



Johns Hopkins Dermatology News

Pursuing with excellence the mission of research, education, and patient care

Chairman's Corner



The year is off to a busy start for the Department of Dermatology. I am pleased to share with you some of the very exciting achievements and events that have taken place over the last few months. This issue is focused on the educational efforts of the Department which includes patient safety, medical student curriculum, and resident education. We are very pleased that we have been able to increase the depth and breadth of the Department's educational program.

In future newsletters, I look forward to sharing with you the expansion efforts of the Department to a new space on the 8th floor of the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center. With the advent of The Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children's Center and Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cardiovascular and Critical Care Adult Tower opening in April, we have the opportunity to dramatically increase our clinical space. This is an exciting opportunity as we will be able to bring together faculty members who are currently spread across the Johns Hopkins campus. I look forward to sharing more in the coming months.

For those of you attending the American Academy of Dermatology conference, please stop by our reception for alumni and friends on March 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, Edward CD Room. We would love to see you and reconnect.

Sincerely,

Sewon Kang, MD

Noxell Professor & Chairman

Patient Safety at Johns Hopkins: partnering with the new Armstrong Institute to promote the science of safety

Johns Hopkins Medicine is on a relentless mission to improve health care delivery. High-quality, safe health care results from individual excellence, but also from well-designed systems and processes. In Dermatology we are carrying out this Hopkins-wide mission. Data collection, process analysis, and system redesign are part of our fabric as we aim to create efficient and error-free care.

Recognizing the urgent need to advance the science of safety, Johns Hopkins Medicine recently announced the establishment of the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality, an organization whose work will benefit patients at Hopkins and around the world. A \$10 million gift from C. Michael Armstrong, the former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Johns Hopkins

Medicine, is funding the new Institute.

The Armstrong Institute brings together experts from Hopkins to coordinate and lead patient safety and quality efforts across Johns Hopkins Medicine. Rigorous statistics and scientific methods will be applied to improve patient outcomes.

Dermatology is partnering with the Institute to track data to eliminate preventable harm for patients and ensure clinical excellence. A recent Johns Hopkins-wide survey indicated that Dermatology's "culture of safety" is among the most improved of all units for teamwork and safety, due to the focused efforts to create an environment that values collaboration and accountability. Patient safety remains a priority for the Department and the Institution.

Celebrating Diversity and Education: Third Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Event Engages the Community

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to demonstrate a commitment to diversity and furthering the science of Ethnic Skin Dermatology, the Department of Dermatology partnered with the Johns Hopkins Office of Diversity and Cultural Competence to host the Third Annual Martin Luther King Jr., Visiting Professorship and Community Seminar on Ethnic Skin.

This year's speaker, Amit G. Pandya, M.D., Dr. J.B. Shelmire Professor from the Department of Dermatology at Univer-

sity of Texas Southwestern Medical Center spoke about "Disorders of Pigmentation and Discoloration in Ethnic Skin."

The Ethnic Skin Program was created in January 2010 by Drs. Ginette Hinds and Sewon Kang to address the skin health

issues of the ethnically diverse population of Baltimore and beyond.

The Ethnic Skin Program is committed to outstanding clinical care, research and education in skin, hair and nail conditions that affect people with darker skin tones. As the need for these services increase, the program will be actively raising funds to hire a patient coordinator to accommodate the patient demand and create a fellowship opportunity to train medical students in this very important area of dermatology.



Sewon Kang, MD, Ginette Hinds, MD, Amit Pandya, MD, and Brian Gibbs, PhD, presented Dermatology's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professorship and Community Seminar.

Genes to Society: New curriculum introduces medical students to Dermatology

First and second year medical students are learning about skin directly from the Dermatology faculty, thanks to the new curriculum redesign that encourages interactive learning and an appreciation for not only the molecular level of science, but also its impact on the population.

Objectives of the dermatology course being taught to medical students includes defining the structure and function of skin, introducing major skin disorders and their impact, and developing core skills in medical problem solving and communication.

The course combines lecture-style learning with faculty-led group discussions and case studies. For each lecture, patients are presented to demonstrate the concepts and make the learning more memorable. For example, when Dr. Luis Garza gave a talk on skin infection, he invited a patient from the Johns Hopkins Wound Center to attend. Students were given the opportunity to ask the patient questions about her experience living with the disease.

Dermatology is glad to be part of introducing the new curriculum at Johns Hopkins. Student feedback has been very positive.

Supporting Our Work

At Johns Hopkins we strive to provide excellent clinical care for each patient, train future leaders in dermatology, and pave the way in discovering diagnosis and treatment of skin conditions. Your private donations allow us to maintain innovative studies in such fields as melanoma, autoimmune disease, ethnic skin conditions and wound healing.

To support these research efforts, please make your tax deductible check payable to:

**Johns Hopkins Medicine
Department of Dermatology
601 North Caroline Street, Suite 6062
Baltimore, MD 21287**

To make an online donation visit:

www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology

For more information, please contact:

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Naples Event Features Dermatology and Oncology's Skin Cancer Breakthroughs

On January 19, 2012, the Departments of Dermatology and Oncology collaborated to present a program on "Skin Cancer Prevention and Breakthroughs in Treatment" at the Ritz Carlton in Naples, Florida.

The event was generously hosted by Annette Pakula and Larry Kessel, and Stephanie and Erwin Greenberg. Over 100 people from the Naples community attended the presentation

which showcased the excellent patient care and research of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Drs. Sewon Kang and Rebecca Kazin from the Department of Dermatology spoke about the skin



Dermatology Chairman Dr. Sewon Kang; Oncology Chair Dr. William Nelson, Hosts Stephanie and Erwin Greenberg, and Larry Kessel and Annette Pakula; Dermatology faculty member Dr. Rebecca Kazin; Oncology faculty member Dr. Evan Lipson.

cancer prevention efforts of the Department which included exciting breakthroughs in diagnostic tools to identify early stages of cancerous lesions using infrared technology.

New Procedure Clinic Aims to Provide Learning Opportunities: Surgical experience emphasized for resident physicians

Mid-way through the academic year, feedback came from the resident physicians that they would like increased opportunities to participate in surgical procedures to improve their skills and gain practical experience with excisions and closures. Dermatology residents rotate in the cutaneous surgery unit during all three years of their training program, but requested more time in the procedure rooms beginning in the first year.

Dr. Sewon Kang, Residency Program Director, partnered with Drs. Mary Sheu, Associate Program Director, and Timothy Wang, Cutaneous Surgery Director, redesigned the block schedule for residents to include more hands-on surgical learning.

Beginning in January, two afternoons per month are dedicated to a new procedure clinic at the Outpatient Center to provide not only a richer and more comprehensive learning experience for residents, but also access to timely surgical intervention for patients who have been diagnosed with lesions that do not require Mohs surgery.

Dr. Wang has utilized the new rotation block to spend in-depth, one-on-one time with first year residents going through basic skills such as appropriate incision techniques and proper knots for skin surgery. Residents in their second or third years have more autonomy to perform procedures

under Dr. Wang's supervision. The full course of the surgical experience is emphasized, from pre-operative consultation to suture removal. Because residents have participated in the initial diagnosis and triage of the patient, seeing the full continuum of care has been extremely beneficial to understand the importance of timely diagnosis and follow-up.

Feedback from the residents and the patients has been extremely positive. Dr. Nada Elbuluk, a second year resident, has found the experience to be educational and fulfilling. "It has provided a great opportunity for residents to have additional surgical experience," she explained. "It provides exposure to a variety of interesting surgical cases and also provides time for individualized teaching with Dr. Wang. This clinic is an important addition to our surgical education."

Supervising the clinic has been a rewarding experience, Dr. Wang noted. "Residents are thrilled and seem to be enjoying these half-day clinics. We decrease the number of patients so they can take their time and ask questions." The goal of the clinic is to allow the residents to focus on technique, hone their skills and gain confidence in surgery without the pressure of time and in carefully preselected cases with surgical faculty at hand."

Clinical Care Spotlight: Photopheresis services increases capacity and cases

Dr. Ronald Sweren, Director of Photomedicine for the Department of Dermatology, leads the phototherapy and photopheresis programs which have seen dramatic increases in volume in the past year. Photopheresis, or extracorporeal photoimmune therapy, is a four-hour long procedure to suppress white blood cells that stimulates an immune reaction.

Demand for the photopheresis service has grown significantly over the past year. A new pheresis machine was purchased recently and the Department is recruiting a new pheresis nurse to keep up with the number of cases. Patient safety and coordinated care are priorities in the photomedicine program, and often dermatology partners with other departments to collaborate on the treatment plan.

Jonathan Guiyab, RN, has partnered with Dr. Sweren to support and guide the program. "It has been exciting and now photopheresis is the go-to procedure for such diseases as graft-versus-host disease and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma," Mr. Guiyab notes. "Many of our patients at Hopkins Photomedicine come from a distance because of the high quality of care that we offer."



Jonathan Guiyab, RN, treats a patient with photopheresis. Patients return for therapy as prescribed by their treating dermatologist.

Trainee Spotlight: Euphemia Mu receives American Skin Association grant

After completing a medical school rotation in the Department of Dermatology, Euphemia Mu became increasingly interested in the research aspects of the field. She received a 2012 medical student grant from the American Skin Association to study pediatric melanoma and the genetic mutations that may correlate with clinical characteristics in this disease.

Building a robust disease database, as well as performing genomic hybridization techniques and gene expression studies are all components of the grant proposal. The study strives to develop better strategies for earlier detection, prevention, and rational therapies for pediatric melanoma.