

ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY

Fiscal Year 2023



MICHIGAN MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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The information presented in this report covers fiscal year 2023 (7/1/2022-6/30/2023) and includes updates relevant to fiscal year 2024.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Christopher Bichakjian, MD
Department Chair

mission accomplished rarely applies to academic pursuits, we have gained significant yardage in all aspects of our tripartite mission.

At the core of all our missions is a group of truly exceptional faculty members. This report illustrates the robust expansion of our faculty in 2023, including our second pediatric dermatologist, with more exciting faculty recruitments to come in 2024. A notable update is the recent appointment of Dr. Yolanda Helfrich as the new division chief of medical dermatology effective January 1, 2024. We thank Dr. Milad Eshaq for his outstanding leadership of the medical dermatology division as he embarks on a new career path in Mohs surgery in our division of cutaneous surgery and oncology.

Dear friends and colleagues,

With January 8, 2024, still fresh in our memories, when the U-M football team captured the program's first national championship since 1997, it is a great pleasure to present to you the third Michigan Medicine Dermatology Annual Report. You will be glad to read that the Department of Dermatology has also scored its share of touchdowns!

Last year, we summarized 2022 as a year in preparation for the future. This year, we are proud to share that FY2023 has built upon this foundation and allowed us to accomplish many goals we set out to achieve. While

A few examples of the growth of patient care provided by our faculty, fellows, residents and physician assistants include a new multidisciplinary hidradenitis suppurativa conference, an expansion of pediatric dermatology care in Brighton, and re-opening of the patch-testing clinic at our Domino's Farms location. Stay tuned for new clinical initiatives underway in 2024.

Our educational mission to train exemplary dermatologists and subspecialists continues to thrive. You will enjoy reading about the breadth of our didactic curriculum. The remarkable list of invited speakers includes the recipients of the Charles N. Ellis, MD, and the Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey P. and Susan M. Callen Lectureships. Our continued commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is not only reflected in our curriculum, but also in a broad range of departmental initiatives organized throughout the year.

One of the most remarkable achievements in FY2023 is a reflection of the innovative and cutting-edge research conducted in our department. Collectively, our research faculty increased the amount of federal funding awarded to Michigan Medicine Dermatology by 34.8%, elevating our national ranking in NIH funding among academic dermatology departments from 10 to 6.

We hope that you enjoy perusing the FY2023 Annual Report and take pride in the accomplishments of *your* department. As in previous years, please join us in thanking Stephanie Zaleski for designing and creating this beautiful and comprehensive summary.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2024 alumni reunions at the AAD Annual Meeting in San Diego, and in Ann Arbor on September 27 and 28 for the 2nd Biennial Fall Alumni Reunion Weekend.

Go Blue!
Chris

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT



MISSION

The **mission** of the Michigan Medicine Department of Dermatology is to advance dermatologic patient care, research, and education, grounded in an unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



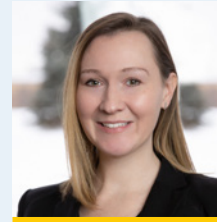
VISION

Our **vision** for the Michigan Medicine Department of Dermatology is committed to improving the health of all our patients through compassionate and equitable care. We strive to advance our collective knowledge by pushing the boundaries of medical science through research and innovation. We aspire to train and empower future generations of socially-conscious and passionate leaders in dermatology, ready to tackle the challenges in our field. We are dedicated to fostering a community that values individual differences and respects diverse talents. At the core of our mission, we acknowledge the sociocultural context in which our work occurs and will work ceaselessly towards promoting diversity and cultivating inclusion.

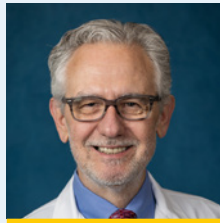
DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP



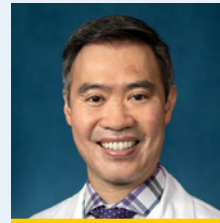
Christopher Bichakjian, MD
Department Chair



Kristin Bernstein, MHA
Department Administrator



Andrzej Dlugosz, MD
Associate Chair for Research



Frank Wang, MD
Associate Chair for Medical Education



Severine Cao, MD
Assistant Chair for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Milad Eshaq, MD
*Medical Dermatology
Division Chief*

Stepped down 12/31/2023

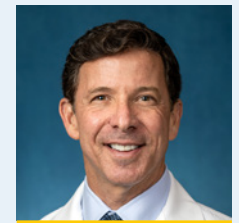


Yolanda Helfrich, MD
*Medical Dermatology
Division Chief*

Began 1/1/2024



Kelly Harms, MD, PhD
*Cutaneous Surgery and Oncology
Division Chief*



Jeffrey Orringer, MD
*Cosmetic Dermatology
Division Chief*

FACULTY AFFAIRS

NEW FACULTY HIRES

Sara Fossum, MD, PhD was appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology and is a member of our medical dermatology faculty team.

Vincent van Drongelen, PhD was appointed as Research Investigator and is a member of the skin autoimmunity and immunology lab of Dr. Allison Billi.

Natalia Veniaminova, PhD was appointed Research Investigator and is a member of the cancer biology lab of Dr. Sunny Wong.

Grace Hile, MD was appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology in July 2023 and is a member of our medical dermatology faculty team.

Mallory Joseph, MD was appointed as Clinical Instructor of Dermatology in July 2023, following completion of her MSDO fellowship.

Bonita Mathai, MD was appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology in August 2023. She leads our patch testing clinic at our Domino's Farms dermatology clinic location.

Cynthia Nicholson, MD was appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Pediatrics in September 2023. She provides patient care in our pediatric dermatology clinic at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

Jennifer Swearingen, MD was appointed as Clinical Instructor of Dermatology in September 2023. She provides medical dermatology patient care at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

Kathryn Leonard, MD was appointed as Adjunct Physician Instructor of Dermatology in September 2023. She practices dermatology at University of Michigan Health-West.

Eric Schadler, MD was appointed as Adjunct Physician Instructor of Dermatology in September 2023. He practices dermatology at University of Michigan Health-West.

PROMOTIONS

J. Michelle Kahlenberg, MD, PhD is Professor of Internal Medicine (Rheumatology) and Professor of Dermatology.

Paul Harms, MD, PhD is Professor of Pathology (Dermatopathology) and Professor of Dermatology.



RETIREMENTS

Rajan P. Nair, PhD, Associate Research Scientist of Dermatology retired from the University of Michigan Medicine School on August 31, 2023 following 32 years of outstanding service as a member

of the Department of Dermatology. The Regents of the University of Michigan appointed Dr. Nair as Associate Research Scientist Emeritus of Dermatology.

Dr. Nair served as co-director of the University of Michigan Psoriasis Genetics Laboratory. Dr. Nair established the largest single collection of well-phenotyped psoriasis DNA samples in the world and a high-efficiency relational database, which serve as powerful tools for psoriasis genetics research. He has co-authored more than 120 publications, including landmark papers that have shaped our understanding of psoriasis as a heritable, immune-mediated disease with a multifactorial genetic basis.

Throughout his career, Dr. Nair has mentored students, fellows, junior faculty, and others within the lab. In addition, he served on the Medical School IRBMED as a non-physician scientist member and minority advocate since 2004, providing review for countless human subject research protocols. He plans to continue this service after retirement.

It is with much gratitude for his many contributions to our department's programs and missions, that we wish Dr. Nair all the best in his retirement.

FACULTY DISTINCTION

Milad Eshaq, MD received the 2023 William B. Taylor Resident Teaching Award for Best Resident Educator.

Trilokraj Tejasvi, MBBS received the Dr. Leslie Marquis Award at the 2023 DERMACON International conference. This award honors one speaker for providing the best guest lecture of the conference. Additionally, Dr. Tejasvi received a 2023 Connected Care Distinguished Leaders Award by Veterans Health Administration leadership and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

John Voorhees, MD, FRCP was awarded the Dermatology Foundation (DF) Distinguished Service Award Medallion at the DF membership meeting in New Orleans. Awarded only seven times in 60 years, Dr. Voorhees was honored for outstanding service and commitment to the DF and its missions. Additionally, Dr. Voorhees was honored as recipient of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) International Award at the 2023 EADV Congress in Berlin, Germany. The EADV International Award hails Dr. Voorhees as a pioneer in investigative dermatology and an influential leader and champion for the growth of dermatologic research.



Michael Goldfarb, MD received the Dermatology Foundation 2023 Practitioner of the Year Award at the Dermatology Foundation membership meeting in New Orleans. Dr. Goldfarb was honored for exemplary service as a practitioner, teacher and researcher.

(Photo Courtesy of Dermatology Foundation: Dr. J. Weiss (L) presents award to Dr. M. Goldfarb (R).)

Mio Nakamura, MD received a 2022 International Psoriasis Council International Fellowship award.

Elisabeth Pedersen, MD, PhD received a 2023 UROP Outstanding Research Mentor award.

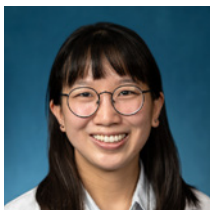
Primary Dermatology Faculty



Christopher Bichakjian, MD
Clinical Professor & Chair



Allison Billi, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor



Severine Cao, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



Kelly Cha, MD, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor



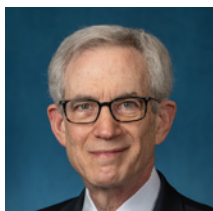
Allison Darland, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



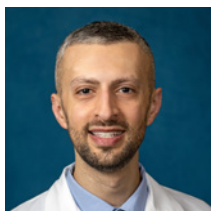
Andrzej Dlugosz, MD
Professor



James T. Elder, MD, PhD
Professor



Charles Ellis, MD
Professor Emeritus



Milad Eshaq, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



Gary Fisher, PhD
Professor



Sara Fossum, MD, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor



Michael Goldfarb, MD
Adjunct Clinical Instructor



Marina Grachtchouk, PhD
Associate Research Scientist



Johann Gudjonsson, MD, PhD
Professor



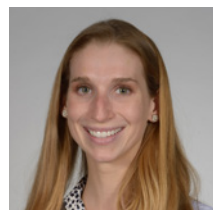
Kelly Harms, MD, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor



Yolanda Helfrich, MD
Clinical Professor



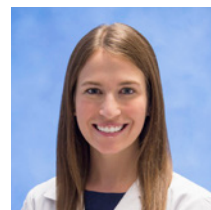
Grace Hile, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



Mallory Joseph, MD
Clinical Instructor



Kathryn Leonard, MD
Adjunct Physician Instructor



Jennifer Mancuso, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



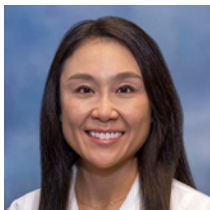
Bonita Mathai, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



Julie Mervak, MD
Clinical Associate Professor



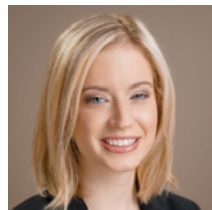
Rajan Nair, PhD
Associate Research Scientist Emeritus



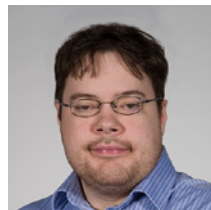
Mio Nakamura, MD, MS
Clinical Assistant Professor



Jeffrey Orringer, MD
Clinical Professor



Cynthia Nicholson, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



Matthew Patrick, MEng, PhD
Research Assistant Professor



Elisabeth Pedersen, MD, PhD
Clinical Instructor

Faculty directory as of December 31, 2023

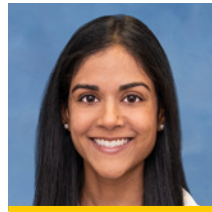
Primary Dermatology Faculty



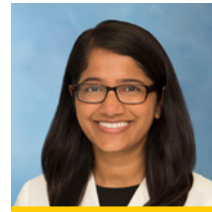
Olesya Plazyo, PhD
Research Investigator



Taihao Quan, MD, PhD
Research Professor



Maya Aravind Raiman, MD, MS
Clinical Assistant Professor



Sruthi Renati, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor



Mrinal Sarkar, PhD
Assistant Research Scientist



Eric Schadler, MD
Adjunct Physician Instructor



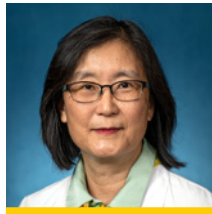
Jennifer Schwartz, MD
Clinical Associate Professor



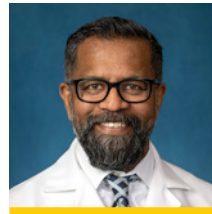
Erica Stevens, MD
Adjunct Physician Instructor



Jennifer Swearingen, MD
Clinical Instructor



Li-Jyun Syu, PhD
Assistant Research Scientist



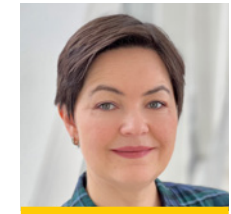
Trilokraj Tejasvi, MBBS, MD
Clinical Associate Professor



Lam C. (Alex) Tsoi, PhD
Assistant Professor



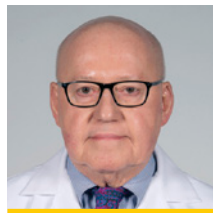
Vincent van Drongelen, PhD
Research Investigator



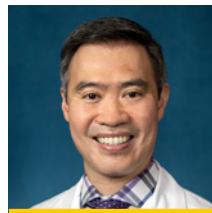
Natalia Veniaminova, PhD
Research Investigator



Monique Verhaegen, PhD
Research Associate Professor



John Voorhees, MD
Professor



Frank Wang, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

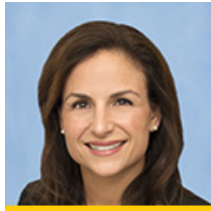


Sunny Wong, PhD
Associate Professor

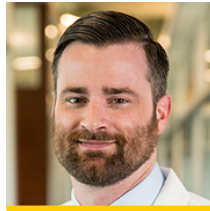
Associated Dermatology Faculty



Aleodor Andea, MD
Adjunct Clinical Professor
Pathology



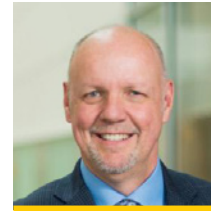
Christina Angeles, MD
Assistant Professor
Surgery (Surgical Oncology)



Scott Bresler, MD, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Pathology



May Chan, MD
Clinical Professor
Pathology



Pierre Coulombe, PhD
Professor
Cell & Developmental Biology



Leslie Fecher, MD
Clinical Professor
Internal Med. (Medical Oncology)



M. Ghararee-Kermani, MPH, PhD, DVM
Assistant Research Scientist
Internal Med. (Rheumatology)



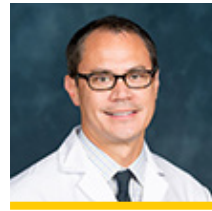
Paul Harms, MD, PhD
Clinical Professor
Pathology



Alexandra Hristov, MD
Clinical Professor
Pathology



J. Michelle Kahlenberg, MD, PhD
Professor
Internal Med. (Rheumatology)



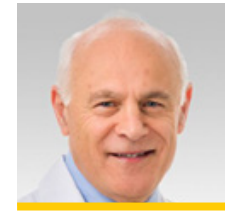
Christopher Lao, MD
Professor
Internal Med. (Medical Oncology)



Lori Lowe, MD
Clinical Professor
Pathology

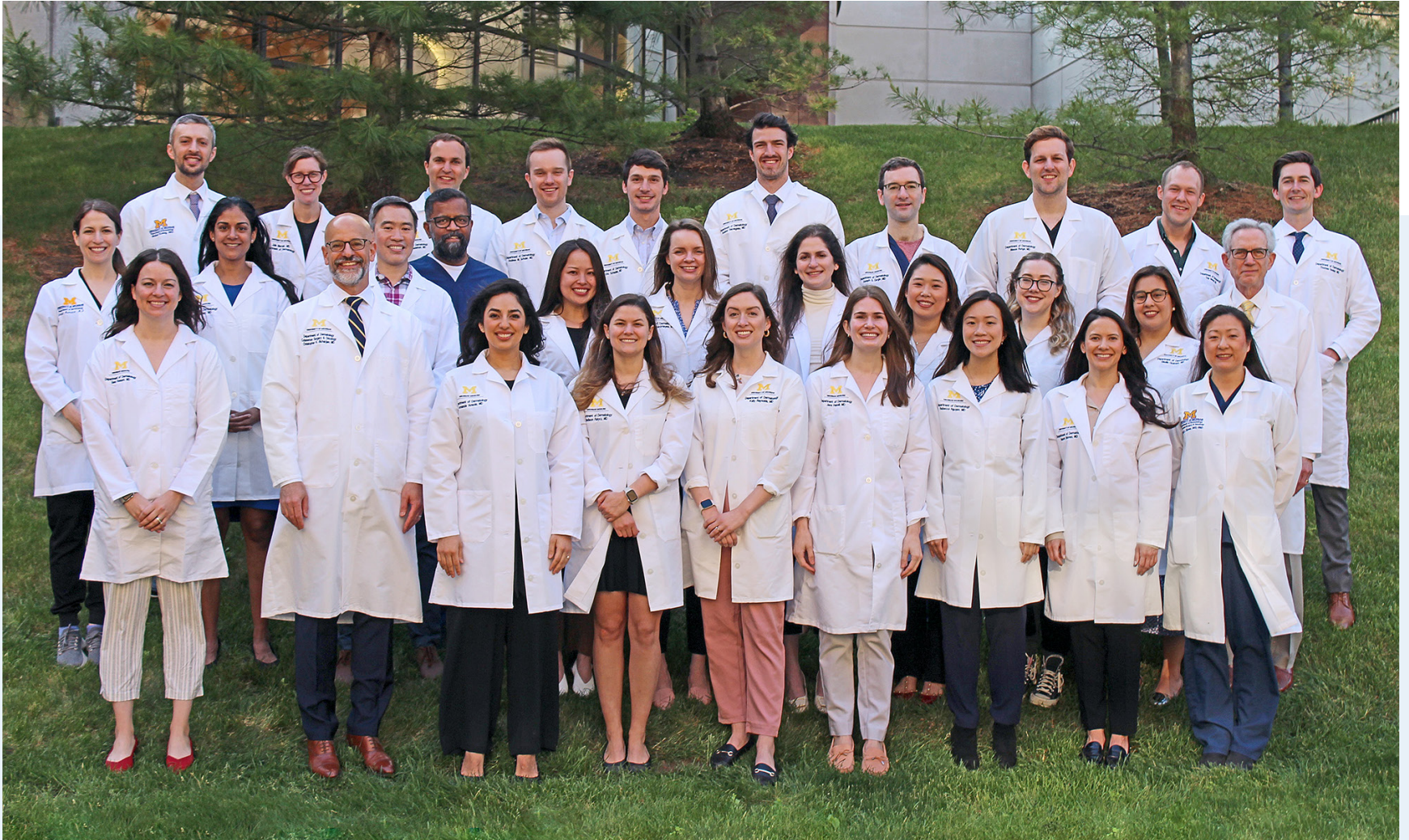


Rajiv Patel, MD
Adjunct Clinical Professor
Pathology



John Varga, MD
Professor
Internal Med. (Rheumatology)

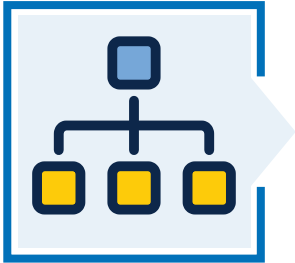
Faculty directory as of December 31, 2023



DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY 2023

*Back Row: Milad Eshaq, Julie Mervak, Daniel Nadelman, Andrew Schuler, Eric Schadler, Andrew Sauvageau, Joseph Durgin, Mason Runge, Daniel Wenzel, Thomas Hester
 Middle Row: Jennifer Mancuso, Maya Aravind Raiman, Frank Wang, Trilokraj Tejasvi, Anne Ning, Amanda Shepard Hayes, Rachel Fayne, Alison Lee, Grace Hile, Giselle Guerrero, Charles Ellis
 Front Row: Sara Fossum, Christopher Bichakjian, Amanda Arreola, Madison Ratycz, Kelly Reynolds, Jane Harrell, Rebecca Nguyen, Naomi Briones, Kelly Harms*

PATIENT CARE



DIVISIONS

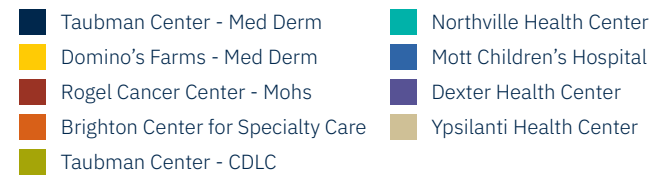
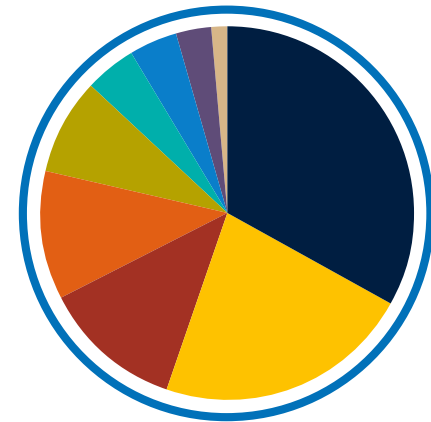
Medical Dermatology
Cosmetic Dermatology
Cutaneous Surgery & Oncology



CLINIC LOCATIONS

Brighton Center for Specialty Care
Dexter Health Center
Domino's Farms
Mott Children's Hospital
Northville Health Center
Rogel Cancer Center
Taubman Center
VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System*
Ypsilanti Health Center

DERMATOLOGY VISITS BY LOCATION



58,156

TOTAL PATIENT VISITS

19,274

NEW PATIENT VISITS

9,778

VIRTUAL VISITS

1,857

CONSULTS

*Patient visit data does not include VA data

During fiscal year 2023, the Michigan Medicine Dermatology clinical teams provided more than 58,000 clinic visits at the department's nine practice sites within Southeast Michigan, including two new locations at the Northville Health Center and Ypsilanti Health Center. Heading into 2024, the department has 26 clinical faculty including those serving at the Ann Arbor VA, as well as five physician assistants, 24 dermatology residents and three micrographic surgery and dermatologic oncology clinical fellows.

This past year, the Division of Medical Dermatology has established several new specialized clinics including a new Skin of Color clinic at our Ypsilanti office and new alopecia areata, hidradenitis suppurativa, and nail disorders clinics at the Taubman Center. These subspecialty clinics support high-quality care by matching faculty expertise and clinical resources to patient populations with specific needs. They also support enhanced clinical training and enable faculty members to cultivate clinical skills and scholarly interests within a clinical niche. Our subspecialty clinics, including clinics supporting multidisciplinary care for patients with immunobullous disease, skin lymphomas, skin inflammatory and autoimmune disorders, are largely now centralized at the Taubman Center clinic as our academic hub.

Our Pediatric Dermatology Program continued to grow with the recruitment of Drs. Cynthia Nicholson and Grace Hile and its move to a new outpatient location within the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Our new pediatric dermatology clinical fellowship is expected to launch in 2024.



Dermatology Clinical Physician Assistants



Lauren Allen, PA-C
Medical Dermatology



Kiley Bastien, PA-C
Medical Dermatology



Roberta Misko, PA-C
Cutaneous Surgery & Oncology



Zehra Rahman, PA-C
Medical Dermatology



Kayla Taylor, PA-C
Medical Dermatology

EDUCATION

Residency Program

Every year, as we watch our graduating class go off to make their mark in the world of dermatology, we are also excited to welcome our new cohort of residents. This year was no different. As we wished Drs. Briones, Nguyen, and Sauvageau the best in their endeavors, we were glad to retain Dr. Hile as faculty, Dr. Lee and Dr. Schuler as fellows, and Dr. Leonard and Dr. Schadler as adjuncts at U-M Health West. This year, Drs. Eric Bowman, Tran Do, Ramon Govea, Olivia Lee, Orlando Martinez-Luna, John Runge, Kathie Velez, and Albert Yang joined U-M Derm, continuing to make our resident cohort one of the largest in the country.

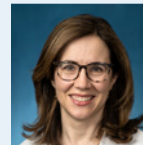
Diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and advocacy have been a strong focus of our department's education mission for a long time, with increased focus in recent years. We are proud to say that this year, we have continued to emphasize DEI in both our educational content and programming. In January 2023, Dr. Ginette Okoye traveled to Ann Arbor, as our first in person MLK Invited Professor since the pandemic. Dr. Okoye is Professor and Chair of Dermatology at Howard University, where she focuses her research and clinical acumen on cutaneous disorders primarily affecting people with pigmented skin. Dr. Okoye spoke to us on "*Follicular Disorders in African-American Men*" and on the "*Recruitment and Retention of URiM Academic Dermatologists*." Our DEI curriculum was also augmented by Dr. Glass who spoke to us on keloids, Dr. Vasquez who spoke on Latinx/Hispanic Health, and Dr. King who spoke on alopecia areata and JAK inhibitors. Our department also gained our first Assistant Chair for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Dr. Severine Cao, the first in our department's history to hold such a title. Dr. Cao has brought organization and cohesion to the DEI mission.

As we move away from the core years of the pandemic, we have sought to balance the convenience of at-home learning (providing faculty and residents with more time and flexibility, as well as the opportunity to avoid Michigan winter weather on occasion!), with the tangible and intangible benefits of learning in person. And so, at the end of the 2022 Academic Year, we transitioned our Thursday didactics back to

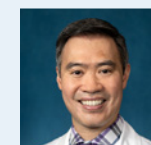
in-person, with Tuesdays remaining virtual. One opportunity to bring residents and faculty together for a unique learning experience is the annual cadaver workshop. Led by Dr. Julie Mervak, in coordination with the Anatomical Donations Program, we held the Nail and Flaps Cadaver Workshop for the second year. This incredibly popular and innovative workshop allows residents to learn about and practice distal digital blocks, avulsion techniques, and nail biopsies. A simultaneous workshop on Flaps, led by Dr. and Dr. Castanedo Tardan reviews basic flaps, including practicing and visualizing the cutting and movement of skin, cutting flaps, and suturing.

We are so pleased to announce the inaugural speakers for the Charles N. Ellis, MD, Lectureship for Resident Education in Clinical Dermatology and the Jeffrey and Susan Callen Lectureship in Cutaneous Medicine were both a categorical success, and we are thrilled to announce future speakers for each. Dr. Lawrence Eichenfield will be our next Visiting Professor for the Charles N. Ellis, MD Lectureship for Resident Education in Clinical Dermatology. And Dr. Misha Rosenbach will be the next Visiting Professor for our Jeffrey and Susan Callen Lectureship in Cutaneous Medicine.

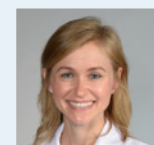
PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



Yolanda Helfrich, MD
Program Director



Frank Wang, MD
Assistant Program Director



Allison Darland, MD
Assistant Program Director

VISITING PROFESSORS & GUEST LECTURERS

Charles N. Ellis, MD, Lectureship for Resident Education in Clinical Dermatology: Kevin Cooper, MD, Chair and Professor of Dermatology, Case Western Reserve School of Medicine: *“Mycosis Fungoides and Sezary Syndrome: Features and Bugs”*

Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor: Ginette Okoye, MD, Professor and Chair of Dermatology, Howard University College of Medicine: *“Follicular Disorders in African-American Men”* and *“Recruitment and Retention of URIM Academic Dermatologists”*

Michigan Dermatological Society Meeting Keynote Speaker: Brett King, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Dermatology, Yale School of Medicine: *“A Renaissance for Alopecia Areata: JAK inhibitors and a New Understanding of Disease”*

Michigan Dermatological Society Meeting Resident Luncheon: Brett King, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Dermatology, Yale School of Medicine: *“What everybody needs to know about vitiligo and its treatment”*

Arthur C. Curtis Visiting Professor: Brett King, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Dermatology, Yale School of Medicine: *“JAK Inhibitors for Inflammatory Skin Diseases: a Treatment Revolution”*

UM-SBDRRC Visiting Speaker Resident Lecture: Cory Simpson, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Dermatology), University of Washington School of Medicine: *“Mucous Membrane Pemphigoid: Updates in Diagnosis and Treatment”*

Dermatology Pathways Program Visiting Professor: Henry Lim, MD, Associate Dean of Henry Ford, Wayne State University School of Medicine: *“Importance of DEI in Dermatology”*

Donald Glass, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Dermatology, University of Texas Southwestern: *“Keloids: Risk Factors, Associations and Treatment Approaches”*

Mohammed Dany, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Dermatology, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine: *“Clinically Relevant Signaling Pathways in Skin Tumors”*

Rogério Meireles Pinto, PhD, LCSW, Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work: *“Dermatology and Social Work Collaborating to Undo Racism and Colorism”*

Rebecca Vasquez, MD, Assistant Professor of Dermatology, University of Texas Southwestern: *“Latinx/Hispanic Health: Impact of Historical and Cultural Factors”*

Thomas Scharnitz, MD, FAAD, Senior Director, US Medical Dermatology Lead, Bristol Myers Squibb: *“Careers in Dermatology”*

Tazin Daniels, PhD, Assistant Director of the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan: *“Principles and Practices for Equity-focused Teaching in Dermatology”* and *“Applying Principles for Equity-Focused Teaching in the Clinic”*

Srinivas Chiravuri, MD, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, University of Michigan Medical School: *“Nerve Blocks for the Hands and Feet”*

Kelsey Serfozo, MD, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, University of Michigan Medical School: *“Anesthesia: Scalp Blocks”*

Luke Fraley, MD, Fellow of Internal Medicine (Hematology/Oncology); **Nathan Houchens, MD,** Associate Professor of Internal Medicine (Hospital Medicine); **Virginia Sheffield, MD,** Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Hospital Medicine), University of Michigan Medical School: *“Patient-Initiated Harassment Training”*

David Roofeh, MD, Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Rheumatology), University of Michigan Medical School: *“ANA Spectrum Disorders”*

Marty Tam, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Cardiology), University of Michigan Medical School: *“Teaching with Limited Time”*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DERMATOLOGY RESIDENCY CLASS OF 2023!



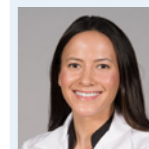
Pictured left to right: Frank Wang, Andrew Schuler, Andrew Sauvageau, Eric Schadler, Naomi Briones, Kate Leonard, Alison Lee, Rebecca Nguyen, Grace Hile, Yolanda Helfrich

U-M Dermatology faculty, residents, staff and family members gathered to celebrate and honor our graduating senior residents at an intimate reception on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the Michigan League in Ann Arbor.

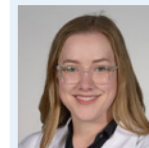
We congratulate the class of 2023 on the completion of their dermatology residency, and offer best wishes as they embark on their future careers.

The graduating class honored Dr. Milad Eshaq with the William B. Taylor Resident Teaching Award for Best Resident Educator

Dr. Eshaq is highly valued for his extensive clinical expertise and active engagement with residents in patient care decisions, demonstrating deep knowledge in various dermatological cases, while also being appreciated for his delightful personality, diverse interests, and genuine connections with others.



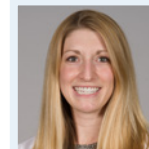
Naomi Briones, MD
*Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology Fellow
University of California San Diego School of Medicine
San Diego, CA*



Grace Hile, MD
*Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI*



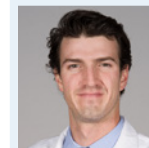
Alison Lee, MD
*Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology Fellow
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI*



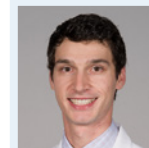
Kathryn Leonard, MD (co-chief resident)
*Dermatologist
University of Michigan Health West
Wyoming, MI*



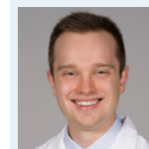
Rebecca Nguyen, MD
*Dermatologist
Coastal Dermatology Medical & Cosmetic Center
Camarillo, CA*



Andrew Sauvageau, MD
*Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology Fellow
University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine
Los Angeles, CA*



Eric Schadler, MD (co-chief resident)
*Dermatologist
University of Michigan Health West
Wyoming, MI*

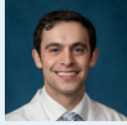


Andrew Schuler, MD
*Dermatopathology Fellow
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI*

CLASS OF 2024



Stephen Ansah-Addo, MD
MD: Albert Einstein College of Medicine



Daniel Cole, MD
MD: Wayne State University School of Medicine



Rachel Fayne, MD *(Co-Chief Resident '23-'24)*
MD: University of Miami Miller School of Medicine



Jane Harrell, MD *(Co-Chief Resident '23-'24)*
MD: University of Florida College of Medicine



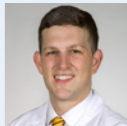
Daniel Nadelman, MD
MD: University of Michigan Medical School



Madison Ratycz, MD
MD: University of Toledo College of Medicine



Kelly Reynolds, MD
MD: University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

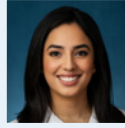


Mason Runge, MD
MD: University of Michigan Medical School



Amanda Shepard-Hayes, MD
MD: University of Michigan Medical School

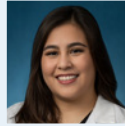
CLASS OF 2025



Amanda Arreola, MD
MD: University of Texas Rio Grande School of Medicine



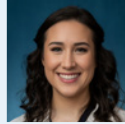
Joseph Durgin, MD
MD: University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine



Giselle Guerrero, MD
MD: University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio



Thomas Hester, MD
MD: University of Michigan Medical School



Margaret Lang Houser, MD
MD: Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

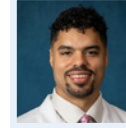


Anne Ning, MD
MD: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

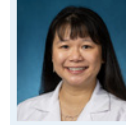


Daniel Wenzel, MD
MD: University of Massachusetts Medical School

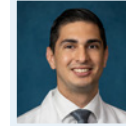
CLASS OF 2026



Eric Bowman, MD
MD: Howard University College of Medicine



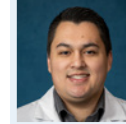
Tran Do, MD, PhD
MD: UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine



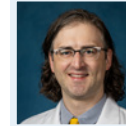
Ramon Govea, MD
MD: Pennsylvania State University of Medicine



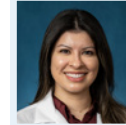
Olivia Lee, MD
MD: Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine



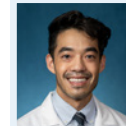
Orlando Martinez Luna, MD
MD: University of Texas Southwestern Medical School



John Runge, MD, PhD
MD: University of Michigan Medical School



Kathie Velez, MD
MD: Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV



Albert Yang, MD
MD: University of Illinois College of Medicine

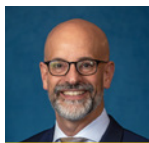
Clinical Fellowships

MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY & DERMATOLOGIC ONCOLOGY



Dr. Cindy Parra, Clinical Instructor of Dermatology and Mohs Surgeon, completed her advanced training in dermatologic surgery and cutaneous oncology in June 2023 and subsequently joined Kaiser Permanente-Orange County in Irvine, CA as a Mohs Surgeon. Following completion of her Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology (MSDO) fellowship training, Dr. Mallory Joseph joined our faculty as clinical instructor of dermatology to develop advanced knowledge, skill and experience as a Mohs surgeon and CSO educator. In early 2023, Dr. Mari Paz Castanedo Tardan stepped down as faculty to undertake MSDO training within our department. She returned to our clinical

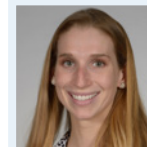
faculty in 2024 and provides Mohs surgery and advanced care to US veterans with high-risk skin cancers at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare Center and will support medical education and training for Michigan Medicine residents and medical students. In July 2023, Dr. Alison Lee started her MSDO fellowship training following completion of her dermatology residency in our department.



Program director, Dr. Christopher Bichakjian, oversees Mohs surgery fellows as they complete our department’s MSDO fellowship training program.

Pictured above left to right: Drs. Kelly Harms, Cindy Parra, Christopher Bichakjian

MSDO FELLOWS



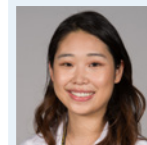
'22-'23 Academic Year

Mallory Joseph, MD
Clinical Instructor of Dermatology
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI



2023 Calendar Year

Mari Paz Castanedo Tardan, MD
MSDO Fellow
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI



'23-'24 Academic Year

Alison Lee, MD, MHS
MSDO Fellow
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI

DERMATOPATHOLOGY

Drs. Jasmine Saleh and Carli Whittington completed their dermatopathology fellowship in June 2023. Dr. Saleh joined Tareen Dermatology in Minneapolis as a dermatopathologist, and Dr. Whittington joined the pathology and dermatology faculty at Indiana University School of Medicine. In July 2023, Drs. Jaclyn Plotzke and Andrew Schuler began their dermatopathology fellowship after both completing their residencies at the University of Michigan.



This one-year ACGME-accredited dermatopathology fellowship is based in the Department of Pathology and is directed by Dr. Paul Harms.

DERMPATH FELLOWS

'22-'23 Academic Year

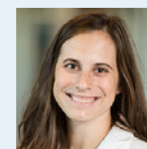


Jasmine Saleh, MD, MPH
Dermatopathologist
Tareen Dermatology
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

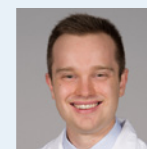


Carli Whittington, MD
Pathology & Dermatology Faculty
Indiana University School of Medicine
Bloomington, IN

'23-'24 Academic Year



Jaclyn Plotzke, MD
Pathology Residency:
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI



Andrew Schuler, MD
Dermatology Residency:
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI



Medical Student Education

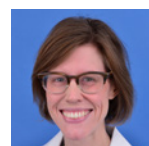


Our M1 and M2 teaching continues to be a strong aspect of preclinical curricula and well-received by medical students. Continuing the trend in our graduate medical education, and under Dr. Frank Wang's leadership, we revived in person components during our M1 content. For

the first time since before the pandemic, students had the opportunity to engage in gamified learning activities, which solidified concepts from our lectures. All of our residents and multiple faculty participated in teaching and facilitating two activities. The "Ugly Duckling" activity, where students get the opportunity to identify lesions of concern out of groups of lesions, in the form of medical moulages on mannequin torsos. And the "I Spy" activity, where students get to practice morphology, as they take turns describing lesions, matching them to the descriptions, and deciding if the lesion requires a consult from Dermatology.

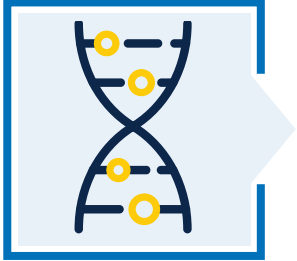
The M1 content falls at the end of the students' first year, and after a summer break, a few short months later they start their M2 year. The first phase of their second year is Transition to Clerkships (TTC), where they learn high-yield skills and concepts to launch them into the wards.

Under Dr. Wang's leadership, we have continued to use this as an opportunity to teach them how to approach a patient with a rash, and to reinforce the dermatology they learned back in May and June.



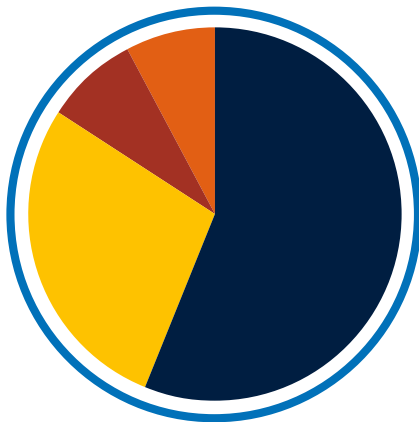
Dr. Julie Mervak continues to lead our M3/M4 curriculum as Clerkship Director, increasing the clinical time students spend with faculty and mentorship. With her efforts, resident involvement has increased, with our residents often teaching the Intro to Dermatology/Morphology lecture. Medical students also spend more time directly shadowing faculty than ever before, as many faculty have signed up to have medical students shadow them in faculty clinics. A record high number of students are engaging in longitudinal shadowing experiences with our faculty as well. We were also excited to be able to welcome more visiting students than in the past several years combined, without reducing space for U-M medical students. Finally, to increase medical student integration within the department, rotating students now have the opportunity to give their final presentations during our official didactic time.

RESEARCH FUNDING



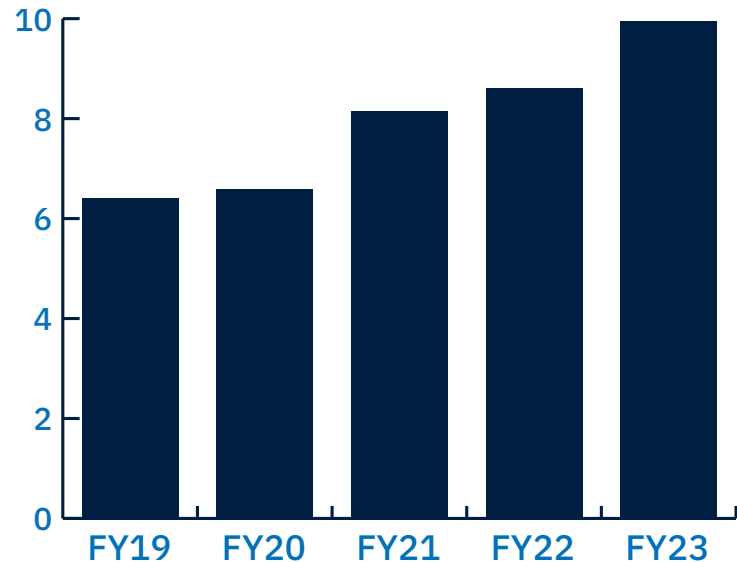
During fiscal year 2023, Department of Dermatology researchers received 5 new federal grants, 12 new nonfederal grants, and co-authored over 100 journal publications. The department was ranked 10th among US Dermatology programs for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding with 11 NIH awards yielding more than \$5.6 million in funding for federal fiscal year 2022 (10/1/2021-09/30/2022). Through the hard work and outstanding efforts of our research teams, the Department is projected to be ranked 6th in federal fiscal year 2023 with 13 awards and over \$6 million in NIH funding.

DISTRIBUTION OF NIH FUNDING



- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- National Cancer Institute
- National Institute on Aging

COMMITTED AWARDS: \$ MILLIONS
(All Sponsors, Total Costs)



NOTEWORTHY RECOGNITION

U-M Dermatology researchers made a strong showing at the International Societies for Investigative Dermatology Meeting (ISID 2023) held in Tokyo, Japan. The event showcased the latest advancements from our research labs and collaborative efforts, including 36 poster presentations, and numerous invited lectures, plenary and concurrent talks, and ePoster sessions.

In the spring of 2023, Drs. Johann Gudjonsson and Lam (Alex) Tsoi joined the research faculty of the Mary H. Weiser Food Allergy Center as part of the new Michigan Food Allergy and Atopic Dermatitis Program (M-FAAD). This major interdisciplinary research collaboration aims to reveal specific genetic variants that predispose people to Atopic Dermatitis (AD) and food allergies, with a focus on genetic

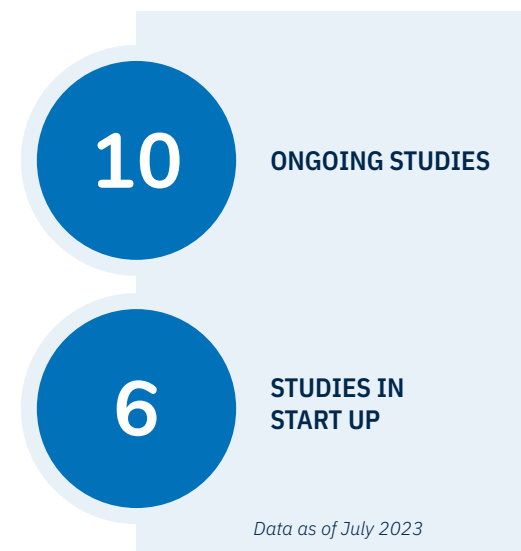
determinants that link these diseases. Researchers hope to identify the mechanisms by which one disease promotes development of the other. In May 2023, M-FAAD began enrolling patients in this large-scale study that will integrate data from more than 60,000 patients and 500,000 healthy control subjects, along with mutational screening of more than 1,000 pediatric and adult patients, using data from large population-based biobanks and patient data collected through the Michigan Genomics Initiative (MGI). Through state-of-the-art sequencing technologies, this study will measure gene expression and chromatin state down to a single-cell-level to create a “molecular map” of the pathology of AD and food allergy. This research program is supported by the generous \$5 million gift from an anonymous philanthropist.

Program for Clinical Research in Dermatology

The Program for Clinical Research in Dermatology (PCRiD) is committed to supporting our patient’s access to promising new therapies through clinical trials and fostering training opportunities in clinical research for a broad range of learners. PCRiD saw steady growth during FY2023, adding several new studies that are currently enrolling study participants and in start-up. To support this growth, PCRiD also steadily expanded its staffing over the past year, adding study coordinators for PCRiD-based studies as well as hiring study coordinators and a clinical research physician assistant who support Dr. Johann Gudjonsson’s translational research studies. In addition, the clinical research fellow is engaged in multiple pharmaceutical trials and studies in PCRiD.



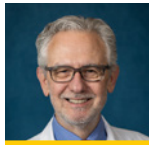
To facilitate incoming clinical trials, Dr. Mio Nakamura (PCRiD Director) is leading efforts to strengthen PCRiD’s working relationship with the U-M clinical trials support office and improve communications with external sponsors. These efforts have enhanced PCRiD’s ability to participate in fast-paced therapeutic trials, such as those for topical agents, and have supported the Program’s expansion to studies for new dermatologic diagnoses, such as vitiligo and hidradenitis suppurativa.



Basic Science Research

SKIN BIOLOGY & CANCER RESEARCH

The Skin Biology and Cancer Research Program encompasses dermatology research led by Drs. Andrzej Dlugosz and Sunny Wong at the Rogel Cancer Center.



The Dlugosz lab is pursuing research aimed at gaining deeper insights into the biology and molecular pathogenesis of basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC). This group is exploring the molecular and cellular basis of BCC initiation, growth, treatment-related regression, and tumor dormancy, aimed at ultimately improving treatment outcomes. In additional research, this team has developed the first mouse model of MCC and is initiating preclinical studies to identify more effective approaches for treating this aggressive malignancy.



Dr. Wong's lab seeks to discover novel and fundamental insights related to skin and hair follicle biology, epithelial stem cells and cancer. His group is studying signaling crosstalk between BCC tumor cells and their microenvironment, and developing novel in vitro and in vivo murine models of BCC. The Wong lab is also investigating how sebaceous gland stem cells are regulated, and the role of hair follicles in maintaining skin barrier function.

Relevant publications:

1. Veniaminova NA, Jia YY, Hartigan AM, Huyge TJ, Tsai SY, Grachtchouk M, Nakagawa S, Dlugosz AA, Atwood SX, Wong SY. *Distinct mechanisms for sebaceous gland self-renewal and regeneration provide durability in response to injury*. Cell Rep. 42(9):113121, 2023. PMID: 37715952; PMCID: PMC10591672.
2. Perez-Pacheco C, Schmitd LB, Furgal A, Bellile EL, Liu M, Fattah A, Gonzalez-Maldonado L, Unsworth SP, Wong SY, Rozek LS, Rao A, Wolf GT, Taylor JMG, Casper K, Mierzwa M, D'Silva NJ. *Increased Nerve Density Adversely Affects Outcome in Oral Cancer*. Clin Cancer Res. 2023 Jul 5;29(13):2501-2512. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-22-3496. PMID: 37039710; PMCID: PMC10371054.
3. Zouboulis CC, Coenye T, He L, Kabashima K, Kobayashi T, Niemann C, Nomura T, Oláh A, Picardo M, Quist SR, Sasano H, Schneider MR, Törőcsik D, Wong SY. *Sebaceous immunobiology - skin homeostasis, pathophysiology, coordination of innate immunity and inflammatory response and disease associations*. Front Immunol. 2022 Nov 10;13:1029818. PMID: 36439142; PMCID: PMC9686445.
4. Kumari A, Li L, Ermilov AN, Franks NE, Dlugosz AA, Allen BL, Mistretta CM. *Unique lingual expression of the Hedgehog pathway antagonist Hedgehog-interacting protein in filiform papillae during homeostasis and ectopic expression in fungiform papillae during Hedgehog signaling inhibition*. Dev Dyn. 2022 Jul;251(7):1175-1195. PMID: 35048440; PMCID: PMC9250591.

SKIN AGING & PHOTOBIOLOGY



Dr. Gary Fisher (*pictured top*), Dr. Taihao Quan (*pictured bottom*) and their Skin Aging and Photobiology Research team are investigating age-related changes within the dermal extracellular microenvironment (ECM). Ongoing studies are focused on the molecular mechanisms involved in skin aging and age-related regulation of ECM homeostasis, and how these changes influence skin cancer development. The Fisher lab, in collaboration with Dr. Andrzej Dlugosz, has developed novel mouse models of accelerated dermal aging for research examining

the roles of matrix metalloproteinases and matricellular proteins in dermal aging. This group is also studying the YAP/TAZ mechanosensing signaling pathway and its role in regulating age-related dermal ECM homeostasis. These projects are supported by two new NIH R01 awards received in 2023. In ongoing translational studies, Dr. Gary Fisher and Dr. Frank Wang are investigating how injectable dermal fillers, such as cross-linked hyaluronic acid, stimulate regenerative responses within dermal fibroblasts and the dermal extracellular microenvironment, and the impact of these processes on clinical improvement.



Relevant publications:

1. Wang F, Do TT, Smith N, Orringer JS, Kang S, Voorhees, JJ, Fisher GJ. *Implications for cumulative and prolonged clinical improvement induced by cross-linked hyaluronic acid: An in vivo biochemical/microscopic study in humans*. *Experimental Dermatology* Jan 9 2024; 33 (1): e14998.
2. Quan T, Xia W, He T, Calderone K, Bou-Gharios G, Voorhees JJ, Dlugosz AA, Fisher GJ. *Matrix Metalloproteinase-1 Expression in Fibroblasts Accelerates Dermal Aging and Promotes Papilloma Development in Mouse Skin*. *J Invest Dermatol*. 143(9):1700-1707. e1., 2023. PMID: 36914001.
3. Fisher GJ, Wang B, Cui Y, Shi M, Zhao Y, Quan T, Voorhees JJ. *Skin aging from the perspective of dermal fibroblasts: the interplay between the adaptation to the extracellular matrix microenvironment and cell autonomous processes*. *J Cell Commun Signal*. 17(3):523-529, 2023. PMID: 37067763; PMCID: PMC10409944.
4. Xiang Y, Liu Y, Yang Y, Yan Y, Kim AJ, Guo C, Fisher GJ, Quan T. *Reduced expression of Collagen 17A1 in naturally aged, photoaged, and UV-irradiated human skin in vivo: Potential links to epidermal aging*. *J Cell Commun Signal*. 16(3):421-432, 2022. PMID: 35060094; PMCID: PMC9411357.

SKIN IMMUNOLOGY & AUTOIMMUNITY RESEARCH

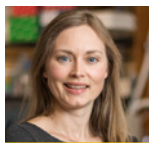
The Skin Immunology and Autoimmunity Research Program includes research led by Drs. Johann Gudjonsson, Allison Billi, and Michelle Kahlenberg, physician-scientist in the Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology. This interdisciplinary research group uses state-of-the-art techniques, -omics datasets and systems biology approaches to investigate the complex regulatory mechanisms that drive development and perpetuation of inflammatory skin diseases.



Dr. Gudjonsson's lab is investigating the pathogenesis of immune-mediated skin diseases, such as lupus, atopic dermatitis and psoriasis, with studies focused on immunogenetics, the molecular basis of sex bias in autoimmunity, and systems biology approaches to define inflammatory networks in the skin. The Gudjonsson lab uses innovative methods including single-cell RNA-sequencing, single-cell multiome (RNA-seq/ATAC-seq), and various spatial-seq platforms to study skin inflammation and the biology of various inflammatory mediators.



The Billi lab is exploring how the female-biased transcription coregulator, VGLL3, promotes autoimmune disease through interaction with transcription factors shared by the Hippo signaling pathway, which plays an influential role in cancer. This work uses human cell culture, mouse models of inflammatory skin disease, single-cell RNA-seq, and systems biology approaches.

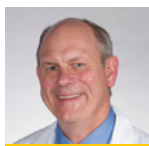


Dr. Kahlenberg leads research focused on the pathogenic mechanisms that drive skin and systemic inflammation in autoimmune disease patients. The Kahlenberg lab is investigating the integration of stromal and immune cell signals with a strong focus on the role of type I IFNs and UV light-mediated inflammation in systemic autoimmune syndromes, such as SLE and dermatomyositis. In ongoing research, this group is studying the regulation of IFN-kappa production in SLE and normal keratinocytes, the role of IFN-kappa in photosensitivity, and the role of Hippo signaling in SLE keratinocytes and immune cell populations.

Relevant publications:

1. Ma F, Tsou PS, Gharaee-Kermani M, Plazyo O, Xing X, Kirma J, Wasikowski R, Hile GA, Harms PW, Jiang Y, Xing E, Nakamura M, Ochocki D, Brodie WD, Pillai S, Maverakis E, Pellegrini M, Modlin RL, Varga J, Tsoi LC, Lafyatis R, Kahlenberg JM, Billi AC, Khanna D, Gudjonsson JE. *Systems-based identification of the Hippo pathway for promoting fibrotic mesenchymal differentiation in systemic sclerosis*. Nat Commun. 2024 Jan 3;15(1):210. PMID: 38172207.
2. van Straalen KR, Ma F, Tsou PS, Plazyo O, Gharaee-Kermani M, Calbet M, Xing X, Sarkar MK, Uppala R, Harms PW, Wasikowski R, Nahlawi L, Nakamura M, Eshaq M, Wang C, Dobry CJ, Kozlow JH, Cherry-Bukowiec JR, Brodie WD, Wolk K, Uluckan Ö, Mattichak MN, Pellegrini M, Modlin RL, Maverakis E, Sabat R, Kahlenberg JM, Billi AC, Tsoi LC, Gudjonsson JE. *Single cell sequencing reveals Hippo signaling as a driver of fibrosis in hidradenitis suppurativa*. J Clin Invest. 2023 Dec 5:e169225. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38051587.
3. Hile GA, Coit P, Xu B, Victory AM, Gharaee-Kermani M, Estadt SN, Maz MP, Martens JWS, Wasikowski R, Dobry C, Tsoi LC, Iglesias-Bartolome R, Berthier CC, Billi AC, Gudjonsson JE, Sawalha AH, Kahlenberg JM. *Regulation of Photosensitivity by the Hippo Pathway in Lupus Skin*. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2023 Jul;75(7):1216-1228. PMID: 36704840; PMCID: PMC10313771.
4. Loftus SN, Liu J, Berthier CC, Gudjonsson JE, Gharaee-Kermani M, Tsoi LC, Kahlenberg JM. *Loss of interleukin-1 beta is not protective in the lupus-prone NZM2328 mouse model*. Front Immunol. 2023 May 16;14:1162799. PMID: 37261358; PMCID: PMC10227599.
5. Sarkar MK, Uppala R, Zeng C, Billi AC, Tsoi LC, Kidder A, Xing X, Perez White BE, Shao S, Plazyo O, Sirobhusanam S, Xing E, Jiang Y, Gallagher KA, Voorhees JJ, Kahlenberg JM, Gudjonsson JE. *Keratinocytes sense and eliminate CRISPR DNA through STING/IFN- κ activation and APOBEC3G induction*. J Clin Invest. 2023 May 1;133(9):e159393. PMID: 36928117; PMCID: PMC10145927.
6. Warren RB, Reich A, Kaszuba A, Placek W, Griffiths CEM, Zhou J, Randazzo B, Lizzul P, Gudjonsson JE. *Imsidolimab, an anti-interleukin-36 receptor monoclonal antibody, for the treatment of generalized pustular psoriasis: results from the phase II GALLOP trial*. Br J Dermatol. 2023 Jul 17;189(2):161-169. PMID: 37120722.

PSORIASIS GENETICS & GENOMICS RESEARCH



The Psoriasis Genetics and Genomics Research Program is investigating the genetics and functional genomics of psoriasis in work led by Dr. James T. Elder. A genome-wide association study (GWAS) meta-analysis, recently carried out in collaboration with scientists across the globe, identified 45 new susceptibility alleles that impact disease mechanisms and therapeutic targets in psoriasis pathobiology. A transcriptome-wide association study (TWAS) further connected these genetic signals to genes whose expression was affected by the psoriasis-associated variants, and a single cell RNA-seq analysis led by Dr. Johann Gudjonsson further connected these TWAS candidates to cell types displaying differential expression in uninvolved versus lesional psoriatic skin.



Directed by Dr. Lam (Alex) C. Tsoi, scientists in the Center for Cutaneous Bioinformatics are developing novel systems biology approaches to analyze high dimensional biological and biomedical data, including studies exploring the shared genetic signals and their regulatory roles for psoriasis and its comorbidities. The Center uses single cell and spatial genomics techniques to integrate our genetic information for enhanced resolution in mechanism inference. In collaboration with dermatology colleagues, this group is creating a comprehensive “-omics” data warehouse to host and analyze transcriptomics and epigenomics data being generated.

Relevant publications:

1. Dand N, Stuart PE, Bowes J, Ellinghaus D, Nititham J, Saklatvala JR, et al. *GWAS meta-analysis of psoriasis identifies new susceptibility alleles impacting disease mechanisms and therapeutic targets*. medRxiv 2023:2023.10.04.23296543.
2. Patrick MT, Nair RP, He K, Stuart PE, Billi AC, Zhou X, Gudjonsson JE, Oksenberg JR, Elder JT, Tsoi LC. *Shared Genetic Risk Factors for Multiple Sclerosis/Psoriasis Suggest Involvement of Interleukin-17 and Janus Kinase- Signal Transducers and Activators of Transcription Signaling*. *Ann Neurol*. 94(2):384-397, 2023. PMID: 37127916; PMCID: PMC10524664.
3. Patrick MT, Sreeskandarajan S, Shefler A, Wasikowski R, Sarkar MK, Chen J, Qin T, Billi AC, Kahlenberg JM, Prens E, Hovnanian A, Weidinger S, Elder JT, Kuo CC, Gudjonsson JE, Tsoi LC. *Large-scale functional inference for skin-expressing lncRNAs using expression and sequence information*. *JCI Insight*. 8(24):e172956, 2023. PMID: 38131377.
4. Ogawa K, Tsoi LC, Tanaka H, Kanai M, Stuart PE, Nair RP, Tanaka Y, Mochizuki H, Elder JT, Okada Y. *A Cross-Trait Genetic Correlation Study Identified Eight Diseases and Traits Associated with Psoriasis*. *J Invest Dermatol*. 143(9):1813-1816.e2., 2023. PMID: 36906125.
5. Saklatvala JR, Hanscombe KB, Mahil SK, Tsoi LC, Elder JT, Barker JN, Simpson MA, Smith CH, Dand N. *Genetic validation of psoriasis phenotyping in UK Biobank supports the utility of self-reported data and composite definitions for large genetic and epidemiological studies*. *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* (2023). PMID: 36870556
6. Ma F, Plazyo O, Billi AC, Tsoi LC, Xing X, Wasikowski R, Gharaee-Kermani M, Liang Y, Harms PW, Ward NR, Xing E, Kirma J, Maverakis E, Klechevsky E, Voorhees JJ, Elder JT, Kahlenberg JM, Pellegrini M, Modlin RL, Gudjonsson JE. *Single cell and spatial sequencing characterizes cell type composition and cell-cell interaction in psoriasis*. *Nat Commun*. 2023 Jun 12;14(1):3455. PMID: 37308489, PMCID: PMC10261041.

Skin Biology and Diseases Resource-Based Center

The Center, which was in its fourth year of funding during FY23 aims to facilitate independently funded research into skin biology and disease; to foster the development of team science, combining big-data approaches with functional studies in cell culture and genetically engineered mouse models; and to attract additional investigators into cutaneous research relevant to the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) mission.

VISITING SPEAKER SERIES

Our Center regularly hosts researchers who are engaged in outstanding cutaneous research, developing novel technology or developing other approaches of interest to Center members for our Visiting Speaker Series:

Scott Atwood, PhD, Associate Professor of Cell & Developmental Biology, University of California Irvine: *“Defining Epithelial Development and Dysfunction”*

Cory Simpson, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Dermatology), University of Washington School of Medicine: *“Illuminating Organelle Dynamics in Epidermal Differentiation and Disease”*

Colin Jamora, PhD, Centre for Inflammation and Tissue Homeostasis Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine Bangalore, India: *“The Matricellular Protein Mindin Drives Fibrogenesis in a Mouse Model of Scleroderma”*

Emily Bernstein, PhD, Professor of Oncological Sciences and Dermatology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai: *“Remodeling Chromatin in Cancer”*

Nicole Ward, PhD, Professor of Oncological Sciences and Dermatology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai: *“Mouse Models of Skin Disease in 2040: Is There a Future?”*

TRAVEL AWARDS PROGRAM

The Travel Awards Program supplemented attendance at the first International Societies for Investigative Dermatology conference in Tokyo, Japan in May 2023. Seven travel awards were granted to non-faculty trainees, who currently work in the laboratories of an SBDRC member. They presented the following abstracts:

Amanda Orosco, PhD Student, Cellular & Molecular Biology Graduate Program, University of Michigan: *“Towards a genetically- and phenotypically-relevant mouse model for Pachyonychia Congenita”* (Coulombe Lab)

Benjamin Klein, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Internal Medicine (Rheumatology), University of Michigan: *“Mitochondrial Z-DNA as a new activator of UV-driven interferon responses in keratinocytes”* (Kahlenberg Lab)

Erez Cohen, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Cell and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan: *“Alterations in keratin expression, cell identity and tissue homeostasis in skin diseases”* (Coulombe Lab)

Haihan Zhang, PhD Student, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Biostatistics, University of Michigan: *“Multi-condition TWAS for inflammatory skin disorders highlights roles of genetic signals in cytokine-stimulated keratinocytes”* (Tsoi Lab)

Mitra Maz, MD/PhD Student, Graduate Program in Immunology, University of Michigan: *“Single-cell RNA sequencing reveals cellular drivers of UV-mediated skin injury in cutaneous lupus”* (Kahlenberg Lab)

Uppala Ranjitha, PhD Student, Graduate Program in Immunology, University of Michigan: *“HERC6 is an Interferon induced E3 ubiquitin ligase that negatively regulates sex-specific STING-IRF3 responses through modulation of LATS2/VGLL3 Hippo signaling”* (Gudjonsson Lab)

Suzanne Shoffner-Beck, MD/PhD Student, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Biomedical Engineering, University of Michigan, University of Michigan Medical School: *“Lupus fibroblasts hyperrespond to inflammatory cytokines and upregulate pro-fibrotic collagens in patients with scarring skin lesions”* (Kahlenberg Lab)



ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The UM-SBDRC hosted its 4th Annual Symposium on March 2, 2023. Held as a hybrid event, faculty, trainees, and research staff attended either in-person at Kahn Auditorium or virtually via Zoom.

Elizabeth Grice, PhD delivered the keynote address on “*Skin Microbiome: Risk and Reward for Barrier Integrity and Repair.*” Dr. Grice is the Sandra J. Lazarus Associate Professor in Dermatology, and Associate Professor of Microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. She also serves as the Director of the Penn SBDRC, Vice Chair of Basic Research in the Department of Dermatology, and Vice Chair of the Microbiology, Virology, and Parasitology Graduate Group. Dr. Grice’s lab integrates genomics, microbiology, dermatology, and immunology to examine host-microbe interactions of the skin in health and disease.

The symposium also highlighted ongoing research supported the UM-SBDRC Pilot & Feasibility funding, as well as other research initiatives.

In addition, 12 researchers presented their work at the poster session, with six presenters receiving award recognitions for outstanding work (see right).

1st Place:

Elizabeth Pedersen, MD, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dermatology, University of Michigan: “*Basal cell carcinoma pigmentation is associated with melanocyte proliferation and expression of the melanocyte mitogens Endothelin 1 and 2 by tumor cells*” (Dlugosz Lab)

2nd Places:

Natalia Veniaminova, PhD, Research Investigator, Dermatology, University of Michigan: “*Novel Mechanism of Sebaceous Gland Maintenance and Regeneration*” (Wong Lab)

Benjamin Klein, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Internal Medicine (Rheumatology), University of Michigan: “*Mitochondrial Z-DNA as a new activator of UV-driven interferon responses in keratinocytes*” (Kahlenberg Lab)

3rd Places:

Enze Xing, MD/PhD Student, Graduate Program in Immunology, University of Michigan: “*Pansclerotic morphea is characterized by type II IFN responses priming T-cell – cDC2b – fibroblast crosstalk to promote fibrosis*” (Gudjonsson Lab)

Uppala Ranjitha, PhD Student, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Dermatology, University of Michigan: “*HERC6 is an Interferon induced E3 ubiquitin ligase that negatively regulates sex-specific STINGIRF3 responses through modulation of LATS2/VGLL3 Hippo signaling*” (Gudjonsson Lab)

Jon Musai, Undergraduate Research Assistant, Internal Medicine (Rheumatology), University of Michigan: “*IFN- β Serves as a Novel Regulator of IFN κ Expression in Keratinocytes*” (Kahlenberg Lab)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



DEI MISSION

The U-M Department of Dermatology is committed to achieving greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in our team and everyday work. We acknowledge our role as advocates for meaningful social change towards a just and equitable healthcare system. Our commitment to DEI is at the foundation of our efforts to advance dermatology through the highest standard of patient care, education, and research.



As Assistant Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) **Dr. Severine Cao** oversees our department's efforts to recognize and counter biases and strengthen a more inclusive environment within our programs and local community. In early 2023, Dr. Cao organized the Dermatology DEI Committee with more than 30 participating members including staff, residents and faculty from across the department's clinical, research and administrative teams. The committee has established its mission and aims and organized its first department-wide **DEI Picnic/Potluck** in August to foster connection within the department. The DEI committee has also formed working groups to manage a variety of DEI initiatives, including arranging for pronoun badges for patient-facing employees and creating a "Disability Tip Sheet" to ensure provision of disability-competent care.

Department faculty and residents staffed a Michigan Medicine Dermatology information booth at the **2023 Parkridge Summerfest** (top photo at left) in Ypsilanti, supplying answers and guidance to local residents on good skin care practices. The department's inaugural **Dermatology Community Day** (bottom photos at left) took place on the front lawn of the Ypsilanti Health Center (YHC) in October and announced the opening of our YHC dermatology clinics, including the Skin of Color Clinic. Supported by many dermatology volunteers as well as the Phyllis Blackman Innovation mini grant, this well-attended event supplied skin cancer checks to more than 40 people, and our information booths answered many, many questions about good skin health for patients with skin of color.





A team of UM Dermatology faculty, residents and medical students met with local high school students during **Career Day at Ypsilanti Community High School** (left photo at top) to promote early interest in careers in medicine and dermatology. U-M medical student, Reinie Thomas (Class of 2024) organized and led the **Second Annual Dermatology Day at Washtenaw Community College** (center photo at top) with 25 high school students from Ypsilanti and Detroit in attendance. Dermatology faculty and residents from Henry Ford Health, Michigan Medicine and Wayne State University interacted with students at this educational outreach event which was supported in part by funding from the U-M Black Medical Student Association.

Seeking to highlight non-traditional paths to a career in dermatology, Dr. John Runge (PGY-2) oversaw the department's first **Winding Roads to Dermatology** event at the Michigan League, also supported by the Phyllis Blackman Innovation mini grant. This new event featured guest speakers: Dr. Jennifer Parker (Penn Medicine Dermatology) and Dr. Maya Raiman (Michigan Medicine Dermatology) as well as a discussion panel featuring several dermatology residents (Drs. Stephen Ansah-Addo, Dan Wenzel, and Kathie Velez) who shared their inspiring pathways to the field of dermatology.

Additionally, representatives from Michigan Medicine Dermatology took part in a **"Specialty Speed Dating" at the 2023 AMEC-SNMA** (right photo at top) meeting, where they met with medical and pre-medical students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine (URM) to cultivate interest in the dermatology specialty. The DEI Dermatology Pathways Program (formerly, the Dermatology Pipeline Program) pairs U-M medical students with a dermatology resident or faculty member

to provide mentorship and early dermatology exposure for students with interest in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field of dermatology. Led by Dr. Sara Fossum, the **Pathways Program** is working to involve more medical students with mentorship pods pairing upper-level medical students with early medical students for peer-to-peer mentorship.

Guided by Dr. Frank Wang, Associate Chair for Education and Assistant Program Director for curriculum, DEI threads are seamlessly woven into the department's teaching programs, including the Skin of Color curriculum, the annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professor and other guest lectures centered around DEI themes. Expanding upon the book club format, **DEI Discussions** supply an informal venue for residents, faculty, PAs, and staff to discuss DEI-related topics in a small group. Drawing upon information from multiple sources—podcasts, articles, documentaries, as well as books, these quarterly sessions foster discourse around issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and promote anti-racism in dermatologic medical education and patient care.

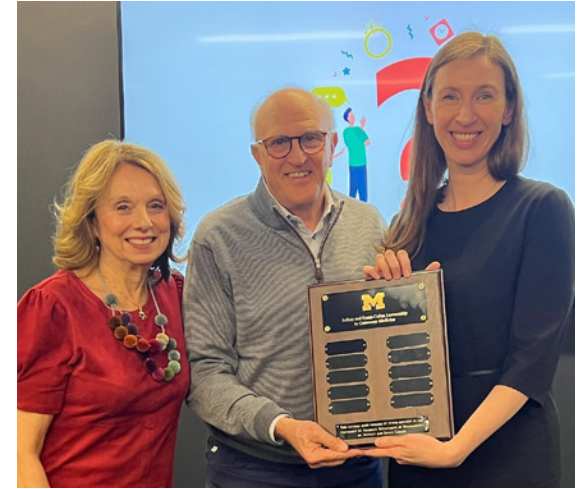
Dermatology Residency Program Director Dr. Yolanda Helfrich has implemented holistic residency application review and revamped the interview. These efforts are aimed at ensuring interviews are supplied to candidates from backgrounds under-represented in our specialty. Through her role on the Association of Professors of Dermatology, (APD) Residency Program Directors Section Steering Committee, she is helping raise awareness of the key role dermatology training programs serve in developing a more diverse dermatology workforce.

PHILANTHROPY

JEFFREY AND SUSAN CALLEN LECTURESHIP IN CUTANEOUS MEDICINE

A special thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey P. and Susan M. Callen for their endowed Lectureship in Cutaneous Medicine. Dr. and Mrs. Callen's generous donation to the department will ensure the opportunity for residents, faculty, and medical students to benefit from an annual invited lecture in cutaneous medicine, with a specific focus on Medical Dermatology, for many years to come. Dr. Callen completed his medical training and residency at the University of Michigan, and is currently the Chief of the Division of Dermatology and the Lafayette G. Owen, MD, Endowed Chair of Dermatology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

Dr. Ruth Ann Vleugels delivered the inaugural Jeffrey and Susan Callen Lectureship in Cutaneous Medicine on October 19, 2023. Dr. Vleugels is the Heidi and Scott C. Schuster Distinguished Chair in Dermatology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Associate Professor of Dermatology at Harvard Medical School. She spoke on *"Autoimmune Skin Disease: Clinical Pearls and Pitfalls Gleaned from Dr. Callen and Beyond."*



Susan Callen, Dr. Jeffrey Callen, Dr. Ruth Ann Vleugels

MICHIGAN FOOD ALLERGY & ATOPIC DERMATITIS PROGRAM

Made possible through the generous \$5 million gift from an anonymous philanthropist, the Michigan Food Allergy and Atopic Dermatitis Program (M-FAAD) is a new interdisciplinary collaboration between the Mary H. Weiser Food Allergy Center and the Department of Dermatology's Autoimmune and Inflammatory Skin Disease Research Program. Using state-of-the-art sequencing techniques, M-FAAD researchers hope to identify the interconnected mechanisms of atopic dermatitis (AD) and food allergy and determine how those biological mechanisms contribute to skin inflammation and allergic food reactions, thereby advancing the development of new treatments for patients. The study will be the largest ever done on the genetic predisposition for atopic dermatitis and food allergy. Eventually, the study will be extended to include asthma and allergic rhinitis, two other conditions often seen in patients with AD and food allergy.

VOORHEES PROFESSORSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are just over halfway to our goal! In the fall of 2022, we launched a campaign to honor and pay tribute to the many contributions of our former chair, Dr. John Voorhees. By establishing this permanent endowment, the "John J. Voorhees, MD, Collegiate Professor of Dermatology" will create a lasting impact in our department in perpetuity. With a goal of raising \$500,000 to establish, we are just over 50% of the way there and have commitments totaling over \$266,000.

Thank you to those that have partnered with us already, your generosity and support is appreciated! If you are interested in learning more about these efforts and would like to get involved, we invite and encourage you to join us. Jackie Rink manages philanthropy for the Department of Dermatology and would be happy to talk with you about the many opportunity for making a gift. She can be reached by cell phone at (734) 716-8512 or by email at rinkja@umich.edu.

ALUMNI RELATIONS

ALUMNI REUNION AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING



We hosted our Department of Dermatology Alumni Reunion at the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting in New Orleans on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Alumni, current dermatology faculty and house officers gathered to catch up with friends and colleagues, make new connections, and enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and New Orleans jazz music by The Gumbo Trio.

We hope to see you in San Diego!

Our 2024 Department of Dermatology Alumni Reunion at the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting in San Diego will be held the evening of Saturday, March 9, 2024. Keep an eye out for our email invitation!



Pictured top left to right: Drs. Eliot Mostow, Michael Goldfarb, Seth Stevens

Pictured bottom left to right: Drs. Frank Wang, Rachel Greene, Michael Goldfarb, Maya Aravind Raiman, Kristy Charles, Trilokraj Tejasvi

U-M DERMATOLOGY FALL ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Thank you to all who were able to join us for our University of Michigan Department of Dermatology 1st biennial Fall Alumni Reunion and Symposium October 14-15, 2022! We enjoyed seeing so many gather together in Ann Arbor and hope you had the chance to connect with your fellow alumni, faculty, and house officers throughout the weekend.

We hope to see you this fall!

Our 2nd Biennial Fall Alumni Reunion Weekend will be held September 27-28, 2024. Keep an eye out for our email invitation!



Pictured left to right: Drs. Kevin Cooper, Charles Ellis, Chris Bichakjian, Trilokraj Tejasvi



MICHIGAN MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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