



# Johns Hopkins Dermatology News

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

## Chairman's Corner



I am most pleased to be sending you our first newsletter from the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology. We plan to share with you, our alumni and friends, noteworthy news pieces on a regular basis. Through this publication we wish to inform you of exciting achievements and changes that are happening in our Department.

We are going through a true renaissance and period of rebuilding in clinical care, education and research. I am hopeful that you will get a sense of our commitment to the tripartite mission of Johns Hopkins Medicine. This newsletter features several stories on our work and areas of focus.

I would like to also offer a special congratulations to our graduating residents and fellows, featured on page 2, who will be pursuing both practice and further education. We look forward to welcoming an incoming resident class of six on July 1, our largest class size to date—just another way we are growing.

We are making strides daily, and I am grateful to the faculty, staff and supporters of the Department who are creating a better tomorrow for our patients and their families.

This newsletter is just a glimpse of the activities happening at Hopkins Dermatology, and I invite you to contact us to participate and learn more.

Sincerely,  
Sewon Kang, MD  
Noxell Professor & Chairman

## Serving the Community: free skin screening outreach

The Department of Dermatology continued in its commitment to serve the local community through two free skin screenings this year in celebration of Melanoma Awareness Month in May.

The screenings were a true Johns Hopkins collaboration, with the Johns Hopkins Marketing handling patient scheduling and outreach. Johns Hopkins Community Physicians office sites hosted the events in White Marsh and Dundalk, and provided supplies.

Faculty, residents and staff volunteered their time and expertise to provide skin checks. Many of the patients lacked insurance or the means to pay.

The White Marsh event served 72 patients, and 21 patients came to the Dundalk session. In all, 25 patients were referred to local dermatologists for

biopsies. Five were likely basal cell or squamous cell carcinomas, and one was a likely melanoma.

Patients were provided with lists of local dermatologists to contact for follow-up, and educational materials were disseminated about sun protection and the importance of regular skin screenings.

"The event went very smoothly and the patients were very appreciative," noted Dr. Ginette Hinds, faculty organizer of the Dundalk event. Dr. Timothy Wang oversaw the White Marsh screening. He also heard great feedback from attendees. "It is a worthy cause and we are all glad to give back to the community," he said.

Providing safe care and good access to patients are top priorities to the Department, and this is another way to accomplish both objectives.

## Biomedical Engineering Students Explore Dermatology Applications

Johns Hopkins University undergraduate students in the nation's top-ranked Biomedical Engineering Department were chosen to present their project on minimally invasive skin biopsy at the 2011 Design Day through the Johns Hopkins Center for Bioengineering Innovation & Design (CIBD).

Four faculty members in the Department of Dermatology mentored students in a project over the past year. The program, a partnership between the Schools of Engineering and Medicine, challenges undergraduates to design, build and commercialize solutions to significant medical challenges.

Students Yifu Ding and Danielle Dorfman led a team to create a device that removes skin samples of a precise area and depth while maintaining the integrity of the skin for pathology diagnosis.

Drs. Anna Chien, Luis Garza, Sewon Kang and Janis Taube worked closely with the

biomedical engineering students whose design featured a handle and receiving tube that reduces dermatologist injury by inverting the cutting direction from pushing to pulling.

Eager to continue their work, the students plan to test their device on cadaver skin. Student leader Danielle Dorfman explained that the group also "plans to continue the project by performing clinical trials" through an Internal Review Board approved study. "We have learned so much for the faculty members in Dermatology, and we hope this project will progress even further!"

Expanding its educational mission beyond just residents and medical students, the Department of Dermatology looks forward to continued collaborations with students at all levels. Such innovative work could provide safer, more effective care for patients in the future by reducing scarring and improving biopsy skin integrity.

## David & Margaret Kay Melanoma Lectureship:

The annual David & Margaret Kay Melanoma Lectureship was held on May 10 and 11. Dr. Arthur Sober, Professor of Dermatology at the Harvard Medical School, was the invited lecturer.

A nationally known expert in skin cancer, Dr. Sober presented a talk entitled "Imaging Techniques for the Evaluation of Pigmented Lesions" on Tuesday evening for residents and faculty members in the Departments of Dermatology, Surgery and Oncology whose clinical and research work focuses on melanoma.

The following day, Dr. Sober presented a lecture to the Dermatology faculty and residents about risk management issues in melanoma medical legal cases. He also led the weekly journal club and an extended question and answer session.

The generosity of Margaret & David Kay provides this annual opportunity for multidisciplinary focus on new topics in the field of melanoma every year. Experts in research and clinical care for this disease are engaged to come to Johns Hopkins to present relevant topics to improve the quality of patient care and current research in the field of melanoma.

## Supporting our Work

Johns Hopkins dermatologists have devoted their lives to understanding skin conditions. By joining an academic institution, they chose to pursue careers devoted both to world-class patient care and to innovative research within dermatology. Due to the dramatic cuts in federal funding, research dollars have been increasingly limited. Your private support enables us to continue our research in areas such as skin cancer, autoimmune disease, 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**  
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## Promoting Diversity in Dermatology: Dr. Sewon Kang honored by JHU Diversity Leadership Council

Dr. Sewon Kang, Chairman of the Department of Dermatology, was honored as a recipient of the Diversity Recognition Award by the Johns Hopkins University Diversity Leadership Council.

This award serves to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments of those whose demonstrable efforts foster greater appreciation, advancement and celebration of diversity and inclusiveness in the Johns Hopkins culture and environment.

Dr. Kang was nominated because of the infrastructure he has focused on building for the Department since his arrival in 2008. His strategic plan for the Department includes diversifying faculty and staff recruitments, as well as building programs and research that will further dermatology's reach to patients with skin types which have traditionally been underrepresented in academic medicine.

The full-time faculty is now comprised 58% by females, a rarity in any academic department at Hopkins, and evidence that Dr. Kang's recruitment strategies lead to inclusion and diversity. The Department's residents and fellows are also from multicultural backgrounds, including Chinese, Korean, Singaporean, Sudanese,



Left to right: Lloyd B. Minor, JHU Provost; Gwendolyn Boyd, Chair, JHU Diversity Leadership Council; Ronald Peterson, JHH/JHHS President; Sewon Kang, Chairman, Department of Dermatology; Ronald J. Daniels, JHU President.

Trinidadian and Vietnamese.

The Johns Hopkins Ethnic Skin Program that Dr. Kang and Dr. Ginette Hinds have created is an example of supporting initiatives to further science benefiting those patients with diseases found most often in more pigmented skin.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. annual lectureship, founded by Dr. Kang, features nationally celebrated visiting professors who focus on care and research of ethnic skin. Past lecturers have presented on African American hair and skin cancer in ethnic skin.

Research in the Department also promotes science for a diverse patient population. The "Research on Color" (ROC) group that Dr. Kang convened, consisting of three faculty members and two Dermatology residents, meets regularly to discuss research on ethnic skin, and to gain private, corporate, and federal study sponsors to invest in ethnic skin research.

Remarkable strides to support diversity have been made in the Department of Dermatology under Dr. Kang's leadership. He has driven significant change worthy of recognition by the Diversity Leadership Council and by Johns Hopkins University.

## Kropfelder Golf Tournament: A Family on a Mission

On May 23, 2011, the Kropfelder family and friends hosted the eighth golf tournament to raise support for The David J. Kropfelder Melanoma Research and Education Fund in the Department of Dermatology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The David Kropfelder Melanoma Foundation was established in memory of David who lost his courageous battle with mel-

anoma in 2003. His passion and zest to live life to the fullest inspired his family and friends to help raise awareness and attain a cure for this challenging disease.

David was an athlete, official, community member and loving father to his three daughters. He had a 30-year career in basketball officiating, was a respected official in the Atlantic Coast and Big East conferences and a rules interpreter for

Baltimore high school officials. His second career was in banking where he served as Vice President for 1st National Bank and later served as development director for Mount Saint Joseph High School.

The Kropfelder board members believe that education is the key to preventing skin cancer which is why, each year, they include a free skin screening as a component of the golf tournament. Golfers are screened prior to tee-off and over the years multiple pre-cancerous and cancerous skin lesions have been identified at the tournament. Golfers are educated on the necessity of sunscreen and the importance of yearly skin screenings.

To date, the Kropfelder Foundation has contributed more than \$48,000 to Johns Hopkins. James Bryant, Chairman of the Kropfelder Melanoma Foundation board commented that "they are grateful for their partnership with Johns Hopkins and the ability to educate others and help detect and identify early signs of skin cancer."



Left to right: Katie Kropfelder, Meghan Kropfelder, David Kropfelder, Nicole Kropfelder.

## Dermatopathology Research: Dr. Janis Taube receives prestigious grant

The 2011 American Society of Dermatopathology Research Grant has been awarded to Dr. Janis Taube. This grant will further her current research work research supported by the Dermatology Foundation. Her study will focus on B7-H1 molecules which are expressed on melanoma tumor cells.

B7-H1 molecules facilitate tumor escape from the immune system by inhibiting T cell function through a specific receptor called PD-1. Early clinical trials suggest that blocking the receptor interactions can reverse the tumor generation, and instead lead to antitumor immunity and cancer regression.

Dr. Taube hopes to further explore the molecular mechanisms driving B7-H1 expression and then define the most rational combination of molecularly targeted drugs and immunotherapeutic agents. These treatments could ultimately be used to treat patients with advanced melanoma.

## New Academic Year Begins July 1

The Department wished the best to its three graduating residents and fellows at a ceremony on June 29 and welcomed a new class a few days later on July 1.

### Graduating Residents

**Dr. Yelena Frankel:** Dr. Frankel will join the dermatology practice of Drs. Robert and Margaret Weiss in Cockeysville, MD.

**Dr. Adrianna Jackson:** Dr. Jackson will begin a hair fellowship at University of California at San Francisco.

**Dr. Sofia Shea:** After her year as Chief Resident, Dr. Shea will be joining the faculty at the University of Virginia prior to beginning a Dermatopathology fellowship.

### Graduating Fellows

**Dr. Heather Carney:** Dr. Carney will join a Dermatopathology practice in Colorado after completion of the Dermatopathology fellowship at Johns Hopkins.

**Dr. Anne Han:** Having completed a two-year fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Wound Center, Dr. Han will begin the Hopkins Dermatology residency program.

**Dr. Ife Rodney:** Dr. Rodney will join be a Dermatopathology faculty member at Howard University and will also sign out cases at Johns Hopkins one day per week.