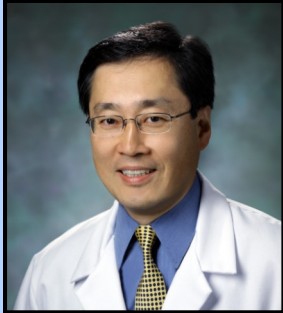




Johns Hopkins Dermatology News

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

Chairman's Corner



It was exciting to hear from many of you after receiving our inaugural newsletter. I was pleased to hear from alumni and friends who enjoyed reading about our community events and educational programs.

This edition of our newsletter focuses on the research mission of our Department, and exciting projects underway by both residents and faculty members. Also featured is brief introduction to our newest residents who joined the program on July 1. These six individuals bring a wealth of intellect and impressive educational qualifications, and each has a keen interest in research and innovation. We look forward to working with them for the next few years.

I hope you find this edition intriguing enough to get back in touch with us. We enjoy hearing from you and invite you to become involved. There are many activities happening at the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology, and I look forward to continuing to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Sewon Kang, MD

Noxell Professor & Chairman

**Save the Date:
January 11, 2012**

Third Annual Martin Luther King Jr.

**Visiting Professorship &
Community Seminar on Ethnic Skin**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Ross Research Building

RSVP: bayviewderm@jhmi.edu

or 410-550-4724

Resident Research: a renewed commitment to discovery

Beginning this academic year, second and third year residents have the unique opportunity to pursue research projects during protected academic time weekly.

Under the mentorship of a faculty member, all upper year residents are focusing on scientific and academic discovery. The resident research program goal is to provide a foundation for trainees to pursue academic research, a core mission of Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Amena Deluca, Chief Resident, is studying surgical outcomes with Dr. Timothy Wang, Director of Dermatologic Surgery, to determine whether patients' expectations before Mohs surgery corresponds with their satisfaction with actual surgical results.

Also, Dr. Deluca has partnered with the Hopkins Biomedical Engineering Department's Dr. Cila Herman and Dermatology

faculty members to continue a project that she began before residency. The team is utilizing infrared imaging to noninvasively characterize pigmented lesions as malignant or benign.

Second year resident Dr. Nada Elbuluk's research focuses on the disproportionate rate of pigmentary disorders for patients with skin of color. Her work includes taking skin biopsies and performing molecular analysis on these sections.

These are examples of the many projects underway by residents, and others who will be featured in future newsletters. Through this new research program, residents lead studies while learning to publish and present their findings. The emphasis on research during residency will prepare them as leaders in academic dermatology, and adds depth to their educational experience.

A Legacy of Learning:

Fifth Annual John F. Strahan, MD, Lectureship

On September 21, 2011, the Department of Dermatology celebrated the Fifth Annual John F. Strahan, MD Lectureship. This year's lecture was entitled "New Advances in Acne Treatment," and was presented by



Dr. James Leyden (left) and Dr. John F. Strahan (right)

James Leyden, MD, Emeritus Professor of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Dr. Leyden's research interests encompass a wide range of clinical problems including bacterial and fungal infections, acne, aging and photoaging, pre-clinical safety testing and developing methodologies for in-vivo evaluation of antimicrobial effects.

The Strahan Lectureship is an important

educational component for the Department of Dermatology and recognizes Dr. Strahan's life-long commitment to the field of dermatology.

Dr. Strahan has been part of the Hopkins family since 1961, attending clinic and grand rounds, while teaching medical students and dermatology residents. This lectureship endowment was made possible through the generosity of the Strahan family, faculty, alumni and friends.

A Woman's Journey:

Drs. Hinds and Kazin present Dermatology topics relevant to women's health

The Johns Hopkins *A Woman's Journey* event on November 12 in Baltimore will feature two of Dermatology's full time faculty members, Dr. Ginette Hinds and Dr. Rebecca Kazin.

A Women's Journey is attended by 1,200 women with diverse backgrounds, all sharing an interest in learning to live healthier lives. More than 32 Hopkins physicians are slated to speak at this year's all day conference featuring the latest discoveries in personalized medicine.

Dr. Hinds will present a seminar entitled "Essence of Beauty," focused on ethnic skin and hair care, and how disease patterns may vary for individuals depending on the amount of skin pigmentation. Dr. Hinds will share research updates on ethnic skin and cancer prevention.

"In Pursuit of Perfect Skin" will be Dr. Kazin's seminar about both medical and cosmetic dermatology. She will discuss skin cancer, texture change and options for treatment including topical creams, injectables and laser therapies.

Read more at www.hopkinsmedicine.org/awomansjourney/baltimore.

Supporting Our Work

At Johns Hopkins we strive to provide excellent clinical care for each patient, train future dermatologists and lead the way in discovering diagnosis and treatment of skin conditions. Unfortunately, with dramatic cuts in federal funding, support has become limited, especially for our research. Your private donations allow us to maintain innovative studies in such fields as melanoma, autoimmune diseases, 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**

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Kyleigh Helfrich

Senior Associate Director of Development
443-287-2036 / Email: dermgiving@jhmi.edu

Cutaneous Translational Research Program: skin aging studies advance science

As discovery occurs through basic and translational research, our faculty at Johns Hopkins incorporate evidence based knowledge into practice. Many faculty members in the Department of Dermatology are actively engaged in clinical, translational and basic research as principal investigators.



This means that our physician scientists are bringing *Sherry Leung (Research Program Assistant, center) and Dr. Anna Chien assess the skin tone of a research participant. The spectrophotometer measures skin color numerically.*

the newest innovations in medicine from the "bench to the bedside."

Dermatology's Cutaneous Translational Research Program (CTReP) serves as a catalyst for researchers to collaborate and follow standardized processes for initiating and carrying out studies. Established by Dr. Sewon Kang in 2008, CTReP is the point of contact when other academic departments wish to work with dermatologists on research projects, such as a current Neurology study that requires scalp skin biopsies, and an Oncology drug study that calls for skin examinations.

Dr. Anna Chien, Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the Cutaneous Translational Research Program, is leading several trials. One focuses on patient attitudes and molecular markers of skin aging in young and elderly age groups. Another is a clinical and molecular assessment of factors

associated with perioral wrinkling. The study's hypothesis is that while younger skin may display visual signs of aging, it actually has aging pathways already active on the molecular level, as is the case in older skin.

Dr. Ginette Hinds, Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Ethnic Skin Program, leads a study setting the foundation for enhanced understanding and appropriate measures to treat aging skin regardless of pigmentation. Dr. Hinds aims to learn more about how African American skin's photoprotection relates to photoaging, and whether aging progression patterns are different with dark skin.

More studies are underway as clinical research takes off at Johns Hopkins Dermatology.

Read more at www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dermresearch.

Garza Laboratory Skin Regeneration Project: team investigates stem cells in skin

Luis Garza, MD, PhD is currently investigating methods to regenerate skin through stem cell biology.

In one project, Dr. Garza's team is addressing frequent skin problems experienced by amputees at stump sites that interface with prosthetic devices. The project goal is to regenerate the thick skin found at the palms and soles at the stump site.

In the first stage of the study, the team defined the unique genetic signature for acral skin found on the palms of hands or soles of feet; this skin is resistant to friction and environmental irritants. Dr. Garza discovered that fibroblast stem cells can create acral tissue and that these cells can be isolated in the lab.

Dr. Garza will harvest these stem cells in humans and inject them back into volunteer subjects at a non-acral site to convert the skin's identity. This would demonstrate the ability to create new acral skin and it would be the first time showing the promise of stem cell therapy in regenerative medicine.

The implications of this work are substantial, and new proposals from Dr. Garza would apply this science to amputee patients, who are primarily war veterans. Reinitiating embryonic developmental patterns might eventually lead to insights on ways to trigger the re-growth of severed human limbs or even human organs.

New Residents Start the Academic Year: trainees join July 1

The Johns Hopkins Dermatology Residency Program experienced an exciting growth spurt on July 1. Expanding the program from 10 to 13 residents allows for more comprehensive education and learning.

Incoming First Year Residents

Dr. Yevgeniy "Eugene" Balagulay: Originally from Tiraspol, Moldova, Dr. Balagulay completed a dermatology research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center after his preliminary residency year at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital.

Dr. Anne Han: Dr. Han joined the residency program after medical school at Columbia University, a one-year dermatopharmacology fellowship at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and a two-year fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Wound Center.

Dr. Tamia Harris: Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Dr. Harris earned a dual MD/PhD degree at Johns Hopkins University, focusing on Cellular & Molecular Medicine for her PhD.

Dr. John Mavropoulos: Dr. Mavropoulos attended Duke University for his MD/PhD, and earned his Masters of Public Health degree in Nutritional Biochemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Helena Pasieka: Before embarking on Dermatology residency, Dr. Pasieka completed Internal Medicine residency at the University of Michigan and is board-certified in Internal Medicine. She also holds a masters degree in clinical research design and biostatistics from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Hoseong "Steve" Yang: Raised in Seoul, Korea, Dr. Yang attended medical school at the University of Michigan, and stayed to earn his PhD in the prestigious Medical Scientist Training Program.

Read more at www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dermresidency.

Incoming Fellows

Dr. Anna Bender: After graduating from medical school at Columbia University, Dr. Bender completed dermatology residency at Cornell University. She joins Johns Hopkins as a Pediatric Dermatology fellow and as a board-certified faculty Instructor.

Dr. Omolara Olowoyeye: Dr. Olowoyeye, a two-year Johns Hopkins Wound Center fellow, earned her Masters in Public Health at Nova Southeastern University, and completed medical school at George Washington University and internship at Franklin Square Hospital.