



# Johns Hopkins Dermatology News

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

## Chairman's Corner



It is a very exciting time to be a clinician-scientist at Johns Hopkins. The field of medicine changes rapidly and, at this great institution, we have the opportunity to be actively involved in translational medicine—taking discoveries from the laboratory directly to the clinic. In order to achieve this, the Department believes in taking a multi-disciplinary approach to research and patient care. Actively engaging in many research projects with talented investigators across the institution. Our current collaborations include among others, Radiation Oncology, Oncology, Neurosciences, Biomedical Engineering, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Internal Medicine, and Infectious Diseases. We believe that these partnerships will lead to breakthroughs in the way we manage and treat skin diseases.

We are pleased to share that the Department of Dermatology was selected as a site for two devices that utilize optical imaging and analysis to detect melanoma among atypical skin lesions. One device will be used for research purposes and the other will be used for clinical care. We are excited to use this technology to help our patients in the early detection of skin cancers.

It was a pleasure seeing many of our alumni at this year's American Academy of Dermatology meeting and reception. I always enjoy catching up with you and I look forward to staying in touch.

Sincerely,

**Sewon Kang, MD**

Noxell Professor & Chairman

## Addressing Skin Cancer in Transplant Patients

It is estimated that over 28,000 solid organ transplant surgeries are performed each year in the United States. Skin cancer is the most common cancer among solid organ transplant recipients, affecting up to 70% of patients.

A subset of high-risk patients is severely affected, developing dozens or even hundreds of skin cancers per year. The quality of life for these patients is substantially reduced, disfigurement from multiple surgeries can be severe, and death from skin cancer in transplant recipients is rising at an alarming rate.

The skin cancer risks for these patients needs to be better addressed by physicians involved in the care of this population so that they can employ aggressive treatment modalities at the first sign of problematic skin.

Johns Hopkins dermatologist, Manisha Patel, MD and her team are currently developing a clinical and research program to address the skin needs of solid organ transplant patients and create treatment protocols specific to this population. The team will be developing educational materials for referring physicians and local dermatologists, and will begin a training program for residents on the needs of these patients.

*If you would like to support the Dermatology Transplant Program, please send your tax-deductible contribution to: Johns Hopkins Dermatology Transplant Research Fund, 601 North Caroline Street, Suite 6062, Baltimore, Maryland 21287.*

## Dermatology Gives Back to the Shepherd's Clinic

Johns Hopkins dermatologists are treating patients at the Shepherd's Clinic in Baltimore City. The clinic is a non-profit organization that provides healthcare services to uninsured patients. One evening per month, Ginette Hinds, MD, Manisha Patel, MD, and dermatology residents volunteer at the local clinic. Besides skin exams and medical treatments, the team also provides patient education.

The Shepherd's Clinic began in 1991 and is staffed by more than 350 volunteer physicians, nurses, medical students, residents and staff. A full continuum of care is offered, including primary care and many specialties. In 2012, over 10,000 patients were served.

Eugene Balagula, MD, a second year Dermatology resident, enjoys providing dermatologic care at the clinic.



*Dermatology attending physicians Manisha Patel, MD, and Ginette Hinds, MD, volunteer monthly at the Shepherd's Clinic in downtown Baltimore providing dermatologic care to uninsured patients in the community.*

"Working at the Shepherd's Clinic presents a unique opportunity to appreciate and develop a better understanding of the diverse dermatologic needs of this patient population," Dr. Balagula explains.

"It is important to ensure that a lack of health insurance does not preclude patients from having access to routine dermatologic care. This can help avoid higher costs to the healthcare system and prevent death associated with delayed diagnosis and treatment."

## Welcoming New Faculty Member and Opening a New Clinic

In January, Lisa Xu, MD, joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor. Prior to arriving at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Xu spent two years at the University of Indiana as the Associate Program Director for the Residency Program and Director of the Clinical Research Unit. Dr. Xu attended medical school at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and completed her internship and residency in dermatology at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Dr. Xu is seeing patients at the Green Spring Station Clinic and the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Her clinical and research interests are in medical dermatology and utilizing lasers to treat skin conditions. In July 2013, Dr. Xu will complete a laser fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School in the Wellman Laboratory. After her fellowship, she will return to Johns Hopkins to use her new expertise for research and patient care.

Also this Winter, Anna Chien, MD, Assistant Professor and Director of the Cutaneous Translational Research Program, began treating patients at the Howard County Medical Pavilion, the newest clinic site for the Department. Dr. Chien provides medical dermatology services and procedures. To schedule an appointment, please call (443) 287-7733.

## 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 the diagnosis and treatment of skin conditions. Unfortunately, with cuts in federal funding, support has become limited especially for our research. Your private donations allow us to initiate and 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 contribute online:

[www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology)

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Kyleigh Helfrich  
(443) 287-2036 / Email: [dermgiving@jhmi.edu](mailto:dermgiving@jhmi.edu)

## Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy with Education

On January 16, 2013, the Department of Dermatology hosted the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professorship. The yearly lecture is organized by Ginette Hinds, MD, Director of the Johns Hopkins Ethnic Skin Program.

The Ethnic Skin Program was created in January 2010 to address the skin needs of Baltimore City's ethnically diverse population. The team diagnoses and treats skin, hair, and nail conditions of patients with ethnic skin. In addition, the team conducts research in the field of ethnic skin dermatology—investigating new and improved treatments for skin conditions unique to this patient population. The program is also committed to community enrichment. Clinicians and staff participate in events and educational opportunities in the community including local health fairs, church events and school programs.

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Lecturer was Youn H. Kim, MD, the Joanne and Peter Haas, Jr. Professor for Cutaneous Lymphoma Research in the Department of Dermatology at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Kim's talk was entitled "CTCL Management: Are We Better Now?" Dr. Kim has directed the Cutaneous Lymphoma Clinic and Program

at Stanford University since 1992.

Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (CTCL) is caused when white blood cells, lymphocytes, grow abnormally and affect the skin. CTCL also can involve the blood, lymph nodes and other organs. The most common form of this disease is mycosis fungoides (MF).

Dr. Kim has published extensively to advance the field of cutaneous lymphoma. Her clinical research focuses on clinical outcome studies in patients with cutaneous lymphoma, therapeutic trials (industry and investigator-initiated) and translational research involving new therapy development in cutaneous lymphoma. She has served as the principle investigator or co-investigator for multiple pivotal clinical trials that have been critical in the discovery and development of new therapies in cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.

Dr. Kim and her team are also working to further the understanding of molecular pathogenesis and gene signatures reflective of prognosis and response to therapy. The Stanford University School of Medicine houses one of the largest single-center longitudinal databases in MF and Sézary Syndrome.

Residents, faculty, medical students, and staff in the Department and across Johns Hopkins Medicine attended the lecture. Dr. Kim also led a special session over lunch with the dermatology residents, giving them an opportunity to ask questions about her research and innovative approaches to clinical care in CTCL patients.



Ginette Hinds, MD, Co-Director of the Ethnic Skin Program, welcomed Youn H. Kim, MD of Stanford University as the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor.

## George W. Hambrick, Jr., MD a Johns Hopkins Dermatology Founder

This past December, the Department of Dermatology celebrated George W. Hambrick, Jr., MD's 90th birthday. Dr. Hambrick has made significant contributions to the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology and to the field.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Concord College, Dr. Hambrick attended medical school at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He spent an internship year at University of Iowa Hospitals and then trained in dermatology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and Duke University. He also served in the United States Army in Georgia and

Okinawa, Japan.

In 1966 Dr. Hambrick came to Johns Hopkins while Dermatology was a sub-department in Medicine. He became a full time faculty member in Medicine and Dermatology in 1967 and was promoted to full Professor in 1969. He was instrumental in establishing Dermatology as a separately recognized department at Johns Hopkins. His career included dermatology practice and research at Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Cincinnati, and Cornell University.



Sewon Kang, MD and George Hambrick Jr., MD met to celebrate his 90th birthday in Charlottesville, Virginia where Dr. Hambrick was born and currently resides.

His research led to breakthroughs including the histopathological study of ocular albinism in the eyes and skin. Dr. Hambrick defined the biology of chloracne for the first time ever. He credits the rich research and academic environment at Johns Hopkins with making these outstanding contributions to science possible.

The Department is grateful to Dr. Hambrick for the thousands of patients he has diagnosed and treated, his contributions to the Department, and for his remarkable scientific legacy in the field of Dermatology.

## Residents Selected by the American Academy of Dermatology for International Grants

Tamia Harris, MD, PhD, was chosen by the American Academy of Dermatology as one of twelve residents in the United States and Canada to receive a Resident International Grant to participate in a four to six week elective next year in Botswana. Jo Martin, MD, Chief Resident, was a participant in the 2013 program.

The grant provides the resident with an opportunity to participate with the Education and Volunteers Abroad Committee (EVAC) in establishing dermatology support programs and teledermatology consulting services in Gaborone. The clinical focus is on HIV-related dermatologic conditions as well as tropical dermatology. Residents learn how to practice in a setting with limited resources. They also participate in lectures and presentations and develop a database of photos and teledermatology consultations.

## Awards & Recognitions

- Jennifer Chirico, BSN, RN, received her certification in Dermatology Nursing. Certification requires education and practice components, as well as a written examination. Jennifer has been a nurse in the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Dermatology Program since 2009, and collaborates with faculty members, fellows, and residents to provide excellent patient care for children.
- Rebecca Kazin, MD, was named "Top Doc" for Cosmetic Dermatology in Baltimore Magazine. Physicians are selected for this honor based on recommendations from peers.
- Janis Taube, MD, was selected for the esteemed Clinician Scientist Career Development Award at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. For over 30 years, the award has been provided to promising young faculty members in clinical departments to protect academic time for them to develop their research careers. The competitive application process is tied to the faculty member's concurrent efforts to obtain external research support.
- Nine abstracts were submitted by faculty members in the Department of Dermatology to the International Investigative Dermatology meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland in March 2013. Four of these abstracts were co-authored by Johns Hopkins Dermatology residents.