



Johns Hopkins Dermatology News

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

Chairman's Corner



The leaves are beginning to fall in Maryland and there is a chill in the air. As we approach the end of the calendar year, I want to thank all of the supporters of the Department of Dermatology. Over the last year, our alumni, donors and friends have made generous contributions to help support education, research and patient care. We are very grateful for the investment in our work.

This fall has been very busy. We are reviewing applications for our residency program and will welcome candidates to our campus for interviews soon. We also hosted The 6th Annual John F. Strahan MD Lectureship on October 17, 2012. Dr. Strahan and his family have been strong supporters of the Department and the lecture was the most well attended to date.

We will also host a program in November in honor of Veterans Day. The Veteran/Amputee Skin Regeneration Program is a research initiative to change skin at the stump site into tougher skin—like that found on our feet and hands. We want our wounded veterans to be able to wear a prosthetic without pain, irritation and skin breakdown. We are very excited about the future of this work.

I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and holiday season and look forward to updating you on the activities of the Department in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Sewon Kang, MD

Noxell Professor & Chairman

Patient Finds Hope at Johns Hopkins

In September of 2009, Shanyna Isom's medical journey began. A common asthma attack led to the most aggressive health battle of her life. After steroid treatments, Shanya's health deteriorated rapidly, she was diagnosed with a mysterious skin condition and left unable to walk. Doctors were puzzled, and after multiple tests came back negative, she was encouraged to seek medical advice beyond her hometown of Memphis, TN.

In August of 2011, Shanya, still unable to walk, ended up at the emergency room at Johns Hopkins. ER attendings immediately contacted the Department of Dermatology to come see the patient. A dermatology team, consisting of Drs. Julie Zang, Sewon Kang and Manisha Patel gave Shanya hope, and she is now

to see results. Shayna says that the team "immediately made me feel comfortable and made me believe that I could walk again, which I am doing now!"

Johns Hopkins dermatologists have now stabilized Shanyna's unknown condition and the team continues to monitor Shanyna and research the mystery disease. Today Shanya's spirits are lifted and she believes wholeheartedly that this team will find a diagnosis and cure. In the meantime, she improves daily and credits the team for saving her life.



Strahan Lecture: Dr. John Voorhees speaks on "Aging Skin"

On October 17, the Department of Dermatology hosted the 6th Annual John F. Strahan, MD Lectureship. The ongoing support of the Strahan family, alumni, and friends have made this lecture a yearly success.

John J. Voorhees, MD, FRCP, the Duncan and Ella Poth Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor was this year's Strahan lecturer. Dr. Voorhees' lecture was entitled "Aging Skin."

Dr. Voorhees has authored 627 full publications that have been published or are in press. His publications have been quoted in the medical literature more

than any other dermatologist worldwide.

Dr. Voorhees' research focuses on psoriasis and premature aging of the skin. The demonstration of psoriasis as a disease mediated by an overactive immune system, treatable by immunosuppressive drugs, has been his major accomplishment in the study of psoriasis. In sun-induced premature skin-aging and in natural aging, he and his colleagues have unraveled mechanisms whereby UV light and the passage of time destroy the skin's collagen support. This understanding has provided insight into its treatment and prevention by pharmacologic agents.

This year's Strahan Lectureship was the most well attended to date. Over fifty alumni, faculty and friends of Dr. Strahan celebrated with Dr. Strahan and his family.



John J. Voorhees, MD, John F. Strahan, MD, and Sewon Kang, MD, at the 2012 John F. Strahan, MD Lectureship.

Welcoming New Trainees

The Department welcomed four new residents in July, each with impressive educational backgrounds and interest in academic medicine.

- Crystal Agi, MD, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Internship year at Georgetown Hospital
- Natalia Gomez-Ospina, MD, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine; Internship year at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital
- Peter Mattei, MD, Drexel University College of Medicine; Internship year at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA
- Sowmya Ravi, MD, University of Michigan School of Medicine; Internship year at Hofstra North Shore Long Island Jewish School of Medicine

Cathy Lee Tran, MD, a graduate of the Hopkins residency program, stayed in Dermatology as the inaugural Surgical Fellow. She will spend a year focused on advanced procedures, including Mohs surgery, cosmetics and lasers.

Annie Grossberg, MD, completed Dermatology residency at the University of Maryland last June, and joined as the Pediatric Dermatology fellow. Dr. Grossberg also is a credentialed faculty Instructor.

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. Unfortunately, with dramatic cuts in federal funding recently, support has become limited, especially for our research. 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:

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For more information, please contact:

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Welcoming the Department's Newest Faculty Members Lloyd Miller, MD, PhD, and Sarah Nakib, MD

The Department of Dermatology welcomed **Lloyd Miller, MD, PhD**, to the faculty as an Associate Professor in September. Dr. Miller's research involves the study of mechanisms of immune responses in the skin with particularly emphasis on understanding the protective immune responses against the common bacterial skin pathogen *Staphylococcus aureus*—including virulent antibiotic-resistant MRSA strains.

Dr. Miller will focus on developing innovative immune-based therapies and vaccination strategies to combat devastating staphylococcal and MRSA infections. He is also interested in investigating the mechanisms of infections of surgically-implanted devices and prostheses such as pacemakers and knee and hip replacements.

Dr. Miller earned his BA in Biology at the Johns Hopkins University and his MD and PhD at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center. Dr. Miller combined his residency training in Dermatology with a post-doctoral research fellowship at UCLA as part of the UCLA

Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program. In 2005 Dr. Miller joined the faculty in UCLA's Division of Dermatology.

Sarah Nakib, MD, joined the Department in October, after completing a combined Medicine/Dermatology residency at the University of Minnesota, including a year as the Chief Resident of her program. Her undergraduate work was at the same institution where she earned a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience, and attended the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Prior to medical school, Dr. Nakib also earned a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota, and as a dermatology resident, she was awarded the American Academy of Dermatology's Residents' International Grant to do a four-week elective in Botswana focusing on teledermatology.

In addition to their research and teaching,

Drs. Miller and Nakib will be caring for patients in the Dermatology clinics and at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Wound Center.



Procedural Dermatology Education: New Fellowship Begins at Hopkins

Expanding the educational opportunities offered within the Department, the Cutaneous Surgery and Oncology Unit recently received accreditation by the ACGME for a Procedural Dermatology fellowship and matriculated its first fellow, Dr. Catherine Lee Tran this July.

Dr. Tran remained in the Department after completing her residency in June. In her new capacity, she will spend the year learning advanced surgical techniques, and her training will focus on Mohs surgery as well as cosmetic and laser procedures. Besides clinical training, Dr. Tran also spends time as a fellow pursuing research and participating in the teaching elements of the surgery program. Dr. Tran's research is centered on skin cancer.

The Program Director and Medical Director of the Dermatologic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology Division, Dr. Timothy Wang, believes that the fellowship allows for continued growth in the Unit, and enhances the academic mission of the Division.

Judy Warson: Thanking a teacher and teammate for her years of service

In late September, the Department gathered to thank Judith Warson, BSN, RN, DNC, for her 35 years of providing care to patients, practical guidance to trainees, and partnership to the faculty and staff. After years of dedicated service, Judy has retired to enjoy more time with her family and friends.

A fixture at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Dermatology Clinic, Judy was the first phototherapy nurse in Maryland, treating mainly patients with psoriasis, and was also the first Dermatology nurse in the state certified by the Dermatology Nursing Certification Board.

Besides providing thousands of light treatments to patients over the course of her career, Judy also organized staff training and ensured that residents learned the systems of caring for patients, from safe specimen labeling and biopsy follow-up to understanding complex insur-

ance authorization rules. Dermatology was the first clinic to provide patients with a medication list and to keep a biopsy and follow-up log, thanks to Judy's leadership. Ever the caregiver, Judy went above and beyond to provide outstanding patient care and led others to do so.

At the reception in her honor, hospital executives, faculty members, staff colleagues, and residents all thanked Judy for how she had inspired them. The Department wishes Judy well for an enjoyable retirement, and thanks her for many years of compassionate and committed service.



Medical Assistants Erica Reese, Mindy Clevenger, and Vera Coles-Shabazz congratulate Judy Warson (second from right) at Judy's retirement celebration at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.

Awards & Recognitions

- Jo Martin, MD, Chief Resident, has been selected by the American Academy of Dermatology, to receive a Resident International Grant. Dr. Martin will participate in a six week elective in Botswana to establish dermatology support programs and teledermatology services.
- Sewon Kang, MD, has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association of Professors of Dermatology, which is the oldest national organization for education leaders in dermatology. As a Board member, Dr. Kang will have responsibility for the stewardship, growth and development of the Association of Professors of Dermatology. The APD's mission is to advance dermatology through exceptional education, science and clinical care, and the organization is the recognized leadership voice for academic dermatology.