

NEWSLETTER

December 2015

internalmedicine.osu.edu/dermatology

Update on Search for Division Director

Dear Colleagues,

We began the search for a new dermatology division director in February 2015 and have vetted over 20 well-qualified candidates. The search committee is made up of myself, two members of the dermatology division, and representatives from plastic surgery, pathology, and medical oncology. We narrowed the pool to four candidates in June and have since invited back three final candidates. We are now down to two very qualified candidates, both of whom offer impressive resumes in research and clinical experience, and a strong desire to take on this role. The final decision will be based on their overall vision for current patient and research needs as well as developing the division into a department over the next several years. We thank you for your patience and hope to have an announcement soon.

Sincerely,

Pierluigi Porcu MD

Professor, Division of Hematology, and Dermatology Search Committee Chair



Fundraising & Philanthropy



Help us reach our goal of at least **\$50,000** for the Dr. Mark and Ann Bechtel Fund for an endowed fund in dermatology. We have made great progress and thank all who have made donations thus far! Please consider making an end-of-year donation. We believe that an endowed fund will be a critical part of becoming a department in the near future. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider doing so:

Giving is easy and it is tax-deductible. You can give online at go.osu.edu/bechtel. Or you may send your gift (marked Bechtel Fund) made payable to The Ohio State University Foundation to:

The Ohio State University Foundation
1480 West Lane Avenue
Columbus, OH 43221

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Inside this issue...

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of OSU Dermatology's biannual newsletter. Now is an exciting time for our division. We are grateful for the strong foundation that Dr. Mark Bechtel built for our division during his 10 year reign as division director. His departure has created challenges for our division, but we are taking advantage of opportunities created by these changes to grow our division and develop new programs and services. Fortunately, we have a solid foundation of talented faculty, residents, and staff who are committed to OSU Dermatology and our long-term success.

We are pleased to welcome two new dermatologists to our faculty, Dr. Jennifer Sopkovich of the University of South Florida, and our very own Dr. Llana Pootrakul who trained here at OSU. Both Dr. Sopkovich and Dr. Pootrakul will be starting in August and will practice general dermatology.

In addition, this month we welcome Michelle Giovannelli, Advanced Practice Nurse and Certified Wound Specialist, to our team. Michelle recently earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice and will provide wound care services and general dermatologic care to our patients.

Our medical and surgical programs continue to thrive and we are improving the breadth of our services with the addition of new clinics. Dr. Ben Kaffenberger is now leading the contact dermatitis clinic and we will continue to provide comprehensive patch testing services. Dr. Katya Harfmann, a graduate from our residency program in 2014, has clinical interest and expertise in hair loss and she will be starting a specialty clinic focused on hair loss disorders in the fall.

Finally, I want to thank our loyal patients for their patience during this transition time. I know that for many patients our wait times have been unacceptably long. Please know that we have taken action to remedy this with the expansion of our faculty and the addition of new clinics. We expect significant improvement once our new providers are on board. Our primary goal is providing first-class care that exceeds expectations and we will work tirelessly to accomplish this goal.



Alisha N. Plotner, MD
Interim Division Director
Assistant Professor - Clinical
OSU Dermatology

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. David Carr



Training

Undergrad: Vanderbilt University

Med School: OSU

Residency: Wright State University

Mohs Fellowship: Northwestern Skin Cancer Institute

Interests:

Mohs micrographic surgery of complex and rare skin cancers and their associated reconstruction, skin cancer management in immunocompromised and transplant patients including non-operative therapies, melanocytic lesions, resident and student teaching, and clinical trials with experience as an investigator in skin cancer clinical trials including vismodegib and topical histone deacetylase inhibitors.

We have a brand new Mohs unit specifically designed for Mohs surgery with state-of-art equipment, dedicated nurses, dedicated schedulers, and 2 histotechnicians with a combined 37 years of experience.

If you have a case you would like to refer to Dr. Carr, you can directly contact his scheduler **Darcy Miller** at [614.688.8057](tel:614.688.8057) or fax the referral to [614.293.1716](tel:614.293.1716). We accept most insurance types including Medigold and please note, there is no facility fee and no preoperative consultation for your patients at the Gahanna office.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Dr. Jennifer Sopkovich

After completing medical school training at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Dr. Jennifer Sopkovich completed a dermatology residency at University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. She is excited to return to Ohio State to work with the enthusiastic and collegial faculty. She also looks forward to being back in the Midwest and close to her family. Jennifer enjoys working with a wide variety of patients including general and surgical dermatology as well as complex medical dermatology.

Michelle has been a Buckeye for life with 3 degrees from The Ohio State University: Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate all in nursing. She has been doing acute and chronic wound care for the past 15 years in the nursing home, home health and LTAC venue and more recently in the hospital. She has developed an interest in dermatology working alongside Dr. Benjamin Kaffenberger and the residents. She is especially interested in wound healing. She is really looking forward to continuing on that trajectory and creating a forum that will allow her to grow clinically while helping to improve our patients' outcomes.



Michelle Giovannelli



Dr. Katya Harfmann is returning to OSU Dermatology after completing a fellowship in pediatric dermatology at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She completed her undergraduate, medical, and residency training all at OSU. She is very excited about the young energy at OSU and will be leading a hair disorders clinic both at Children's and OSU. Katya spends most of her free time pretending to be a princess or the tickle-monster, all for the entertainment of her 4-year old, 2-year old, and newborn.

Dr. Katya Harfmann

Dr. Llana Pootrakul is excited to join the faculty after completing her Dermatology residency at OSU. She is originally from Phoenix, Arizona and attended the University of California, San Diego for undergrad. She met her husband, Michael in medical school and they couples matched at Ohio State for residency training. Llana will serve as an Assistant Professor of Dermatology for 1 year, followed by a 1-year Mohs Micrographic Surgery fellowship. Her husband will have faculty appointments in both Sports Medicine and Internal Medicine at OSU. Future plans for Llana and Michael include the practice of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Sports Medicine in an academic setting.



Dr. Llana Pootrakul



And a warm welcome to Dr. Joy Mosser who has assumed the role of Residency Program Director. Dr. Mosser comes to OSU from Nationwide Children's Hospital where she is considered an expert in Pediatric Dermatology and was named to the 2014 "Best Doctors List."

Dr. Joy Mosser

Hats off to our graduating Residents!



Dr. Derek Chan... Will be moving to New York City and hopes to soon join the faculty at Mt. Sinai. He will focus on clinical trials, CTCL, and recruiting other dermatologists for the practice.

Dr. Grace Lee... Will be starting a 1-year fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Pediatric Dermatology. She is looking forward to working with pediatric patients and expanding her clinical knowledge base.

Dr. Llana Pootrakul... Will be joining the faculty at OSU! Not moving far from her roots, she is excited to transition from her position as Chief Resident to Clinical Professor and looks forward to teaching residents and medical students.

Congratulations to our new Chief Residents!



Elizabeth Kiracofe, MD, is the current chief resident of clinic and scheduling. Dr. Kiracofe was born in Youngstown, OH and quickly found a great mentor in dermatology with her close family friend, Dr. Bob Brodell. She received her Bachelor's of Arts and Medical Degree from Case Western Reserve University and had experience in teaching prior to pursuing a profession in medicine. Dr. Kiracofe is extremely passionate about health policymaking and played a pivotal role in helping to get House Bill 131 signed into law, which was a great achievement in making tanning beds much less accessible to minors. Liz is also very interested in quality improvement and systems based practices, and has several areas of interest within dermatology including atopic dermatitis and eczema, psoriasis, hidradenitis suppurativa, pruritus and quality of life in dermatology. Liz is a very well-rounded resident and is very well known and highly regarded among the Columbus young professional social scene. While her career plans for after residency remain unknown she will certainly incorporate her values of teaching, superlative patient care, and incredible communication skills into her plan!

Stephanie K. Fabbro, MD, is currently the chief academic resident of Dermatology at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Stephanie was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and attended the accelerated BS/MD program through Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). She completed her intern year at the Ohio State University where she received the prestigious Robyn Howson Housestaff Humanism Award. She is interested in an academic career and in addition to dermatology she is passionate about teaching and medical education systems processes, and is an active member of the OSU Admissions Committee. She also has a vested interest in clinical ethics and is on the Ethics Committee, as well as currently pursuing a Fellowship in Ethics at OSU and being a coauthor on the next edition of the *Dermatoethics* textbook. After having completed her residency in 2016, she will pursue further academic training in the form of a fellowship in dermatopathology at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. Some of Stephanie's other academic interests include HIV dermatology and psychocutaneous disorders. In her free time, Stephanie enjoys capoeira, cooking and fine dining, writing, and attending indie rock concerts.

Meet Your New Residents!



Hello, my name is Cathy Ulman. I grew up in Upper Arlington, OH. I majored in chemistry at Kenyon College and attended medical school at Wright State University. I am a vegetarian and animal lover. My boyfriend of 11 years, Alex, and I have a one-year-old 135 lb. English Mastiff named Theodore and a rescued cat named Stanley. When I had free time (before medical school) I enjoyed riding horses. Now I spend most of my free time taking the dog for walks, watching movies, and reading. I am very excited for derm in July and I am particularly interested in pigmented lesions. I look forward to meeting everyone!



Hi, my name is Gina Spohn. I completed my undergrad at OSU and post-bacc at UC-Berkeley. I am so excited to start to learn and discover my passion within the specialty I already love. My brother is the first MD in my family and is also a dermatologist now in Cedar Rapids, IA. I love discussing cases with him and working with him. It would be wonderful to have the opportunity to join forces at some point and perhaps work together in the same location! I am a former synchronized swimmer from OSU (4 time National Champion and was the female Big Ten Medal of honor winner in 1997). I am so excited to start with OSU dermatology!



Hi my name is Dathan Hamann. I earned my B.A. in Chinese Studies from Calvin College and earned my M.D. from the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix. I already have a few interests in dermatology including eczema and contact dermatitis. In my spare time I enjoy playing the violin, running, chess, and cooking with my wonderful wife, Liza. I am looking forward to starting the year and working with the wonderful dermatology team here at OSU!

Fundraising & Philanthropy



Mark Bechtel, MD, recently retired as director of our division. We are working to raise funds to endow a professorship or chair in his honor through the Dr. Mark and Ann Bechtel Fund for Excellence in Dermatology. Many in the dermatology family, including patients, faculty and alumni have made gifts to support this fund. Thank you!

If you have not yet made your gift, please consider doing so. Your support will honor Dr. Bechtel and it will help us recruit a nationally prominent dermatologist who will maintain Dr. Bechtel's high standards that will continue to strengthen our division. He has been a mentor to so many residents and medical students and a beloved physician to so many patients in central Ohio and beyond.

Giving is easy and it is tax-deductible. You can give online at go.osu.edu/bechtel. Or you may send your gift (marked Bechtel Fund) made payable to The Ohio State University Foundation to:

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To date, over 60 donations from individuals and patients have been received. In addition, we have received donations from 5 faculty members, 3 community dermatologists, and 3 residents and former residents. We thank everyone!

Other Ways to Support The Ohio State University's Division of Dermatology:

We have several other funds that support medical student and resident education, as well as the research being conducted within the division. If you would like to donate to these causes please consider the following funds. You may make a donation at the website listed above, or mail a check listing the appropriate fund number.

#307488 - Dermatology Discretionary
#308396 – Dermatology Teaching/Grand Rounds/Education Fund
#312686 – Dermatology Research Fund

Community dermatologists may also consider a gift of volunteering with the residents at the physicians free clinic among other opportunities.

Update on Dermatology Clinical Trials:

Thank you for the tremendous support for our clinical trial programs. With your support, we have been one of the top enrollers in multiple trials, including brodalumab for psoriasis and a new topical histone deacetylase inhibitor for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. The clinical trial unit has been expanded at the Dermatology East location and we have opened up a new center in central Columbus on the main OSU campus.

The past few months have also been met with some personnel change. In June, we welcomed a new research coordinator, Aleitha Gates LPN, who is assisting Lisa Hafer with the numerous trials. In February, Dr. Henry Wong, who served as the principal investigator for numerous years, left OSU because he received a promotion to be the chair at the University of Arkansas. We thank Dr. Wong for all of his hard work in developing such a strong clinical trial unit! To continue the tradition of robust clinical trials, numerous clinical faculty members have stepped up to lead the trials. Dr. Jessica Kaffenberger runs the many psoriasis trials, while Dr. Ben Kaffenberger leads the new lupus and pyoderma gangrenosum trials. Dr. Carr, Dr. Plotner, and Dr. Trotter are also involved in clinical trials. We are committed to providing excellent patient care and are excited to be at the forefront of some of the newest and best treatments in dermatology. We greatly appreciate all referrals for these trials.

We have the following enrolling clinical trials for patients with the following immune skin diseases:

Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Cutaneous and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Psoriasis

Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma

To refer patients or get more information, please contact Lisa Hafer/ Aleitha Gates at **366-2025** or email at Lisa.Hafer@osumc.edu; and Aleitha.Gates@osumc.edu.

Interventional Study in Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy and safety of gevokizumab in treating active ulcers of pyoderma gangrenosum (PG).

Eligibility criteria:

Ages 18 years and older, male or female

Inclusion Criteria:

- A clinical diagnosis of classic pyoderma gangrenosum
- An active pyoderma gangrenosum ulcer
- Contraceptive measures adequate to prevent pregnancy during the study

Exclusion Criteria:

- Clinical evidence of acutely infected pyoderma gangrenosum
- History of allergic or anaphylactic reactions to monoclonal antibodies
- History of recurrent or chronic systemic infections
- Female subjects who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, have recently delivered, or are breast-feeding

Other protocol-defined inclusion/exclusion criteria may apply

Contact Information

Study Principle Investigator: Benjamin Kaffenberger MD

Study Coordinator: Lisa Hafer

Contact for referrals or more information: Benjamin.Kaffenberger@osumc.edu;

Division Publications December 2014-May 2015

Clin Obstet Gynecol. 2015 Mar;58(1):158-71. Cutaneous malignancies of the perineum.

Carr D¹, Pootrakul L, Harmon J, Trotter S.

Extranodal Marginal Zone Lymphoma-like Presentations of Angioimmunoblastic T-Cell Lymphoma: A T-Cell Lymphoma Masquerading as a B-Cell Lymphoproliferative Disorder.

Kaffenberger B, Haverkos B, Tyler K, Wong HK, Porcu P, Gru AA.

Am J Dermatopathol. 2015 Feb 10

JAAD grand rounds. Persistent and progressive purpura in a patient with an elevated rheumatoid factor and polyclonal gammopathy (hypergammaglobulinemic purpura of Waldenström).

Mathis J, Zirwas M, Elkins CT, Bechtel M, **Kaffenberger BH.**

J Am Acad Dermatol. 2015 Feb;72(2):374-6. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2013.02.020

An enlarging, fluctuant mass on the scalp.

Ulman CA, Kaffenberger BH, Plotner AN.

J Am Acad Dermatol. 2014 Dec;71(6):e235-6. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2014.04.026. Epub 2014 Nov 15.

Autologous graft-versus-host disease in a child with stage IV neuroblastoma.

Kaffenberger J, Basak SA, Ioffreda M.

Pediatr Dermatol. 2015 Mar-Apr;32(2):276-9. doi: 10.1111/pde.12407. Epub 2014 Dec 29.

Promoter-Specific Hypomethylation Is Associated with Overexpression of PLS3, GATA6, and TWIST1 in the Sezary Syndrome.

Wong HK, Gibson H, Hake T, Geyer S, Frederickson J, Marcucci G, Caligiuri MA, Porcu P, **Mishra A.** J Invest

Dermatol. 2015 Mar 25. doi: 10.1038/jid.2015.116

Dermatoses of pregnancy.

Bechtel MA, **Plotner A.**

Clin Obstet Gynecol. 2015 Mar;58(1):104-11

Hair loss in women.

Harfmann KL, Bechtel MA.

Clin Obstet Gynecol. 2015 Mar;58(1):185-99

Idiopathic Hypereosinophilic Syndrome With Cutaneous Manifestations and Flame Figures: A Spectrum of Eosinophilic Dermatoses Whose Features Overlap With Wells' Syndrome.

Smith SM, Kiracofe EA, Clark LN, **Gru AA.**

Am J Dermatopathol. 2015 Feb 10.

18FDG PET/CT Appearance in Primary Cutaneous Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Leg Type.

Samarghandi A, **Gru AA, Natwa M, Barker DW.**

Clin Nucl Med. 2015 Jun;40(6):506-8

Pathology of T-cell lymphomas: diagnosis and biomarker discovery.

Gru AA.

Cancer Treat Res. 2015;165:51-95. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-13150-4_3. Review

Tuberous Sclerosis Complex: An Update for Dermatologists.

Jacks SK, **Witman PM.**

Pediatr Dermatol. 2015 Mar 17. doi: 10.1111/pde.12567