

# Dermatology News

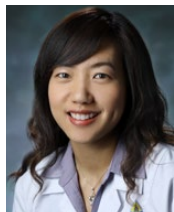
PURSUING WITH EXCELLENCE THE MISSIONS OF RESEARCH EDUCATION AND PATIENT CARE

## Research, Discoveries and Patient Care Come Together Through CTReP

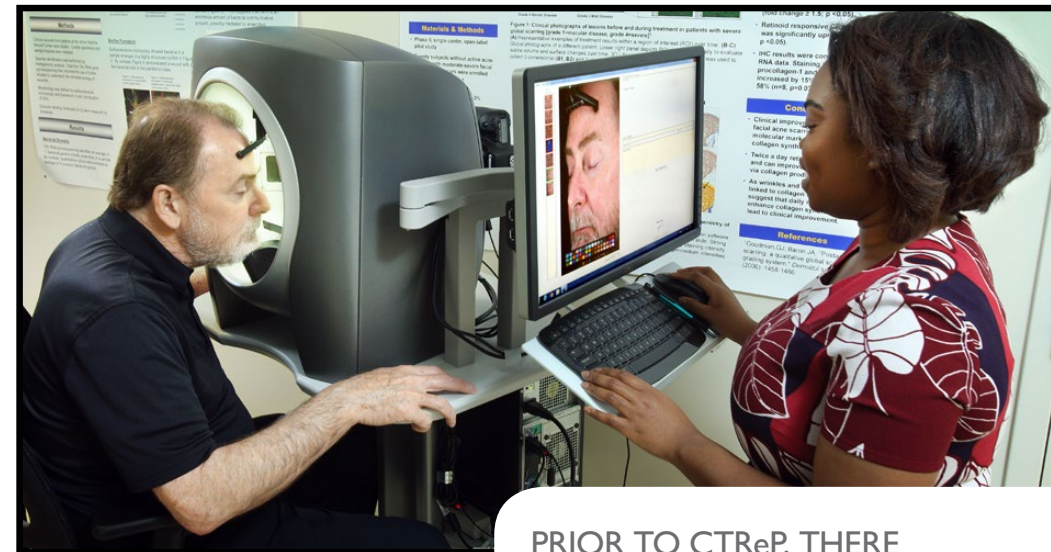
**W**HEN RESEARCHERS achieve a breakthrough in the laboratory, the goal is to translate that discovery into patient care as quickly and safely as possible. With the creation of the Department of Dermatology's Cutaneous Translational Research Program, or CTReP, our clinician-scientists now have a center to conduct clinical research trials in a streamlined, collaborative environment. Housed in the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center, CTReP includes a team of faculty principal investigators, research fellows, residents and study coordinators who work together in seven different areas of research, including medical dermatology, ethnic skin, wound healing, skin oncology, transplant dermatology, procedural dermatology and photomedicine.

**Anna Chien, M.D.**, serves as its director. "Prior to CTReP, there wasn't an infrastructure in place to conduct studies," she says. "Now we have coordinators and fellows who can help, and we are incorporating research into resident training. This did not exist until CTReP." Equipped to conduct all phases of studies, including FDA-monitored drug and device development, the unit houses modern clinical trials space, a fully equipped photography studio and various devices to measure skin properties. CTReP partners with centers of excellence at Johns Hopkins, including the Epigenetics Center, the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Applied Physics Laboratory, and the departments of Biomedical Engineering, Oncology, Surgery, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Neurology.

Chien is conducting several studies of rosacea, one of the most common skin disorders in North America. Rosacea causes



**Anna Chien, M.D.**



**Research program coordinator Jasmine Mensah takes digital photos of a patient.**

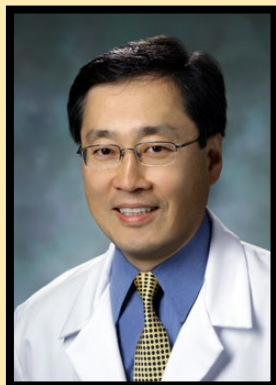
redness, flushing and large blood vessels on the face. Focusing on photodamage and how it can lead to this skin condition, the goal of the study is to help develop better rosacea medications. The CTReP team plays a pivotal role in this research process. Coordinators recruit volunteers and schedule them for appointments with Chien, who performs a small biopsy and takes photographs of their skin. The biopsy is sent to a laboratory of one of CTReP's collaborators—for example, Xinzhong Dong, Ph.D., a Johns Hopkins neuroscience professor, who looks for markers in the samples and returns the results to Chien.

Once the research criteria are met, Chien and her team study the findings to draw conclusions. With CTReP coordinating these details, the process is expedited, shortening the length of time a clinical research study needs to produce results to benefit patients.

**PRIOR TO CTReP, THERE WASN'T AN INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE TO CONDUCT STUDIES. NOW WE HAVE COORDINATORS AND FELLOWS WHO CAN HELP.**

Funding for CTReP studies is robust. Partner organizations include the American Skin Association and the Department of Defense. Corporations sponsoring studies include Galderma, Kythera Biopharmaceuticals and Valeant Pharmaceuticals. Currently, there are 20 active studies, including an investigation of the treatment of basal cell carcinoma, acne scarring, skin aging in ethnic skin and the effects of visible light on the skin. The Department of Dermatology will continue to expand the CTReP program. "CTReP's goal is to use our team-oriented approach to provide resources to enable faculty members and trainees to conduct studies seamlessly so their findings can be brought to the bedside, improving care for our patients," says Chien. ■

## Chairman's Corner



Sewon Kang, M.D.

**A**S WE DO EVERY SUMMER, THE JOHNS Hopkins Department of Dermatology began a new chapter in July by welcoming our newest trainees into the fold. This year, nine trainees—four residents, three fellows and two postdocs—have joined our expanding team. One of our clinical fellowships is in transplant dermatology, and it is new. Directed by Manisha Loss, M.D. we will be training physicians in the intricacies of caring for patients who have received solid organ transplantations. In addition, the fellow will be engaged in relevant research to improve the skin health of these individuals. This time of year always brings excitement and hope as we continue the journey to elevate the tripartite mission of Johns Hopkins Medicine—excellence in clinical care, training the next leaders in dermatology and advancing the medical research in skin.

Our department's Cutaneous Translational Research Program, known as CTReP, has been a cornerstone in research and education. Director Anna Chien, M.D., oversees this center for research collaboration, where clinical studies are conducted

in a streamlined environment. By bringing together principal investigators, research fellows and residents with other centers of excellence across Johns Hopkins, CTReP's structure has accelerated the study process, which in turn brings meaningful health benefits to our patients.

Finally, please take a few moments to view our new video featuring Department of Dermatology faculty member Luis Garza, M.D., Ph.D., talking about regenerative medicine. You can view it on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/29zu6sQ>. Garza is working to harness the same codes that allow our cells to create limbs and organs while in the womb for the medical necessities of our patients. One day, we may be able to change the typical healing process from scarring to rejuvenation. That's the research being conducted by Garza and his team. Thank you to all who support these efforts—and to those who support the other critical research programs in our department. We are truly grateful for your investment in our work.

Sewon Kang, M.D.  
*Noxell Professor of Dermatology  
Chairman, Department of Dermatology*

## Dermatopathology: A Closer Look

**Y**OU'RE STANDING IN FRONT OF the mirror and notice something on your skin. Your dermatologist removes a tiny sample and sends it off to the lab, where doctors examine it and render a diagnosis. In the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology, that lab is housed in the Division of Dermatopathology and Oral Pathology. "Dermatology used to send biopsies to the pathology department for analysis. Now, they are sent to our new dermatopathology laboratory, where we are able to handle specimens in a more timely fashion that is focused on skin expertise," said **Janis Taube, M.D.**, director of dermatopathology at Johns Hopkins.

The division, which has a staff of seven and reviews approximately 20,000 specimens per year, offers a variety of diagnostic services, including original diagnoses rendered within Johns Hopkins Medicine, regional, private client-based services, and

consultations from outside the system. All cases are reviewed by clinician-researchers with expertise in complex dermatopathology cases, including melanoma and lymphoma. "Many labs promote themselves as having dermatopathology expertise, but here in the Department of Dermatology, we see challenging cases over and over, which gives us an advantage and gives our patients peace of mind," says Taube.

Patient safety is a priority for the department. "The ability to control and manage patient biopsies is critical to attaining an accurate diagnosis. For example, orienting a biopsy on the slide correctly is a skill and allows the doctor to diagnose and prognosticate a patient's melanoma accurately, and to determine the correct surgical margins," adds Taube. "This is critical when fractions of a millimeter may alter prognosis and treatment for our patients." ■



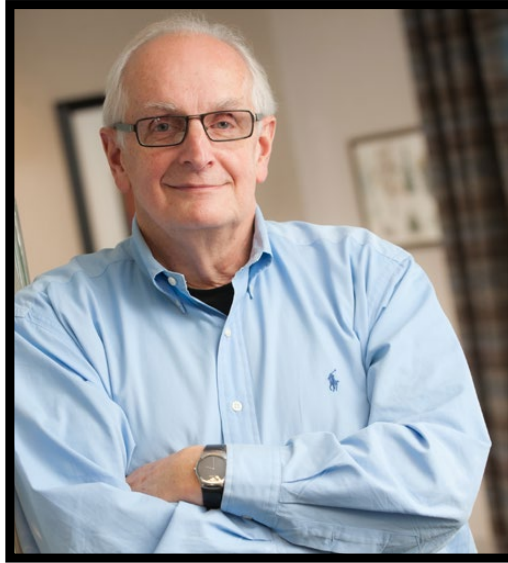
Front, Janis Taube, M.D. Back, Jonathan Cuda, M.D., and Inbal Braunstein, M.D.

# Lighting the Way

**T**HE DAAVLIN—DAVID W. SWANSON Phototherapy Unit, located on the eighth floor of the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center, was dedicated in the Department of Dermatology in 2015.

Daavlin manufactures phototherapy equipment that delivers therapeutic light to patients who suffer from skin disorders, such as psoriasis, vitiligo and eczema. “The use of ultraviolet light for the treatment of photoresponsive skin diseases is safe, highly effective and time tested,” says Swanson. Reflecting on the opportunity to partner with the department to expand the phototherapy unit, Swanson commented, “Johns Hopkins is world-renowned. To be able to associate our company with the school of medicine is very meaningful to us.”

A graduate of the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona, Swanson was a former executive at Elder Pharmaceuticals, where he was responsible for international sales. By 1981, he was ready to start his own business, and Daavlin, based in Bryan, Ohio, was born. Thirty-five years later, the company, still located in that small town, exports phototherapy devices to 70 countries worldwide. The company may be an interna-



**David W. Swanson**

tional player, but for Swanson, it is his Midwestern roots that keep the business grounded. “Our culture is one of empathy toward our patients and customers. Midwestern values provide the foundation by which we approach everything we do,” he says.

The new phototherapy unit at Johns Hopkins has allowed for an increase in patient care and provided the opportunity to engage more patients in clinical trials, as well as develop research projects for clinician-scientists, fellows and residents. “To be able to provide cutting-edge treatment for our phototherapy patients sets us apart from other facilities,” says Ronald Sweren, M.D., director of photomedicine in the Department of Dermatology.

Seeing results is what drives Swanson. “Without question, it’s about patient care,” he says.

“David is an innovator in the field of phototherapy,” says Sewon Kang, M.D., director of the Department of Dermatology. “We are truly grateful for his generous philanthropic support and his commitment to our patients.” ■

## Alumni Corner

Nearly 50 former Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology alumni reunited during the American Academy of Dermatology’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C. It was a warm and wonderful evening filled with reminiscences and toasts.



**Ciro Martins, M.D., and John Zampella, M.D.**



**Davi De Lacerda, M.D., and Elizabeth Richard, M.D.**



**Sewon Kang, M.D., and Steve Mandy, M.D.**

The next alumni reunion will be held on **Saturday, March 4, 2017**, in Orlando at the AAD. Please plan to attend.



**Nada Elbuluk, M.D.; Kate Puttgen, M.D.; and Molly Cavanaugh-Hussey, M.D., M.P.H.**



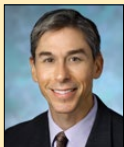
**Tiffany Link, M.D., Ph.D.; Tamia Harris-Tryon, M.D., Ph.D.; and Nashay Clemetson, M.D.**

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**Sewon Kang, M.D.**  
*Noxell Professor and Chairman*  
Toba Rainess, *Editor*

#### AWARDS & RECOGNITION



**Luis Garza, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of dermatology, received a grant from the National Rosacea Society to study epigenetic modifications caused by rosacea. He also received a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to support the Veteran/Amputee Skin Regeneration Program.



**Hana Jeon, M.D.**, chief resident, received the Frank L. Coulson, Jr. Award for Clinical Excellence. This honor is awarded annually by the Miller-Coulson Academy to the resident in each program who exemplifies clinical excellence.



**Lloyd Miller, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of dermatology, received two National Institutes of Health grants to study protective immune responses against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) skin infections. He also received a grant from MedImmune to study novel biologic therapies against MRSA, a grant from Chan Soon-Shiong Institute for Advanced Health to study topical immunomodulators against MRSA, and two Pfizer ASPIRE Dermatology Research Awards to study pathogenic

signaling mechanisms in psoriasis and atopic dermatitis.



**Ginette Okoye, M.D.**, assistant professor of dermatology and the director of the Ethnic Skin Program, was selected to become a faculty member of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine's Colleges Advisory Program. Faculty members serve as teachers and mentors to the medical students.



**Janis Taube, M.D.**, associate professor of dermatology, was named the co-director of the Tumor Microenvironment Laboratory at the newly founded Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. In addition, she received a grant from the National Cancer Institute to study the interaction between the immune system and melanoma and other skin tumors.



**John Zampella, M.D.**, a third-year resident, was inducted into the Distinguished Teaching Society of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

## Supporting Our Work

The Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology strives to provide outstanding individualized diagnosis and treatment of skin disease; educate the next generation of dermatologists to become leaders in medical dermatology, cosmetic dermatology, dermatologic surgery, dermatopathology and investigative dermatology, and develop new and better strategies to diagnose and treat skin disease through groundbreaking research.

**If you wish to support our efforts with a tax-deductible gift, please visit:**  
[www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology)