **Dr. Joanna Walker**, **Dr. Katherine Steele** and other members of the team have spoken at transplant patient support groups at the Penn Transplant Institute, Gift of Life and Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO) to increase patient awareness of the elevated risk of skin cancer in solid organ transplant recipients and the importance of regular skin examinations with a dermatologist.

Penn Dermatology Oncology Center's *Rare & Inherited Skin Cancer Clinic* provides advanced care for individuals with uncommon and high-risk tumors. Skin cancers such as Merkel cell carcinoma, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, pleomorphic dermal sarcoma, and sebaceous carcinoma require a unique and individualized treatment plan. These tumors have a higher risk for recurrence or spread beyond the skin, and patient outcomes are better when treatment is received within a high-volume center like PennDOC.

Additionally, some cases of basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma require more than one type of treatment, such as surgery, radiation and/or medication. **Dr. Joanna Walker**, along with the other Mohs surgical oncology members, regularly participate in interdisciplinary discussions to review pathology, imaging and patient data to determine the best data-driven approach to skin cancer treatment.

“I am grateful to work at Penn where physicians from all specialties work together to provide the best care to complex skin cancer patients. Through the experience and collaboration of many specialists and our research we strive to offer the most comprehensive and individualized care for individuals who are at high-risk due to having numerous skin cancers (transplant or immunosuppressed patients), or due to a rare or aggressive type of skin cancer. It is rewarding to be at the forefront in progressive skin cancer care and to personally see the benefit of new treatments in our patients.”

-Dr. Walker

These discussions may involve numerous other Penn specialists such as medical oncology, radiation oncology, plastic surgery, oncologic surgery, head and neck surgery, oculoplastic surgery, transplant medicine, surgical pathology, dermatopathology, radiology and genetics. Penn's Center for Personalized Diagnostics is a resource that analyzes an individual's skin cancer to detect changes in the tumor cells and choose a targeted medication approach when needed.

Research keeps PennDOC at the forefront of skin cancer treatment. Patients may be eligible for enrollment in clinical trials to study novel approaches to treatment such as non-surgical intra-lesional treatment, pre-surgery infusion of immunotherapy medication, or post-treatment infusion of immunotherapy medication.

Dr. Walker shares, “We are studying the use of 3D imaging to help detect skin cancer in solid organ transplant recipients. Our team publishes numerous studies each year to better understand both common and rare skin cancers, how they present, and how they should be treated. We collaborate with research colleagues in the lab to study skin cancer cells and their behavior.”

“It is incredibly rewarding to be a part of the team providing comprehensive dermatologic care for solid organ transplant recipients at Penn. First, this is a patient population that not only carries a high risk for cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (65-fold to 300-fold increased risk relative to the general population), but also in immunosuppressed solid organ transplant recipients, squamous cell carcinoma can sometimes be more aggressive with the potential to invade underlying structures and metastasize to lymph nodes leading to significant morbidity and even mortality. As a result, utilizing topical and oral medications to reduce risk of skin cancer as well as diagnosing and treating pre-cancers and skin cancers in the earliest stages when they are treatable with topical therapies or small surgeries is paramount. In addition, because many of these patients require long-term follow-up in dermatology clinic, I've been fortunate to develop close physician-patient relationships with many transplant recipients who I've followed longitudinally for years. This is one of the things that drew me to medicine and dermatology in the first place. Lastly, in caring for this patient population, I feel very fortunate to get the opportunity to work closely with other brilliant and caring physicians here at Penn, including the Penn transplant teams, Dr. Walker and our other Mohs surgeons, and the transplant infectious disease teams, all of whom I have continually learned from throughout my career at Penn.”

-Dr. Steele

Penn Dermatology applauds all team members of PennDOC, who consistently strive for the best for our patients. Their efforts to incorporate 3D images into patient care are revolutionary and are a testament to Penn's mission of advancing medical innovation and transforming patient care.

POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy allows the Penn Dermatology Oncology Center (PennDOC) to fulfill its mission: to cure skin cancer through innovative research, specialized patient care and developing world-class education programs to disseminate knowledge.

PennDOC's Mission Updates

Educating Tomorrow's Skin Cancer Leaders

PennDOC established the world's premiere fellowship in skin cancer and Mohs and reconstructive surgery. The nation's most talented aspiring dermatologists and surgeons compete for our coveted PennDOC training fellowships. PennDOC trainees learn from our world-class faculty and go on to design and publish research to improve outcomes. Fellows analyze large datasets and publish their research in scientific journals while presenting at conferences around the world.

"My year as a PennDOC clinical research fellow has been invaluable! Through the mentorship and guidance of faculty and my co-fellows, I learned to ideate research questions, implement a study design, gather and analyze data, and write cohesive research papers. The focus on telling a compelling story helped shift the way I view data and pushed me to understand my research endeavors more deeply. Additionally, the opportunity to interact with residents, participate in resident lectures, attend monthly grand rounds, and rotate through clinic with various faculty allowed me to enhance my clinical knowledge. The skills I gained and relationships I made during this year will serve me well throughout my career."

- Ella Frankel, 2023 Fellow



Publishing Research to Change the Standard of Care

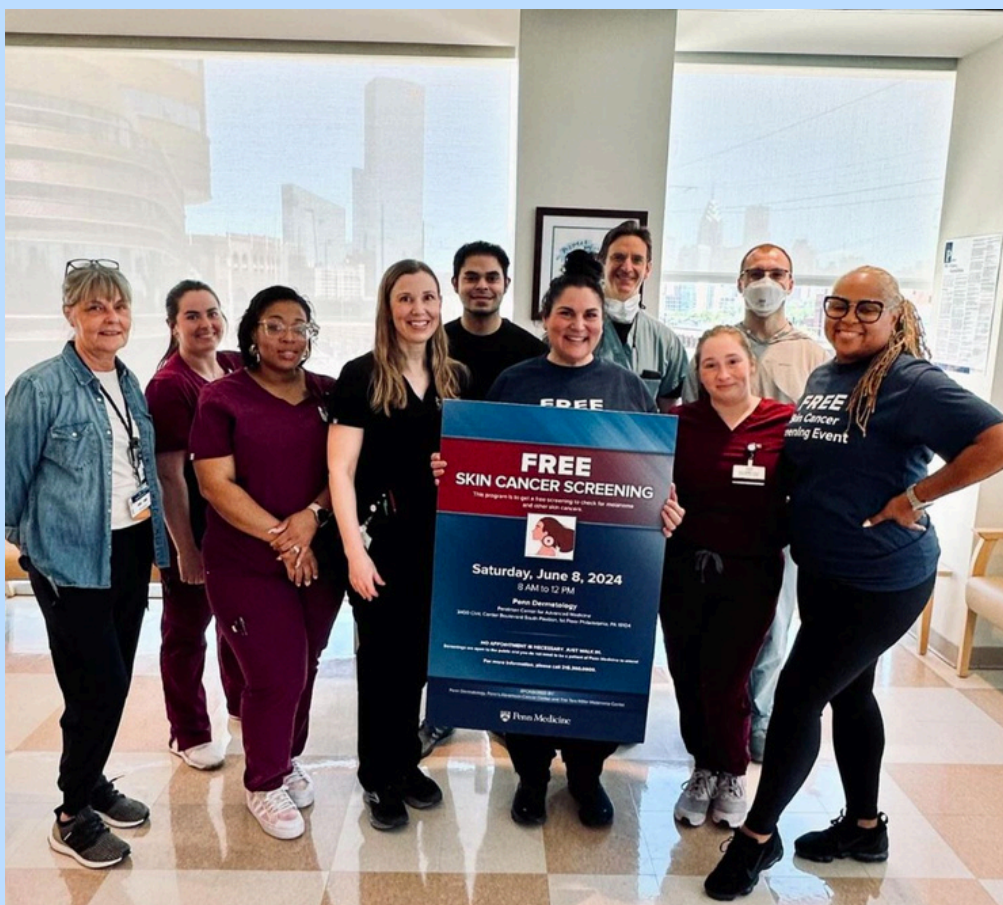
Publications from PennDOC improves the lives of skin cancer patients around the world. PennDOC faculty treat patients with complex skin cancers that many centers would not be able to manage. PennDOC has built teams of faculty, fellows, statisticians, and research coordinators to analyze and publish important clinical outcomes. These publications change the standard of care for patients with skin cancer at Penn and beyond. For example, the PennDOC team has improved cure rates for head and neck melanomas more than 10-fold, and now centers across the country use the PennDOC technique for at their Institutions. In 2023-24 alone, PennDOC faculty and trainees produced 244 publications, abstracts, and podium presentations.

POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Investing in Technology to Save Lives

Thanks to a generous donation, PennDOC was able to invest in important new technology: the Vectra WB360, a state-of-the-art machine that uses 92 cameras to create a high resolution full-body 3D avatar of patients at high risk for melanomas. The Vectra uses artificial intelligence to help detect new or changing lesions. As part of this donation, PennDOC also purchased multiple digital Dermatoscopes to monitor lesions on the 3D avatar for changes at 10x magnification. The software allows the team to offer patients the same level of specialized care at all Penn Dermatology clinic sites.

While the Vectra WB360 was initially developed for melanoma patients, Penn Dermatology is testing a new service for another high-risk skin cancer population – organ transplant recipients. Organ transplant recipients take immunosuppressive medications that prevent rejection of the transplanted organ but also increase their skin cancer risk 70-fold. Many organ transplant recipients develop advanced skin cancer because they do not have access to regular skin checks. PennDOC is initiating a clinical trial to screen organ transplant recipients with the Vectra WB360 and decide which patients need in-person visits for suspicious lesions. The PennDOC team is optimistic that this technology will allow clinicians to prevent advanced skin cancers by providing prompt service to our highest-risk patients.

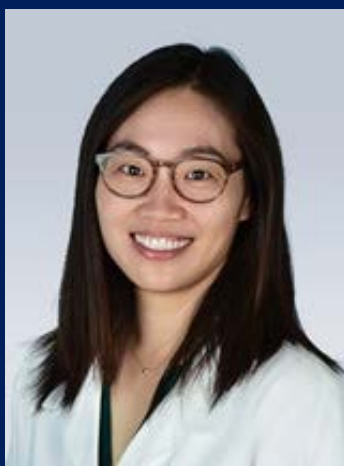


Faculty and staff from Penn Dermatology and Penn's Tara Miller Melanoma Center organized a free skin cancer screening in June 2024, seeing more than 200 patients from the local community.

ADVANCES IN UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA (HS)

Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS), an extremely painful inflammatory skin disease, is both underdiagnosed in the clinic and understudied in the lab. More surprisingly, although widely regarded as rare, research suggests that as much as 1% of the US population suffers from some form of HS, making HS more prevalent than widely known conditions like Type 1 diabetes (0.06%), lupus (0.20%), and inflammatory bowel disease (0.40%). Researchers in the HS group at Penn Dermatology are seeking to bring HS research and treatment to the limelight.

HS disproportionately impacts people of color and is three times more common in women than men, with both falling in the category of historically under-researched demographics. In roughly 70 years leading up to 2018, the NIH funded less than \$1 million for HS-related research.



Victoria Fang, MD, PhD

Furthermore, patients wait 7 years before getting an official HS diagnosis, which is complicated by the lack of standardized clinical measures of HS. This can be devastating to many patients, as HS manifests in painful abscesses in uncomfortable areas like the groin, armpit, breast, and buttocks. Currently, there are only 2 FDA approved medications for HS: adalimumab and secukinumab. Randomized control trials show that even with these medications, only around half of the patients show moderate signs of improvement, with few reaching a full recovery. Witnessing this critical

problem, **Victoria Fang, MD, PhD** who both sees HS patients in her clinic and studies HS in the lab, decided to dive deeper into the pathophysiology of HS, with the goal of making more treatment options available for HS patients.

Although more attention and funding have been given to understanding and improving treatments for HS in recent years, there are still significant barriers to HS research. For one, HS is a complex disease that involves multiple biological pathways and systems, surpassing keratinocyte or dermal biology and implicating the immune system and gut microbiome. Reflecting on the complexity of HS investigation, Dr. Fang shares, “There are a lot of hypotheses and not a lot of clear answers.” This gap in comprehensive understanding of the diverse disease mechanisms of HS is evident in the lack of efficacious and highly selective drugs to treat HS.

Using innovative techniques, the HS group at Penn uses a new emerging technology, known as Co-detection by indexing (CODEX) multiplex immunofluorescence, to label dozens of proteins on a single tissue section to begin to chip away at this complex disease mechanism. Clinically, the HS group aims to develop a machine-learning personalized model to predict which HS medication will be more effective for each patient.

HS research and clinical care at Penn is strongly supported by the Department. The HS working group involves Robert Micheletti, MD; Victoria Fang, MD, PhD; Michelle Weir, MD, and Zelma Chiesa Fuxench, MD, MSCE. The HS group’s work would not be made possible without support from Dr. Nicholas Mollanazar, the Clinical Studies Unit, Laura Cesar, Drs. Donna Brennan-Crispi and Steve Prouty from the SBDRC-CPAT core, Sarah Scheuring, the Mohs team, and Dr. Thomas Leung.

Note: Dr. Fang is seeking HS patients to enroll in her personalized medicine study. If you are a medical provider of a patient about to start a biologic treatment for Hidradenitis Suppurativa, please send the patient’s chart to Dr. Fang.

PARTNERING WITH PENN DERMATOLOGY

Penn directs 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 generations 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, the Department will continue addressing 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 work collaboratively and across disciplines, such as with the school of engineering. 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 one of the highest priorities. Endowed professorships in investigative dermatology provide Penn Dermatology with the ability to retain and attract exceptional faculty. Penn's preeminent dermatologists and researchers consistently receive recognition for excellence in patient care, research discoveries, and education. Endowed professorships are instrumental to the Department's faculty and their important work.

Community Education Fund

Inspiring the Next Generation

Penn Dermatology is committed to serving youth in the Philadelphia community. Through programs like the Penn Academy for Skin Health (PASH), high school students are offered an invaluable STEM experience - working side-by-side with our nationally renowned experts in the laboratory, as well as participating in college workshops.

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 **Karleigh Rose Pettit**, Senior Director of Development, at **(215) 898 - 9931** or **karleigh@upenn.edu**.



THE ONGOING SHORTAGE OF PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGISTS

An Update from the Desk of the Pediatric Dermatology Section
Chief, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

On behalf of the Section of Dermatology at CHOP, we wish all our colleagues at Penn and in the community a very happy holiday season. We are grateful for our team at CHOP who care for children of all ages with a variety of skin conditions requiring medical, surgical, and laser management in the outpatient or inpatient setting. We have one of the largest pediatric dermatology sections in the country with 10 physicians and 4 advanced practice practitioners, 8 multidisciplinary clinics (allergy/dermatology/immunology, alopecia, combined vascular anomalies program, dysregulated immune response team, epidermolysis bullosa, polycystic ovarian syndrome, pigmented lesions, and rheum/derm), clinical research trials, numerous research projects with trainees, and an incredible support staff including 7 nurses, 4 medical assistants, and an administrative team. Despite this being our largest team ever at CHOP, we continue to struggle to keep up with demand.

On average, we receive 50-60 new referrals every day from primary care providers, our subspecialty colleagues at CHOP and other hospitals, and dermatologists in the community. You might be wondering why we don't just hire more pediatric dermatologists. Unfortunately, our specialty remains understaffed due to a paucity of dermatology residents applying to pediatric dermatology fellowships. We have been fortunate to train 2 fellows at CHOP nearly every year since we began taking 2 fellows in 2011 (with the exception of the period during Covid), but many other spots in the country for pediatric dermatology fellowship go unfilled year after year. Over the last 15 years, CHOP has fellowship trained nearly 10% of the American Board of Dermatology (ABD)-board eligible pediatric dermatologists in the US.

While we continue to do our very best to see referrals in a timely fashion and grow our team, we need your help. Here are a few ways you can assist us:

- If you work with medical students expressing interest in dermatology, encourage them to consider a rewarding career in caring for children with skin diseases. We absolutely love our jobs making the lives of children and families we care for better. Here at Penn, we have created a unique combined pediatric preliminary year at CHOP coupled with a 3 year dermatology residency slot at Penn known as the Pediatric Dermatology Track for medical students interested in pursuing pediatric dermatology fellowship and a career in peds derm.
- If you are involved with a dermatology residency, please consider being part of the new pediatric dermatology pathway backed by the ABD known as the Dermatology Residency Track with Pediatric Dermatology Focus. This special track is for pediatricians who have completed pediatric residency. The track includes a traditional 3 year dermatology residency but allows BE/BC pediatricians their own unique spot among dermatology applicants with the expectation that those in the track will go on to complete pediatric dermatology fellowship and fill an unmet need for peds derm across the country. Please reach out to me if you would like more information about either of the above programs.
- Please continue to see pediatric patients in the community who do not require the expertise of a board-certified pediatric dermatologist at CHOP. While we would love to see every child with a skin issue, we know that our community colleagues are well-trained and fully equipped to manage many common pediatric skin diseases in their office.

Thank you again for all your support! We look forward to your ongoing partnership in the years to come.
Cheers!

Marissa J. Perman, MD, FAAD, FAAP
Professor of Dermatology and Clinical Pediatrics
Section Chief, Pediatric Dermatology
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCOVERY



Doctors and Psoriasis Patients Are Hoping to Reduce the Stigma Surrounding the Skin Condition

Joel Gelfand, MD, the James J. Leyden, M.D. Endowed

Professor in Clinical Investigation and director of Penn's Psoriasis and Phototherapy Treatment Center, spoke about the shame and judgment that people with psoriasis face. Some who are misinformed or unaware incorrectly think psoriasis is contagious, said Gelfand.

What To Expect From UV Light Therapy for Your Scalp

Phototherapy can still be an effective treatment for scalp psoriasis, like it is for other types of psoriasis, said **Joel Gelfand, MD**, the James J. Leyden, M.D. Endowed Professor in Clinical Investigation in the department of Dermatology. "In this case, the laser (emitting a similar form of ultraviolet light that we use in standard phototherapy) is applied directly to the scalp, so it is not blocked by hair."

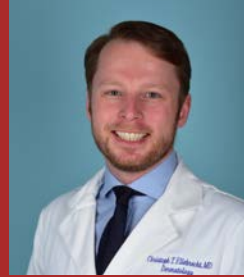
Psoriasis Patients Likely to Use Light Therapy Treatment at Home

Joel Gelfand, MD, led a study showing that patients with psoriasis are more likely to use home-based light therapy. His research highlights how convenient treatment options can help improve patient compliance and accessibility. Gelfand emphasizes that light therapy, when used correctly, can be as effective as in-clinic treatments. This work is part of his ongoing efforts to advance psoriasis care through accessible, patient-centered approaches.



Why Do Pimples Leave Dark Spots—Even if You Don't Pop Them? We Asked a Dermatologist

Dark spots are a natural result of your skin healing from pimples and can be bigger and more noticeable if you pop the pimples yourself, said **Susan Taylor, MD**, the Bennett L. Johnson, Jr., M.D. Professor in the department of Dermatology. While the spots may go away or fade on their own, using sunscreen on your face will help marks fade, she said.



Favorite 'Daughter': Finding the More Durable CAR T Cell

When a cell divides, it may apportion some contents, like proteins and RNA, unevenly between its two "daughter" cells. A team co-led by

Christoph Thomas Ellebrecht, MD, of Dermatology, illuminated how this asymmetric cell division process occurs in CAR T cells, and showed that one of these daughters has greater longevity—among other features—that make it preferable as a cancer-fighter.



See Which Summer Health Tips Are Fact and Which Are Fiction

Anna Kersh, MD, an assistant professor of Dermatology, offered summer skincare advice, such as the importance of using sunscreen even when it's cloudy and said there's no evidence that washing your face with salt water treats acne.



Spotlight On: Misha Rosenbach, MD

The Dermatologist, a media outlet geared for dermatologists, profiled Penn's **Misha Rosenbach, MD**, the Paul R. Gross Professor of Dermatology. Rosenbach explained his love for the collaborative characteristics of dermatology, receiving cards and cookies from former patients, some of his mentors during his career, and the importance of including doctors and scientists in solving the challenges within healthcare and medicine. A patient that stands out for him was the first one he treated for sarcoidosis with a new medicine: "After her first injection, she called me crying on the phone and said she had to come in. I was terrified that she had had a bad reaction; when she walked in, her face was already nearly clear. She had been crying because of how quickly and how well the medication had worked and wanted to show me how well she was doing."

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCOVERY



A Salty Diet May Increase Eczema in Adults, Study Finds

A new study shows that a salty diet appears to have a higher risk for eczema. **Bruce Brod, MD**, a clinical professor of Dermatology and co-director

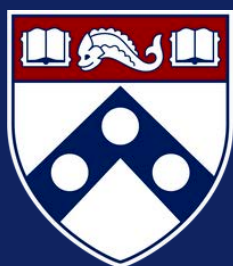
of the Penn Occupational and Contact Dermatitis Program, says the new research “represents a nice piece of bio-epidemiologic work that potentially lends itself to further study down the line.”

Mineral vs. Chemical Sunscreen: Find the Best Fit for Your Skin

Bruce Brod, MD, a clinical professor of Dermatology and co-director of the Occupational and Contact Dermatitis Program, explained how different sunscreens function to block harmful ultraviolet rays.

The Latest Skincare Trend: Beef Fat. Yes, Beef Fat.

"People have started using beef tallow, a type of fat used in cooking, as a skincare tool, saying it makes a good moisturizer, the Washington Post reported. Nevertheless, there's no proof it serves as a better moisturizer than any conventional moisturizer, said **Bruce Brod, MD**, a clinical professor of Dermatology. "Things in nature don't always evolve to be kind to our skin, or the human body in general," said Brod. "It doesn't mean all things natural are bad. But, it also doesn't mean all substances created synthetically are bad either."



Penn
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

THE DERMATOPATHOLOGY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM

Penn Cutaneous Pathology Services is proud to support Penn's educational mission through its commitment to training and mentoring international physicians. The Dermatopathology International Observership Program was designed to empower international physicians seeking to deepen their expertise in the specialized field of dermatopathology. This program delivers a comprehensive learning experience and exemplifies Penn Dermatology's dedication to teaching, mentorship, and global advancement of dermatopathology.

Our dermatopathologists, renowned for their expertise and contributions to the field, are deeply invested in Penn's educational mission. They provide expertise in adnexal tumors, alopecia, cutaneous lymphoma, genetic skin diseases, melanoma and melanocytic lesions, infectious dermatologic conditions, and oral pathology providing observers with a broad and deep

understanding of the field. Observers work side-by-side with these experts, gaining first-hand experience with complex diagnostic cases and the latest advances in dermatopathology.

The international program was established by Dr. Rosalie Elenitsas in 2008. The first physician accepted into the program was Dr. Sookjung Yun, who spent one year with the dermatopathology faculty from 2008 to 2009. Dr. Yun is currently Professor and Chair in the Department of Dermatology at Chonnam National University Medical School, Guangju, South Korea. She has become a national and international leader in Dermatology and Dermatopathology focused on malignant melanoma. Dr. Emily Chu assumed the Directorship of this program starting in 2024. This year's international fellow is Dr. Ikuko Hirai, who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dermatology, Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan.

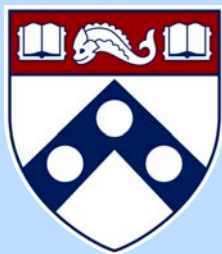


Dr. Ellen Kim, Dr. Jina Chung, Dr. Rosalie Elenitsas, Dr. Sookjung Yun (International Fellow, 2008-2009), and Dr. Jihye Park (International Fellow, 2023-2024) enjoying dinner.

Penn Dermatology's commitment to education reaches beyond our institution, aiming to impact global health by sharing knowledge and raising standards worldwide. This program provides physicians with the latest dermatopathology techniques and instills a philosophy of continuous learning and excellence. By supporting the development of international medical professionals, Penn Dermatology plays a vital role in improving patient outcomes and advancing dermatopathology standards globally.



Dr. Emily Chu, Dr. Ikuko Hirai (current International Fellow), and Dr. Rosalie Elenitsas.



PENN CUTANEOUS PATHOLOGY SERVICES

A facility of the University of Pennsylvania Health System

Dermatopathologists with Specialties Including:

- Adnexal Tumors
- Alopecia
- Cutaneous Lymphoma
- Genetic Skin Diseases
- Melanoma & Melanocytic Lesions
- Pediatric Dermatology
- Tropical & Infectious Dermatologic Conditions

Oral Pathologist with Specialties in:

- Inflammatory & Autoimmune Mucosal Lesions, Oral Preneoplasia, and Cancer

A Leader in Dermatopathology:

- Daily Consensus Slide Review
- EMR Interface
- Individually Tailored Customer Service
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Penn Medicine

PASH

Penn Academy for Skin Health

"I got to interact with people from all stages in their careers, and they gave me great academic and career advice. They offered me clarity and direction in this confusing transition in my life as I prepare to apply to college."

Penn Dermatology hosted the Penn Academy for Skin Health (PASH) for its 8th consecutive year in March. Sponsored by our department's NIH-funded Skin Biology and Diseases Resource-Based Center (SBDRC), PASH introduces local Philadelphia public and charter high school students to clinical dermatology, skin biology, laboratory techniques, and epidemiology.

This past year 46 local students applied for the program, and 12 were selected from these candidates, representing ten

schools in Philadelphia. The PASH program is dedicated to empowering individuals in underserved communities and providing them opportunities to learn about and prepare for medical and scientific careers. PASH students are invited to apply to participate in the Perelman School of Medicine's OER (Outreach, Education, and Research) Summer Internship, which places students in labs across different departments across the university.

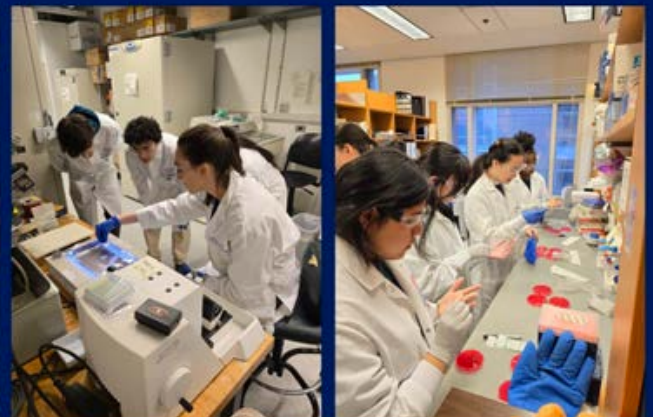
Réla Asar, a PASH participant, expressed her gratitude for networking and meeting professionals in her desired career path: "I got to interact with people from all stages in their careers, and they gave me great academic and career advice. They offered me clarity and direction in this confusing transition in my life as I prepare to apply to college."

PASH is only possible with the participation and dedication of Penn Derm trainees, staff, and faculty. This year more than twenty volunteers dedicated their time and expertise. PASH offers departmental trainees an opportunity to serve as mentors to the next generation of skin researchers. This "near-peer" mentoring approach is beneficial to high school students who more readily identify and engage with mentors who are closer in age and experience. On the other hand, mentors gain valuable experience in teaching and mentoring, benefiting their career development as well.

Postdoctoral fellows Heather Dingwall, PhD; Sofia Murga Garrido, MD, PhD; and MSTP student Nina Kuprasertkul served as PASH coordinators this past year. Together, they facilitated all aspects of the Saturday Academy, including communicating with participants, preparing materials and experiments for the program's weekly sessions, and coordinating the departmental volunteers to work with the PASH students. Our trainees have expressed a sense of fulfillment from serving as mentors and their involvement in the program. Dr. Murga Garrido sums up her experience, "I participate as Student Coordinator in PASH because through these series of workshops we get to interact with high-school students and share our knowledge on the fundamentals of skin biology and clinical and basic research. I believe PASH is **IMPORTANT** because it offers an early fun, multidisciplinary, and integral approach to science. We get to explore dermatology with fresh new excitement each year."

Applications are now open for the PASH 2025 Saturday Academy, which will commence on March 1st.

To support PASH, donations can be made through Penn Dermatology's Community Education Fund.



Top: PASH 2024 Cohort

Bottom: PASH students learning in the labs.

The 37th Annual Donald M. Pillsbury Lectureship

The 37th Annual Pillsbury Lectureship in Dermatology took place on Thursday, May 30, 2024, commemorating the esteemed life and legacy of Dr. Donald M. Pillsbury (1902-1980), who served as Chair of the Dermatology Department for 20 years. Dr. Pillsbury, a former Dermatology Resident and Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, pioneered dermatology from a primarily therapeutic discipline to one rooted in basic science research. His groundbreaking work on the biochemistry of skin diseases set the foundation for modern dermatology. Beyond his research, Dr. Pillsbury made significant contributions to healthcare globally, including providing medical support during WWII and advocating for public dermatological health in the U.S.

This lectureship honors Dr. Pillsbury's transformative impact by highlighting the research of world-renowned skin scientists and dermatologists. This year, we were privileged to welcome Samuel T. Hwang, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine.

After receiving his BA and MD from Harvard University, Dr. Hwang earned his PhD from the University of Basel in Switzerland. He then completed an internship in internal medicine at Harvard Medical School, followed by a dermatology residency and physician fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco. With over 20 years of experience in leukocyte and cancer cell trafficking, Dr. Hwang's research has focused on the role of chemokine receptors, including CCR6 and CXCR4, in psoriasis and cancer cells. His prolific contributions to the field have been published in leading journals such as *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and *JAMA Dermatology*. Before his current role at UC Davis, Dr. Hwang served as Chair and Thomas Russell Professor of Dermatology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Dr. Hwang's lecture titled "From Warts to Psoriasis: Translational Stories from a Physician-Scientist in Dermatology" provided insightful discussion on the significance of CXCR4, a chemokine receptor in WHIM syndrome—a condition characterized by warts, hypogammaglobulinemia, immunodeficiency, and myelokathexis. He also explored the prevalence and treatment of psoriasis following immuno-therapy cancer treatments, offering valuable perspectives for researchers and clinicians.

To learn more about Dr. Hwang and his work, you can visit his faculty page [here](#).



George Cotsarelis, MD, welcomes Samuel T. Hwang, MD, PhD



Dr. Hwang captivates the audience.

The 25th Annual Bernard L. Hohenberg Memorial Lecture

On June 6, 2024, Penn Dermatology welcomed Roslyn Rivkah Isseroff, MD, as the keynote speaker for the annual Bernard L. Hohenberg Memorial Lecture. Dr. Isseroff captivated the audience with her presentation entitled, “Translating from Bench to Patient Without IP: A Shorter Path?”

Dr. Isseroff, a dermatology clinician-investigator, is known for her work on wound healing and skin regeneration. She currently serves as a Distinguished Professor of Dermatology as well as faculty in the Immunology, Pharmacology/Toxicology, and Clinical Research Graduate Groups at the University of California-Davis. She is also the Chief of Dermatology at the Veterans Administration (VA) Northern California Health Care System where she directs a multi-specialty wound healing clinic at the VA Northern California Health Care System’s Sacramento Medical Center. Her research on wound healing and skin regeneration has been supported by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Veterans Health Administration, and DARPA’s BETR Program with over \$6 million in currently active funds.



Roslyn Rivkah Isseroff, MD,
25th Annual Hohenburg Lecturer.

Dr. Isseroff has authored over 193 publications, 6 book chapters, and holds 6 patents. Furthermore, as a leading expert in the field, she serves as the senior editor of Wound Repair and Regeneration.

We are grateful for Dr. Isseroff’s time and information-rich presentation. To learn more about Dr. Isseroff and her research, you can visit her faculty page [here](#).

History:

This Lectureship honors the memory of Bernard L. Hohenberg. Despite facing numerous adversities throughout his life, including being jailed by the Gestapo at age 14, Mr. Hohenberg was a jovial and caring individual. Later, Mr. Hohenberg lived with leukemia for nearly a decade before being diagnosed with lung cancer. Despite the terminal nature of his condition, Mr. Hohenberg continued to live in a way that “his zest for life galvanized all those who had the privilege of knowing him.” During treatments, Mr. Hohenberg developed a pressure ulcer that was defiant of all expert treatment. According to those who knew him, Mr. Hohenberg loosely stated about his ulcer, “I understand people are working all over the world to find a cancer cure, but why doesn’t somebody find a better way of fixing what really bothers me: my sore bottom?!” Upon his passing, Mrs. Pixie Hohenberg endowed the Department in Mr. Hohenberg’s honor to promote annual research in wound regeneration.

Hails and Farewells

Hail to our incoming residents and fellows:



KAYLIN BEITER, MD, PHD

**Louisiana State University
School of Medicine**
*Scripps Mercy Hospital
Transitional Year Program*



CAITLYN MYRDAL, MD

**University of Arizona
College of Medicine**
*Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center,
Milwaukee, WI*



ANNIE JIN, MD

**Lewis Katz School of
Medicine at Temple
University**
Temple University Hospital



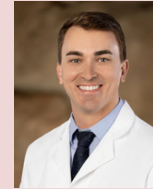
KATHRYN BENTIVEGNA, MD

**University of Connecticut
School of Medicine**
*Mount Sinai Kravis Children's
Hospital (Pediatrics)*



SHANNON NUGENT, MD

**Sidney Kimmel Medical
College at Thomas Jefferson
University**
Pennsylvania Hospital



J. ALEX MILES, MD, MPH

**University of North Carolina
School of Medicine**
University of North Carolina



JESSICA BROWN-KORSAH, MD

**Case Western Reserve
University School of
Medicine**
*Main Line Health – Lankenau
Medical Center*



NATALIA RODRIGUEZ, MD

**Perelman School of
Medicine at the University
of Pennsylvania**
Mount Sinai Beth Israel



IKUKU HIRAI, MD

DermPath Visiting Scholar

Nippon Medical School
Keio University, Tokyo, Japan



JENNIFER CHEN, MD, PHD

Yale School of Medicine
Lankenau Medical Center



SHIVAM ZAVER, MD, PHD

**University of Washington
School of Medicine**
*Virginia Mason Medical Center,
Seattle, WA*



CHRISTINA MURPHY, MD, MS

**University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of
Medicine**
*Hospital of the University of
Pennsylvania*



MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY & DERMATOLOGIC ONCOLOGY FELLOW

S. CALEB FREEMAN, MD

**Creighton University School
of Medicine**
*Oregon Health & Science
University*

CHOP PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY FELLOWS



DREW MITCHELL, MD

**University of Rochester
School of Medicine**
University of New Mexico



FATEMA HASSONJEE, MD

**University of Rochester
School of Medicine**
Northwell Health

Future Endeavors of Our Graduating Residents & Fellows:

- Corbett Berry, MD, PhD:** Postdoc w/ CPUP Role at Penn Dermatology
- Robert Duffy, MD:** General and Pediatric Dermatologist at HMGS/Cooper
- Claire Hannah, MD:** Assistant Professor of Clinical Dermatology at Penn Dermatology
- Matthew Hedberg MD, PhD:** City of Hope
- Daniel Lewis, MD:** Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; Clinical Co-Director of the Melanoma Program Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD
- William Lewis, MD:** Instructor in Dermatology at Harvard Medical School / BIDMC
- Caitlyn Myrdal, MD:** Penn Dermatology Resident
- Supriya Rastogi, MD, MPH:** Joining Schweiger Dermatology Group NYC
- Corinne Rauck, MD:** Assistant Professor at Wayne State University (Detroit, MI); Dermatopathologist at Pinkus Dermatopathology Laboratory
- Olaf Rodriguez, MD:** Private Practice Clinician
- Robert Smith, MD:** Assistant Professor of Dermatology & Pediatric Dermatology and Associate Program Director of the Dermatology Residency Program at Johns Hopkins University
- Ally Wang, MD, MBE:** Assistant Professor of Clinical Dermatology at Penn Dermatology
- Leo Wang, MD, PhD:** Postdoc w/ CPUP Role at Penn Dermatology
- Jenny Wei, MD:** Acting Instructor at University of Washington

Faculty Awards & Honors



Dr. Bruce Brod

- Elected to serve on the AAD Executive Committee beginning March 2025



Dr. Joel Gelfand

- Named Harold I. Feldman Distinguished Scholar by Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine



Dr. Harold Higgins

- Named President of Philadelphia Dermatologic Society (2023-2024)
- Elected as Board Member, Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology



Dr. Ellen Kim

- Awarded Louis Duhring Outstanding Clinical Specialist Award by Penn Medicine Awards of Excellence



Dr. Adam Rubin

- Serving as Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Cutaneous Pathology, American Society of Dermatopathology
- Completed Chair Role of Specialty and Service Society Caucus of American Medical Association

Castle Connolly Exceptional Women in Medicine 2024

Emily Chu, MD	Ellen Kim, MD
Cherie Ditre, MD	Shobana Sood, MD
Analisa Halpern, MD	Victoria Werth, MD

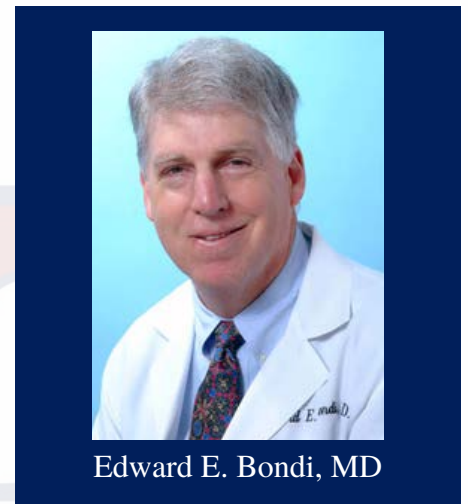
Philadelphia Magazine's Top Docs 2024

Bruce Brod, MD	Analisa Halpern, MD
George Cotsarelis, MD	William James, MD
Emily Chu, MD	Ellen Kim, MD
Cherie Ditre, MD	Christopher Miller, MD
Rosalie Elenitsas, MD	Michael Ming, MD
Amy Forrestel, MD	Alain Rook, MD
Joel Gelfand, MD	Misha Rosenbach, MD
	Adam Rubin, MD
	Joseph Sobanko, MD
	Shobana Sood, MD
	Susan Taylor, MD
	Victoria Werth, MD



RETIREMENT OF EDWARD E. BONDI, MD

After 46 years on faculty at Penn Dermatology, Dr. Edward E. Bondi, MD has retired from clinical practice this past October 2024. He earned his bachelor's degree from Bucknell University in 1970 and went on to earn his medical degree in 1974 from Hahnemann University Hospital, a teaching hospital affiliated with the Medical College of Pennsylvania (MCP) more recently known as Drexel University College of Medicine. He completed his medical internship in 1975 and a three-year residency in Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He served as Chief Resident from 1977-1978 and Assistant Instructor from 1975-1978. Dr. Bondi then joined the Penn Dermatology faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1978.



Dr. Bondi was a dedicated and passionate educator. As Director of the Dermatology 200 Penn medical student didactic course, Dr. Bondi's innovative teaching style inspired countless of students to go into dermatology and the course was the highest rated among the preclinical rotations. Dr. Bondi was promoted to Associate Professor of Dermatology in 1984, before becoming Professor of Dermatology in 1992. After serving as Professor of Dermatology for 29 years, he retired as Emeritus Professor CE in Dermatology in 2021. Dr. Bondi received multiple teaching awards and commendations throughout his tenure, including the Attending Teacher Award-Dermatology (1984), the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching (1986), a Commendation for Outstanding Teacher (1992), a Commendation for Outstanding Course Director (1995), and the Penn Teaching Pearl Award (1996). His academic service was further honored with the establishment of the Edward E. Bondi Dermatologic Society, a dermatology interest group for medical students at the University of Pennsylvania. Today, the society presents two teaching awards every year to recognize a dermatology resident and faculty member "who demonstrate exceptional dedication to instructing, teaching and mentoring medical students."

Dr. Bondi devoted himself to improving medical education and clinical care. His [research article](#), published in The Lancet in 1980, urged dermatologists to adopt a new nomenclature for cutaneous malignant melanoma, including B-K mole syndrome. He worked in numerous academic positions, which provided institutional and educational resources to the department, including serving as an Education Officer at PSOM (1981-2007), a member of the Practice Affairs Committee (1987-1998) and the HUP Medical Board (1993-1994). At HUP, Dr. Bondi was a 'Master Clinical' and 'Doctor's Doctor,' who made every patient feel like a VIP. In a tribute to Dr. Bondi, Walter Graham, Jr., MD, acknowledged Dr. Bondi's skill and understanding in the discipline. He stated, "[Dr. Bondi's] knowledge of dermatology has far, far exceeded my own. Your good friend, Walter Graham, has always considered you one of the finest people he has ever known."

We are grateful for Dr. Bondi's dedication and service. His impact at Penn will forever be present in both the Department of Dermatology and the broader School of Medicine.

WELCOME TO PENN DERMATOLOGY: NEW FACULTY

Yixin (Ally) Wang, MD, MBE

Yixin Ally Wang, MD, MBE, a recent graduate of the Penn Dermatology Residency Program, has joined Penn Dermatology as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Dermatology in the Associated Faculty, Academic Clinician Track on September 1, 2024. She earned her BA, MD, and Masters in Bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Wang served as Chief Resident prior to this role and was the recipient of our Department's John R. Stanley Research Prize in 2020. She is a member of the Philadelphia Dermatologic Society and Women's Dermatologic Society. Dr. Wang is affiliated with Pennsylvania Hospital and the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.



Claire Hannah, MD

Claire Hannah, MD, has joined Penn Dermatology as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Dermatology in the Associated Faculty, Academic Clinician Track on July 15, 2024. She received her BS from Trinity University and MD with a Distinction in Global Health from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. Following this, she completed a combined dermatology-internal medicine residency at Penn Medicine in June 2024. She is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology, Philadelphia Dermatologic Society, and Women's Dermatologic Society. Her clinical focus will include complex medical dermatology, inpatient consult service, and general dermatology at Pennsylvania Hospital, HUP, and the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.



Neha Jariwala, MD

Neha Jariwala, MD, has joined Penn Dermatology as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Dermatology in the Associated Faculty, Academic Clinician Track on July 1, 2024. She earned her BS from Villanova University and MD from Drexel University. She completed her internship, Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma Fellowship, and dermatology residency at the University of Pennsylvania, where she served as the Resident Coordinator for quality improvement of resident surgery clinics for 5 years. She is a member of the United States Cutaneous Lymphoma Consortium, American Academy of Dermatology, Philadelphia Dermatological Society, and the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery. She will be offering her dermatologic services at Penn Medicine University City, the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, and the VA, including specialty clinics in cutaneous oncology, pigmented lesions, transplant, and CTCL.



Satish Sati, PhD

Satish Sati, PhD, joined the faculty on August 1, 2024, as an Assistant Professor on the Research Track at Penn. Dr. Sati earned his MSc in Biotechnology from Hamdard University in Delhi, India, followed by his PhD in Biotechnology from CSIR-IGIB and the University of Pune in India. After serving as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Cavalli Lab at the Institute of Human Genetics in France, he joined the Leung Lab at the University of Pennsylvania. Most recently, he received the Johnson Beerman Award from the Philadelphia Dermatological Society and the Career Development Award from the USA Dermatology Foundation.



2024 PRE-RESIDENCY FELLOWS IN SKIN OF COLOR DERMATOLOGY

Penn Dermatology is committed to the diversity of patients we are privileged to care for, and we seek to improve training of the dermatology workforce to better serve those patients. In 2018 Dr. Susan Taylor, Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, in the Department of Dermatology, founded the Pre-Residency Fellowship in Skin of Color Dermatology program. This program is designed to provide medical students interested in becoming dermatologists with experience learning Skin of Color Dermatology through research and mentorship. Funded by the Department of Dermatology, the program sponsors year-long fellowships for rising fourth year medical students to immerse themselves in clinical research and develop skills that will be invaluable for their future careers.

Iain Noel Encarnacion, MS

Iain Noel Encarnacion is a rising 4th year medical student at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) and a current 2024-2025 Research Fellow in Skin of Color Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania under the mentorship of Dr. Susan C. Taylor and Dr. Temitayo Ogunleye. He completed his undergraduate degree in Biology at the University of Virginia and received a Master's in Biomedical Sciences at EVMS. His areas of interests span medical dermatology, oncodermatology, skin of color, and LGBTQ health. He is particularly passionate about health advocacy and policy and is committed to advancing the rights and visibility of underrepresented minorities. He is a Co-Chair for a state-wide Dermatology Advocacy conference in Virginia, which trains attendees on engaging in effective advocacy for patients and healthcare professionals. In addition, he serves on the national Asian and Pacific American Medical Student Association advocacy committee which centers the health needs of Asian Americans. He is also a co-author of a chapter on the considerations for sexual and gender diverse populations in the 3rd edition of Taylor & Kelly's Skin of Color textbook.



Noelle Desir, BA

Noelle Desir earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honors from New York University. She then matriculated at Weill Cornell Medical College where she served as the Class President of the Class of 2025 from 2021-2024. As a third-year medical student, Noelle is deeply committed to health equity. During her undergraduate career she authored a comprehensive 60-page thesis on maternal and infant mortality disparities among Black Americans. Her clinical interests have since evolved, and she aspires to specialize in inflammatory dermatologic conditions such as atopic dermatitis, immunomodulatory therapies, alopecia, and the promotion of diversity and health equity within dermatology. A strong advocate for giving back to her community, Noelle has served as a Senior Clinician at Weill Cornell's student-run community clinic and provided social support to uninsured clinic patients who were most at risk for loss to follow up through weekly telephone conversations. Noelle also serves as a mentor for premedical students offering guidance on their undergraduate studies, research, and medical school applications. Weill Cornell Medicine recognized her commitment to service by inducting her into the Gold Humanism Honor Society in Spring 2024.



Research Awards

CENTER FOR CLINICAL SCIENCES IN DERMATOLOGY (CCSD) SUMMER PRE-DOCTORAL SCHOLAR AWARDEES



Varshini Babu, MS-2

Discordant severity grading between physician and patients in chronic GVHD

Mentor: Emily Baumrin, MD, MSCE



Andrew Li, MS-2

Impact of psoriasis treatment on epicardial adipose tissue

Mentor: Joel Gelfand, MD, MSCE

2024 ECURE FELLOWS



Nikhita Perry, MS-4

Exploring the Impact of Perceived Prejudice on Biologic Therapy Access among Psoriasis Patients

Mentor: Junko Takeshita, MD, PhD, MSCE



Rishi Suresh

Characterizing the Immune Infiltrate in Hidradenitis Suppurativa Lesions by High Dimensional Flow Cytometry

Mentor: Victoria Fang, MD, PhD

SBDRC PILOT & FEASIBILITY AWARDEES



Zelma Chiesa Fuxench, MD, MSCE

Assistant Professor, Dermatology

Characterization of the cutaneous microbiome in adult patients with seborrheic dermatitis with emphasis on skin mycobiota.



Wanding Zhou, PhD

Assistant Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Multiomic spatial mapping of epigenetic aging in diverse human skin types.

LINDA PECHENIK MONTAGUE INVESTIGATOR AWARD



Thomas Leung, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor, Dermatology

Developing personalized medicine for dermatology patients

This award, created over ten years ago by philanthropist Linda Pechenik Montague, supports the work of promising mid-career faculty at the Perelman School of Medicine.

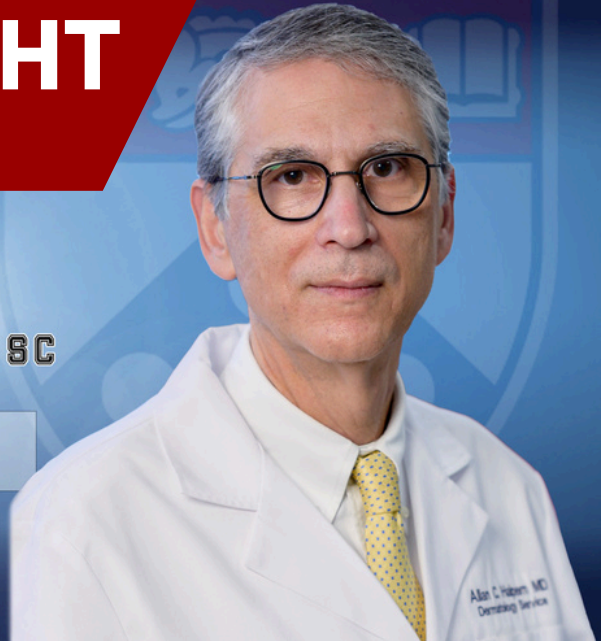
ALUMNI CORNER

Where Penn Derm Alumni share their stories.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ALLAN HALPERN, MD, M. SC

Click to see it!



Dr. Halpern graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1981. He then completed his Internal Medicine Residency training (as a Chief Resident) at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, before beginning his Dermatology Residency at Penn in 1985. Dr. Halpern joined the faculty in 1987 as a Lecturer and was the Director of the General Dermatology Clinic from 1988 to 1992, as well as the Director of the Pigmented Lesion Group from 1990-1997. During his time at Penn, in 1991, he earned a M.Sc. in Epidemiology. In 1997 Dr. Halpern was appointed the Chief of the Dermatology Service, Department of Medicine, at Memorial Hospital Cancer Center in New York. He is Professor of Dermatology at the Joan and Stanford Weill Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University, and an internationally recognized expert in melanoma and pigmented lesions. Dr. Halpern has been a pioneer in the application of imaging technologies to dermatology research and clinical care and has been at the forefront of the technological development of total body photography. He currently serves as a senior leader of the Melanoma Disease Management Team at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. As Site Director of the Weil Cornell Residency Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering, and Principal Investigator of the Lauder Skin Cancer and Oncodermatology Diversity Fund, Dr. Halpern has recruited individuals from diverse backgrounds and supported their efforts in academia.

Want to share your story? Visit us at our new website dermatology.upenn.edu/alumni/, email us at PennDermAlumni@uphs.upenn.edu, follow us on Instagram [@PennDerm](https://www.instagram.com/PennDerm), and join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PennDerm). Check out our monthly Spotlight featuring fellow PennDerm alumni and current faculty research. We look forward to hearing from you.

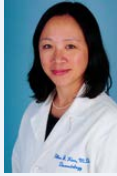
FACULTY DIRECTORY 2024



George Cotsarelis, MD
Chair
Hair and Scalp Disorders



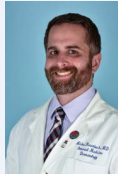
Elizabeth Grice, PhD
Vice Chair, Basic Science
Research
Skin Microbiome



Ellen Kim, MD
Vice Chair, Clinical Operations
Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma,
Graft-vs-Host Disease,
Photopheresis Services



David Margolis, MD, PhD
Vice Chair, Faculty Affairs
Dermatopharmacoepidemiology



Misha Rosenbach, MD
Vice Chair, Education
Granulomatous Diseases,
Neutrophilic Diseases, and
Drug Reactions



Sarah Samimi, MD
Vice Chair, Quality and Safety
Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma,
General Dermatology



Susan Taylor, MD
Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity
& Inclusion
Hair and Scalp Disorders,
Hyperpigmentation, Melasma



Emily Baumrin, MD, MSCE
Graft-vs-Host Disease,
Oncodermatology,
Epidemiology



Edward Bondi, MD
Sun Damaged Skin, Melanoma
and Non-Melanoma Skin
Cancer



Bruce Brod, MD
Allergic Contact Dermatitis,
Patch Testing, Health Policy,
Moles and Skin Cancer



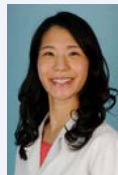
Katherine Brown, MD
Atopic Dermatitis, Allergic
Contact Dermatitis, General
Dermatology



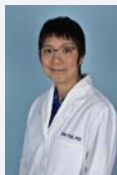
Brian Capell, MD, PhD
Melanoma and Cutaneous
Malignancies, High-Risk Skin
Cancer, Aging Skin, Epigenetics



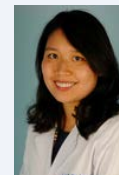
**Zelma Chiesa Fuxench, MD,
MSCE**
Psoriasis, Atopic Dermatitis,
General Dermatology



Juliana Choi, MD, PhD
Acne and Rosacea,
Hyperhidrosis, General
Dermatology



Sola Choi, MD
General Dermatology



Emily Chu, MD, PhD
Dermatopathology,
Melanoma and Cutaneous
Malignancies, Genetic
Diseases, Oncodermatology



Esther Chung, MD
Acne and Rosacea, Aging
Skin, Atopic Dermatitis,
Cosmetic Skin Enhancement,
Laser Treatment, Psoriasis,
General Dermatology



Jina Chung, MD
Cutaneous T-Cell
Lymphoma,
Dermatopathology



Magaly Del Monaco, DO
Aging Skin, Cosmetic Skin
Enhancement, Laser Treatment
Services



Cherie Ditre, MD
Aging Skin, Laser Treatments
Cosmetic Skin Enhancements



Rosalie Elenitsas, MD
Dermatopathology, Melanoma
and Cutaneous Malignancies



Christoph Ellebrecht, MD
Autoimmune Diseases,
Blistering Diseases, General
Dermatology



Jeremy Etkorn, MD
Melanoma and Cutaneous
Malignancies, Mohs and
Reconstructive Surgery



Amy Forrestel, MD
Oncodermatology, General
Dermatology



Joel Gelfand, MD, MSCE
Phototherapy, Psoriasis,
Epidemiology



Cerrene Giordano, MD
Melanoma and Cutaneous
Malignancies, Mohs and
Reconstructive Surgery



Analisa Halpern, MD
Psoriasis, Acne and Rosacea,
Atopic Dermatitis, General
Dermatology



Claire Hannah, MD
Complex Med Derm, Inpatient
Consults, General
Dermatology



Emily Z. Hejazi, MD, MS
Complex Medical Dermatology



**H. William Higgins, II, MD,
MBE**
Melanoma and Cutaneous
Malignancies, Mohs and
Reconstructive Surgery



Phillip Holler, MD, PhD
Hair and Scalp Disorders,
General Dermatology



Jing Huang, MD
Acne and Rosacea, Atopic
Dermatitis, Psoriasis, General
Dermatology

FACULTY DIRECTORY 2024 (CONTINUED)



Neha Jariwala, MD

General Dermatology, Cutaneous T cell Lymphoma, Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies



Anna E. Kersh, MD, PhD

Lichen Planus, Allergic Contact Dermatitis, Patch Testing, General Dermatology



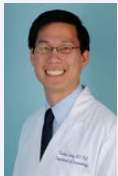
Joseph Kist, MD

General Dermatology



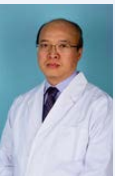
Carrie Kovarik, MD

Dermatopathology, Infectious Diseases, LGBTQ+ Health, Telemedicine



Thomas Leung, MD, PhD

Aging Skin, Genetic Disease Dermatology



Ming-Lin Liu, MD, PhD

Research: Skin Inflammation, Autoimmune Diseases



Robert Micheletti, MD

Autoimmune Disease, Blistering Diseases, Graft-vs-Host Disease, Infectious Disease, General Dermatology



Heather Milbar, MD, MPH

General Dermatology, Hair Loss Disorders



Christopher Miller, MD

Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies, Mohs and Reconstructive Surgery



Michael Ming, MD

Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies, Pigmented Lesions



Nicholas Mollanazar, MD, MBA

LGBTQ+ and Immunosuppressed Dermatology, Chronic pruritus, Eczema, General Dermatology



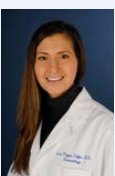
Michelle Oboite, MD

Hair and Scalp Disorders, General Dermatology, Pediatric Dermatology (CHOP)



Temitayo Ogunleye, MD

Skin of Color Dermatology, General Dermatology



Lisa Pappas-Taffer, MD

Morphea, Scleroderma, Lichen Sclerosus, Cutaneous Lupus, Dermatomyositis, Mucocutaneous Lichen Planus, Lichen Planopilaris



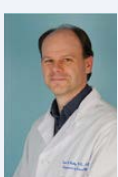
Jennifer Parker, MD, PhD, MPH

General Dermatology, Excisions, Skin of Color, Cosmetics & Lasers



Douglas Pugliese, MD, MPH, CWSP

Wound Care, General Dermatology



Todd Ridky, MD, PhD

Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies, General Dermatology



Panteleimon Rompolas, PhD

Research: Stem Cells, Skin Regeneration, Novel Imaging Techniques



Alain Rook, MD

Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma and Other Immune Mediated Diseases



Satish Sati, PhD

Genomic Sciences / 3-D Genome Architecture



John Seykora, MD, PhD

Dermatopathology, Hair and Scalp Dermatopathology



Daniel Shin, PhD

Dermatoepidemiology, Biostatistics, Clinical Trials



Meera Sivendran, MD

General Dermatology



Joseph Sobanko, MD, MBA

Aging Skin, Cosmetic Enhancements, Laser Treatment, Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies, Mohs and Reconstructive Surgery



Shobana Sood, MD

Aging Skin, Cosmetic Skin Enhancement, Laser Treatment, Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies, Mohs and Reconstructive Surgery



Katherine Steele, MD

Oncodermatology, Transplant Dermatology, General Dermatology



Roselyn Stanger, MD

General Dermatology, Medical Dermatology



Junko Takeshita, MD, PhD, MSCE

Phototherapy Services, Psoriasis, General Dermatology



Jennifer Villaseñor-Park, MD, PhD

Aging Skin, Cosmetic Skin Enhancements, Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma, Laser Treatment, General Dermatology



Carmela Vittorio, MD

Acne and Rosacea, Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma, General Dermatology



Julie Wahrman Cramer, MD

Cosmetic Skin Enhancements, General Dermatology



Joanna Walker, MD

Rare and Advanced Skin Cancer, Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies, Mohs and Reconstructive Surgery



Ally Wang, MD, MBE

General Dermatology, Atopic Dermatology, Procedural Clinic



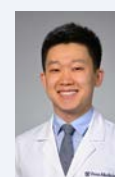
Michelle Weir, MD

Hair Disorders, Hidradenitis Suppurativa, General Dermatology



Victoria Werth, MD

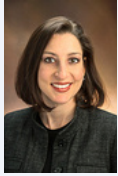
Lupus, Dermatomyositis, Autoimmune Blistering Diseases, Pemphigus, Pemphigoid, Autoimmune Skin Diseases



Junqian Zhang, MD

Melanoma and Cutaneous Malignancies, Mohs and Reconstructive Surgery

CHOP PEDS-DERM FACULTY (2024)



Marissa Perman, MD
Section Chief
Atopic Dermatitis,
Hemangiomas/birthmarks,
Epidermolysis Bullosa,
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome



Melinda Jen, MD
Pigmented Lesions, Surgery
and Laser Dermatology,
General Dermatology



Michele Khurana, MD
Teledermatology, General
Dermatology



Mary Larijani, MD
General Dermatology



Amanda Moon, MD
Teledermatology, General
Dermatology



James Treat, MD
Hemangiomas, Comprehen-
sive Vascular Anomalies,
Beckwith-Wiedemann Synd-
rome, General Dermatology



Albert Yan, MD
Atopic Dermatitis, Congenital
Ichthyosis, Rare Skin Disorders

ASSOCIATED FACULTY



Roman Bronfenbrener, MD*
General Dermatology



Steven Fakharzadeh, MD, PhD
Genetic Disease Dermatology



Daniel Roling, MD*
General Dermatology

EMERITUS + RETIRED FACULTY



Paul Gross, MD



William James, MD



James Leyden, MD



Sarah Millar, PhD

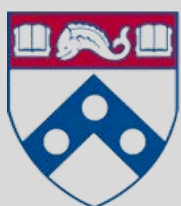


John Stanley, MD



Richard Wortzel, MD, PhD

**Please note that an asterisk designation indicates part-time*



Penn Medicine
DERMATOLOGY
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DUHRING GRAND ROUNDS SCHEDULE

JANUARY – JUNE 2025

January 2, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*	April 17, 2025 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion
January 9, 2025 7:00 AM – 7:50 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion *Please note unique Zoom link for January sessions*	April 24, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*
January 16, 2025 7:00 AM – 7:50 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion *Please note unique Zoom link for January sessions*	May 1, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hybrid Patient Viewing & Discussion Location: Discussion in Auditorium (hybrid option available)
January 23, 2025 7:00 AM – 7:50 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion *Please note unique Zoom link for January sessions*	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Duhring Lectureship Conference: Health Equity Rounds Lecturer: David M. Owens, PhD Associate Professor Departments of Dermatology and Pathology & Cell Biology Columbia University Title: TBA Location: Hybrid Session – SCTR Auditorium & Via Zoom
January 30, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*	May 7-10, 2025	Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) Meeting
February 6, 2025 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion Duhring Lectureship Conference: Health Equity Rounds Lecturer: Vincent Reina, PhD Associate Professor of Urban Economics and Planning Faculty Director of the Housing Initiative at Penn Weitzman School, University of Pennsylvania Editor in Chief, Housing Policy Debate Title: TBA Location: Virtual Session	May 8, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*
February 13, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hybrid Patient Viewing & Discussion Location: Discussion in Auditorium (hybrid option available)	May 15, 2025 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Lecturer: Georg Thomas Wondrak, PhD Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology Recipient, R. Ken and Donna Coit Professorship Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) RK Coit College of Pharmacy, University of Arizona Title: TBA Location: Hybrid Session – SCTR Auditorium & Via Zoom	May 22, 2025 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion
February 20, 2025 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion	May 29, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM	38th Annual Donald M. Pillsbury Lectureship Lecturer: Johann E. Gudjonsson, MD, PhD Arthur C. Curtis Professor of Skin Molecular Immunology Professor, Dermatology Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Emerging Scholar University of Michigan, Department of Dermatology Title: TBA Location: Hybrid Session – SCTR Auditorium & Via Zoom
February 27, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*	11:00 AM – 12:30PM	Luncheon Location: TBA
March 6, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*	June 5, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hybrid Patient Viewing & Discussion Location: Discussion in Auditorium (hybrid option available)
March 7-11, 2025	American Academy of Dermatology	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Lecturer: Kathie P. Huang, MD, FAAD Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School Director, Phototherapy Center; Co-Director, Hair Loss Clinic; Brigham and Women's Hospital Title: TBA Location: Hybrid Session – SCTR Auditorium & Via Zoom
March 13, 2025 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion Lecturer: Anna Di Nardo, MD, PhD Director of Skin Biology Research, San Gallicano Dermatological Institute IRCCS, Rome; Professor Emeritus of Dermatology University of California San Diego Title: TBA Location: Virtual Session	June 12, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hybrid Patient Viewing & Discussion Location: Discussion in Auditorium (hybrid option available)
March 20, 2025 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Penn SBDRS Symposium and Trainee Research Day Keynote Speaker: TBA TBA Title: TBA Location: BRB Gaulton Auditorium and Lobby & via Zoom **Registration Required**	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Lecturer: Chandan K. Sen, PhD University Endowed Professor of Surgery; Director, McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine; Associate Vice Chancellor, Life Science Innovation & Technology Commercialization; Chief Scientific Officer, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (wound care); Vice Chair & Chair-Elect, NIH Diabetic Foot Consortium Title: Tissue Nanotransfection: In vivo Reprogramming (Non-Viral) of the Skin Location: Hybrid Session – SCTR Auditorium & Via Zoom
March 27, 2025 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Virtual Patient Viewing & Discussion	June 19, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*
April 3, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*	June 26, 2025	*No Duhring Grand Rounds this week*
April 10, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hybrid Patient Viewing & Discussion Location: Discussion in Auditorium (hybrid option available)		
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Lecturer: Nada Elbuluk MD, MSc, FAAD Associate Professor of Clinical Dermatology Director, Skin of Color & Pigmentary Disorders Program Director, Skin of Color Research Fellowship Director, Dermatology Diversity & Inclusion Program USC Department of Dermatology, Keck School of Medicine Title: TBA Location: Hybrid Session – SCTR Auditorium & Via Zoom		

Please email

PennDermAlumni@uphs.upenn.edu

with any questions.