

UC SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY 2025

Message from our Department Chair:

Dear Friends of UCSD Dermatology:

I am pleased to present the **2025 UC San Diego Department of Dermatology newsletter**. Our edition highlights our outstanding accomplishments in patient care, research, and education. These successes are only possible because of the exceptional dedication of our multidisciplinary team.

In the past year, we have continued to consolidate our position as one of the leading academic dermatology departments in the United States. In the area of clinical services, our faculty conducted over **120,000 outpatient consultations** this year including **59,000 in adult dermatology, 21,000 in adolescent dermatology at UCSD and 40,000 more visits at VA San Diego Healthcare System**. We also continue to develop a comprehensive system of clinical services that includes highly specialized clinics in complex medical dermatology, dermato-oncology, women's dermatology, hair disorders, allergic contact dermatology, melanoma and pigmented lesions, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, and Mohs and procedural dermatology.

In research, **our faculty continues to be exceptionally successful** despite a challenging national environment. We remain among the top in the country for funding and research productivity. UCSD Dermatology faculty have made breakthrough discoveries that advance understanding and treatment of autoimmunity, skin cancer, eczema, acne, and melanoma. We are prepared for even greater success with the recent addition of **Professor Mayumi Fujita MD PhD**, a leading expert in cancer immunology, along with our exciting group of young investigators who are set to make a bigger impact in basic and translational medicine. Finally, our educational mission remains strong under the leadership of our residency program director **Dr. Tara Paravar** and our associate residency program director **Dr. Robert Dorschner**.

UC San Diego Dermatology is one of the most sought-after training programs in the nation and the only one in San Diego. **The UCSD Dermatology residency is highly competitive, with over 600 applications for just 5 positions each year.** It is no surprise that our residents are exceptional. We also train outstanding young PhD scientists at various levels who come from around the world. We are proud to take responsibility for training the next generation of physicians and scientists to advance the fight against skin cancer and its many diseases.

*Warm Regards,
Dr. Richard Gallo*



Richard Gallo, MD, PhD
*Irma Gigli Endowed Chair
Distinguished Professor
Founding Chair
Department of Dermatology*

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- New Faculty
- Awards and Recognitions
- Featured Clinical Programs
- Research Lab Highlights

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY

Join us in warmly welcoming our exceptional new faculty to UC San Diego Department of Dermatology! We're thrilled to have them here and eager to support their flourishing careers.



Mayumi Fujita, MD, PhD earned her medical degree and PhD in Immunology from Kyoto University in Japan, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship and dermatology residency at the University of Washington. A board-certified dermatologist and accomplished researcher, Dr. Fujita has dedicated her career to understanding the immune mechanisms underlying melanoma and inflammatory skin diseases.

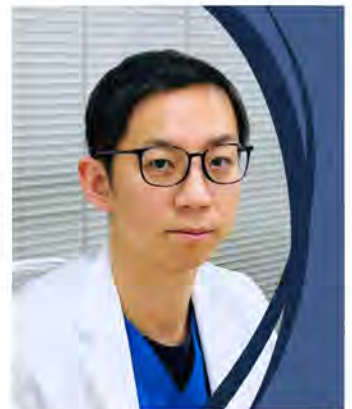
Her work explores the complex interactions between immune cells and the skin microenvironment, with a focus on how these pathways can be harnessed for more effective treatments.

At UC San Diego, she brings decades of translational research and clinical experience to mentoring residents, leading collaborative projects, and advancing the department's mission to improve outcomes for patients with challenging skin conditions.

Tatsuya Dokoshi, MD, PhD, is an Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Department of Dermatology at UC San Diego and a practicing gastroenterologist at Asahikawa Medical University in Hokkaido, Japan. His research focuses on how fibroblasts, immune cells, and the microbiota coordinate the skin-gut axis in chronic inflammatory and infectious diseases.

By integrating clinical samples and patient cohorts from Hokkaido and across Japan with the UCSD Dermatology research group, he aims to build a strong translational bridge between skin and intestinal disease in an international collaborative team.

Dr. Dokoshi received his medical degree and PhD in Japan and completed clinical training in internal medicine and gastroenterology before pursuing research in cutaneous biology at UC San Diego. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family and exploring good food.





Umbur Dube, MD, PhD earned his medical and doctoral degrees from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis before completing his internship in internal medicine through the Washington University/B-JH/SLCH Consortium. His clinical interests include general dermatology, pigmentation disorders, and skin-of-color care, with a particular focus on bridging scientific research and patient-centered practice.

At UC San Diego, Dr. Dube is an Assistant Clinical Professor. He is passionate about about fostering collaboration across disciplines and mentoring residents who share his commitment to advancing equity and innovation in dermatology.

Chris Dupont, PhD is a new adjunct Professor at the University of California, San Diego. He is also professor in the Human Health, Environmental Sustainability, and Synthetic Biology groups at JCVI.

His primary research focus is the environmental and evolutionary influence on physiological variation in single organisms and holobiont systems. This involves work with model organisms in laboratory systems, domestication of wild microbes for model studies, and sequencing-based profiling of microbial communities in a variety of environments, including organismal microbiomes.



Dr. Dupont is also working on applying synthetic biology and machine learning techniques to solve unique problems in big datasets associated with the human microbiome and the environment.

Dr. Dupont began his career at JCVI as a postdoctoral fellow. He received his PhD in Oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, as well as a Bachelor's in Natural Resources and a Master's of Biological and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. Outside of work, he enjoys gardening, cooking, getting in the ocean, and reading.



Heather Gochnauer, MD earned her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine after conducting two years of basic science research in dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her internship at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children, followed by a dermatology residency at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Gochnauer practices general dermatology with a special interest in medical and pediatric dermatology.

At UCSD, Dr. Gochnauer is an Assistant Clinical Professor practicing clinical care in both Adult and Pediatric Dermatology. Her focus is on general medical dermatology with a special focus on Pediatric Dermatology and Rheumatology.

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Introducing our incredible New Clinical Support Staff:

UPC location

Eric Estrada - HA3
Marvin Ocha - HA3
Yoselinne Ramos - HA3
Michelle Torres - HA3
Cassidy Nguyen - MA
Jessica Rosete - MA

MOS location

Marisela Morales - HA3
Sandra Mosqueda - LVN

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Sitha Lim serves as our **HA4 and Front Desk Lead**, bringing warmth, reliability, and exceptional dedication to our team. Known for her kind and caring nature, Sitha creates a welcoming environment for both staff and patients, ensuring that everyone feels supported the moment they walk through the door.



She is truly dependable—always ready to step in, lend a hand, and assist with anything that's needed. Her generosity, strong work ethic, and unwavering commitment to excellence make her an invaluable part of our department. Sitha is the type of leader who will do whatever it takes to help the team succeed and continually improve the department.

Her positive attitude and genuine compassion make her not only an outstanding front desk lead, but also a respected colleague and friend.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The department is committed to advancing faculty wellness through intentional community-building and operational initiatives. We have recently partnered with the **UCSD Flow Team** to identify opportunities for improvement that enable faculty to practice at the top of their license, thereby allowing greater focus on clinical care, teaching, and scholarly activities.

In addition, the department continues to host **faculty happy hours** throughout the year, providing a structured yet informal setting for faculty to recharge, connect with colleagues, and strengthen a sense of community.



physicianwellness.ucsd.edu/



VA SAN DIEGO DERMATOLOGY

The **Dermatology section at VA San Diego** is woven tightly into the fabric of the UC San Diego Department of Dermatology. At any given time 6 UCSD dermatology residents and an assortment of UCSD medical students and residents from other specialties work alongside VA physicians to provide exceptional care for Veterans.

VA San Diego Dermatology has been growing over the last several years and is among **the largest dermatology programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs**. We currently have **18 part- and full-time staff physicians** and **2 dermatology nurse practitioners**, including 7 dual faculty who work at both the VA and UCSD and 7 others with non-salaried faculty appointments. We are also fortunate to host **an astounding 32 volunteer faculty** that assist with resident training and Veteran care. Our newest staff members include general dermatologists and researchers Henry Wong and Mayumi Fujita who transferred out of Arkansas and Colorado, respectively, and dermatologic surgeon Solomiya Grushchak who trained at UCI.

VA San Diego Dermatology offers comprehensive care including general dermatology, phototherapy, and a wide range of dermatologic surgery procedures including Mohs and laser surgery. The research component is also growing with the recent addition of Drs. Wong and Fujita who have active VA Merit Awards and a variety of other faculty and residents who participate in other research.



Faculty

Peter Shumaker, MD (Chief) • Laura Romero, MD • Natasha Cater, MD, PhD • Timothy Chang, MD • Robert Dorschner, MD • Mayumi Fujita, MD, PhD • Julie (Kiko) Gladsjo, MD, PhD • Solomiya Grushchak, MD • Amy Han, MD • Eugene Huang, MD • Julia Kurlan, MD • Marian MacDonald, MD • Tasha Manternach, MD • Reid Oldenburg, MD, PhD • Kara Reinke, MD • Jeremy Schneider, MD • Veronica Shi, MD • Henry Wong, MD

Advanced Practice Providers

Andy White, DNP, FNP-C • Linda Stewart, MSN, NP

Administration & Support

Darla Viramontez, Administrator • Martin Martinez, Intermediate Care Technician

UCSD DERMATOLOGY FACULTY



- **Richard Gallo, MD, PhD**
Irma Gigli Chair in Dermatology,
Distinguished Professor & Founding
Department Chair
- **Lawrence Eichenfield, MD**
Professor of Dermatology & Pediatrics
Chief, Pediatric & Adolescent Derm
Vice Chair, Dept of Dermatology
- **Tissa Hata, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Dermatology Clinical Service Chief
Dir, Dermatology Clinical Trials
- **Natasha Carter, MD, PhD**
Physician, VAHCS
- **Brianne Daniels, DO**
Associate Physician Diplomate
- **Tim Dang, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Anna Di Nardo, MD, PhD**
Emeritus Professor of Dermatology
- **Robert Dorschner, MD**
Assistant Professor In Residence
Associate Dir, Dermatology Residency
- **Umberto Dube, MD, PhD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Dawn Eichenfield, MD, PhD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
Dpt of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Brian Eliceiri, PhD**
Professor, Dept of Dermatology
Professor, Dept of Surgery
- **Mayumi Fujita, MD, PhD**
Professor In Residence
- **Julie Akiko Gladsjo, MD, PhD**
Mohs Surgeon, VAHCS
- **Erik Gilbertson, MD**
Clinical Professor
- **Heather Gochnauer, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
Dept. of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Allison Han, MD**
Associate Physician Diplomate,
Dept. of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Matthew Hangauer, PhD**
Assistant Professor In Residence
- **Brian R. Hinds, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Dir, Dermatopathology
- **Eugene Huang, MD, PhD**
Physician, VAHCS
- **S. Brian Jiang, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Dir, Dermatologic and Mohs
Dir, Micrographic Surgery Fellowship
- **Swati Kannan MD, FAAD, FACMS**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Genevieve Kaunitz, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Grace Y. Kim, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Matthew J Kolar MD, PhD**
Associate Physician Diplomate
- **Jennifer Lin, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
Dir, Melanoma Risk & Prevention Clinic
- **Y. Linda Liou, DO**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
Dir, Contact Dermatitis Clinic
- **Marian MacDonald, MD**
Physician, VAHCS
- **Yasaman Mansouri, MD, FAAD, MRCP**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **Teruaki Nakatsuji, PhD**
Project Scientist, Gallo Lab
- **Reid Oldenburg, MD, PhD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Charisse Orme, MD, PhD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **Arisa Ortiz, MD, FAAD, ACMS**
HS Clinical Professor
Dir, Laser & Cosmetic Dermatology
- **Taraneh Paravar, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Dir, Dermatology Residency Program
- **Laura Romero, MD**
Clinical Dir, VAHCS Dermatology
Clinical Professor of Dermatology
- **David Otto Schairer, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Jeremy Schneider, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
Dir, Dermatology Inpatient Services
- **George Sen, PhD**
Chief of the Division of Epithelial Biology
Professor, Dermatology
Professor, Cellular & Molecular Medicine
- **Veronica Shi, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Peter Shumaker, MD**
Associate Clinical Professor
Section Chief, VAHCS Dermatology
- **Marleigh Stern, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Wynnis Tom, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Henry Wong, MD**
Associate Physician Diplomate

** Voluntary faculty are not
listed. For a complete list
of our faculty scan:*



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

A Spotlight on Our Outstanding Colleagues:



- **Robert A. Dorschner, MD** was recognized with multiple honors through UC San Diego, reflecting his excellence in research, teaching, and clinical leadership. His recent awards include the **UCSD Academic Senate Research Grant, the Department of Dermatology Goltz Teaching Award, and the School of Medicine Exemplary Professionalism in the Clinical Learning Environment Award.**
- **Umber Dube, MD, PhD** was one of the **Everett C. Fox Memorial Award winners** at the AAD 2025.
- **Richard Gallo, MD, PhD** was elected and is currently the **President of the Society for Investigative Dermatology.** Dr. Gallo was also elected as an **Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London** and as a **Corresponding Member of the Austrian Society of Dermatology.** He provided the **Newcomer Lecture for the CalDerm/PDA annual meeting,** and gave the **Keynote Lecture for the European Association of Dermatology and Venerology in Paris.**
- **Genevieve J. Kaunitz, MD** received the **Academy of Clinician Scholar's Whitehill Award** for 2025.
- **Jennifer Y. Lin, MD** was selected to be part of the **Cutaneous Oncology Disease Team Leadership** and will sit on the **Moore's Cancer Center (MCC) Cabinet Committee.**
- **Reid Oldenburg, MD, PhD** was appointed **chair of the 'Drugs and Bugs' Focused Study Group** in the **Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance.**
- **George Sen, MD, PhD** was awarded the **State of the Art Lecture at the Society for Investigative Dermatology's Annual Meeting, May 7-10, 2025.**

Dr. Matthew Kolar Receives Prestigious NIH Director's Early Independence Award

Dr. Matthew Kolar, M.D., Ph.D. has received a highly prestigious five-year, \$1.25 million NIH Director's Early Independence Award for his research on chemoproteomics and lipidomics in cutaneous disease. Awarded to only a small number of investigators nationwide each year, this competitive program fast-tracks exceptional early-career scientists into independent research and represents a highly competitive honor that few clinician-scientists in dermatology have received.

Dr. Kolar's work focuses on identifying dysregulated enzymes and lipids that contribute to atopic dermatitis, with the goal of uncovering new therapeutic targets to restore healthy skin barrier function. **Congratulations to Dr. Kolar on this exceptional and well-deserved achievement.**



CLINICAL PROGRAMS

The Department of Dermatology continues to expand our clinical services to better meet the needs of patients in our community. We remain committed to improving access to high-quality dermatologic care for both our adult and pediatric patient populations.

In fiscal year 2025, our faculty provided care across more than **80,000 clinical encounters** at UCSD, Rady Children's Hospital and satellite locations, approximately **59,000 in adult dermatology** and **21,000 in adolescent and pediatric dermatology**. Even at this remarkable volume, we remain focused on ensuring every patient feels cared for, and the positive feedback we receive continues to affirm that commitment.

In addition to broadening access to general medical dermatology, the department is also dedicated to offering advanced and highly specialized services. This year, **Dr. Grace Kim** launched a new clinic focused on women's health, providing expert care for patients with breast and vulvar skin conditions and **Dr. Yasaman Mansouri** started a Hair Clinic – treats all types of hair loss. This includes non-scarring hair loss such as female and male pattern hair loss, alopecia areata, telogen effluvium and also scarring alopecia such as Lichen planopilaris (LPP), frontal fibrosing alopecia, CCCA, etc.

We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Umber Dube** to adult dermatology and **Dr. Heather Gochnauer** to both adult and pediatric dermatology. Their recruitment reflects the department's continued growth and our commitment to expanding expertise across all areas of dermatologic care. Their dedication and passion for the field will further strengthen our services and contribute significantly to our ongoing success.

FEATURED CLINICAL PROGRAMS:

Women's Health Clinic

The Women's Dermatology Specialty Clinic currently operates on the **first and third Thursday mornings** at the **UCSD Perlman Medical Center (UPC)**.

Led by **Dr. Grace Kim**, the clinic primarily serves women with breast and vulvar skin conditions. Patients are referred from within the dermatology department as well as from other specialties, including OB/GYN, breast surgery, internal medicine, and family medicine.

Some of the conditions most often seen in the clinic include granulomatous mastitis, Paget's disease, breast morphea, lichen sclerosus, vulvar melanoma, and cutaneous metastasis of breast cancer, among others.

Referrals are placed through the standard dermatology referral order. Once this order is in place, patients may also call the call center at 858-657-8322 to schedule an appointment in this specialty clinic.



Psoriasis/Psoriatic Arthritis Clinic



The **Psoriasis/Psoriatic arthritis clinic** is a multidisciplinary clinic led by **Dr. Tissa Hata** from Dermatology and **Dr. DoQuyen Huynh** from Rheumatology. It is held once a month at **Perlman clinic**.



Dr. Hata and Dr. Huynh see patients for diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis from dermatology, or diagnosis of psoriasis from Rheumatology. They also specialize in patients with difficult PSO and/or PsA. Once seen the patients can either be seen back from their referring provider, or they can take over care if preferred. In addition to arthritis other comorbidities will be assessed and appropriate referrals made.

For referrals please send a message to **Dr. Hata** and cc **Brittany Seelen** to schedule the patient.

Oncodermatology Clinic

The **OncoDermatology Clinic at Moores Cancer Center** provides comprehensive dermatologic care for patients undergoing cancer treatment or experiencing cancer-related skin concerns. This specialized clinic addresses the unique and often complex skin conditions associated with cancer therapies, offering timely, expert care tailored to each patient's needs. The clinic is supported by a dedicated team of dermatologists with expertise in melanoma, cutaneous oncology, complex medical dermatology and cancer-focus skin care, including **Dr. Timothy Dang**, **Dr. Jennifer Lin**, and **Dr. Charisse Orme**.

Dr. Timothy Dang's OncoDermatology Clinic operates **weekly on Fridays** and integrates second- or third-year dermatology residents into morning sessions, providing trainees with valuable hands-on experience in this growing and highly specialized field. **The clinic typically manages 16–22 patients each week** and has the capacity to accommodate same-day or same-week add-on appointments, ensuring timely access to high-quality dermatologic care for oncology patients.



RESEARCH

Research in the Department of Dermatology at UC San Diego continues to grow in both scope and impact, advancing discoveries that shape the future of patient care. Our faculty lead **NIH- and VA Merit-funded laboratories** with **expertise in microbiome science, immunology, cancer biology, wound healing, genetics, and developmental biology**. These labs form the foundation of a research enterprise committed to translating scientific insights into real-world therapies.

Our adult and pediatric clinical trial units, directed by **Dr. Tissa Hata** and **Dr. Lawrence Eichenfield**, have established **UC San Diego as a national leader in dermatology research**. With dozens of active studies each year—spanning atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, rosacea, vitiligo, acne, and rare pediatric conditions—these programs are at the forefront of evaluating biologics, microbiome-based therapies, and novel topical agents. By bridging laboratory discoveries with clinical trials, our teams bring promising treatments directly to patients while shaping national standards of care.

Importantly, **research is woven into the fabric of our training programs**. Residents and fellows engage in longitudinal and research-track projects, preparing the next generation of physician-scientists to carry this momentum forward. Collaborative initiatives with the VA San Diego Healthcare System and across the UC San Diego community further strengthen our reach and amplify the department's contributions on a national scale.

Together, these efforts highlight UC San Diego Dermatology as a hub of innovation, mentorship, and translational excellence—advancing science, improving patient outcomes, and attracting the best minds in dermatology to join our mission.



CLINICAL TRIALS:

Our research interests include ongoing studies into inflammatory skin disease, the skin microbiome, pediatric dermatology, and long-term outcomes of emerging therapies at UCSD Dermatology and Rady Children's Hospital.

Active Studies (2025):

- **TIME-2 Study:** Microbiome-based topical therapy (*Staphylococcus hominis* A9) for adolescents and adults with atopic dermatitis.
- **TARGET-DERM Registry:** Longitudinal study tracking real-world outcomes in patients with atopic dermatitis and other inflammatory skin diseases.
- **Adult Acne Studies:** Sample-collection research examining lipid metabolism, microbiome changes, and immune responses in acne.
- **Psoriasis Extension Study:** Long-term safety and efficacy of an advanced systemic therapy for moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis (not currently recruiting).
- **Skin Barrier & Microbiome Study:** Evaluating how sustained lotion use affects the skin barrier, microbiome, and metabolome in adults with atopic dermatitis.

Pediatric Dermatology Studies:

- **Rady Children's Hospital–San Diego** continues to lead national research efforts in pediatric dermatology, with ongoing studies in atopic dermatitis, alopecia, psoriasis, vitiligo, and infectious skin diseases. Recruitment varies by study.

For more information
about our active clinical
trials, please email:
dermstudies@ucsd.edu

RESEARCH LAB HIGHLIGHTS



Richard Gallo MD PhD
Distinguished Prof. of
Dermatology

Dr. Gallo investigates mechanisms of communication between the human body and microbes.

His lab discovered antimicrobial peptides on the skin and his work in the microbiome is advancing the understanding and treatment of several diseases.

2025 Highlights:

The Gallo lab published 9 original articles in 2025 including publications that uncovered how stress leads to greater infections (Chan H et al Science Immunology 2025), discovered a role for interferon in Sweets syndrome (Cavagnero KJ, et al. JACI 2025) and found the important role for dermal fibroblasts in type 17 inflammation (Cavagnero K.J. et al 2025)



Matthew Hangauer PhD
Assistant Prof. of Dermatology

Dr. Hangauer studies how melanoma cells become drug resistant. They specifically focus on cancer "persister" cells that survive and adapt to drug and immunotherapy treatments.

The goal is to understand the mechanisms these cells use to survive and adapt and to identify and exploit their vulnerabilities for new therapeutic approaches to convert temporary treatment responses into durable cures.

2025 Highlights:

The Hangauer lab published their finding in Nature Cell Biology that cancer persister cells paradoxically leverage cell death machinery to adapt to drug treatments. Dr. Hangauer also gave research talks at the American Society for Cell Biology annual meeting held in San Diego, William Guy Forbeck Research Foundation meeting in Ireland and others.



Tissa Hata MD
Clinical Prof. of Dermatology

Dr Hata's clinical research in Adult Medical Dermatology studies inflammatory skin disorders with a major emphasis in atopic dermatitis and the microbiome.

Her team has several ongoing clinical trials in atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, rosacea, acne and vitiligo.



George Sen PhD
Prof. of Dermatology and
Cellular & Molecular Medicine

Dr. Sen studies the molecular mechanisms governing skin stem cell self-renewal and differentiation.

His lab is interested in determining how perturbations in these processes lead to skin disease.

These diseases include skin inflammatory disorders and tumorigenesis. To understand the genes that regulate skin homeostasis and disease progression, the Sen lab utilizes both genetically altered human and mouse skin to determine their function.



Brian Eliceiri PhD
Prof. of Surgery &
Dermatology

Dr. Eliceiri's lab studies mechanisms regulating small extracellular vesicle (sEV) formation that mediate the dysregulation of impaired wound healing. His lab deploys advanced flow cytometry and engineering of protein payloads to develop pro-reparative sEVs for translational studies.

2025 Highlights:

Publication in Molecular Therapy engineering a regulator of cell cycle that accelerated wound repair in mouse and human models. This work was the foundation of a Patent Pending. Another publication in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology identified a mechanism for sEV-mediated neutrophil recruitment in wound healing.

RESEARCH LAB HIGHLIGHTS



Robert Dorschner MD
Assistant Prof. of Dermatology

Dr. Dorschner's research is focused on identifying factors that regulate neutrophil recruitment to skin injury or infection.

2025 Highlights:

Dr. Dorschner's lab discovered that ECRG4 is suppressed in diabetes, contributing to the impaired neutrophil response to

cutaneous injury that underlies the increased risk of infection and development of chronic wounds in diabetic patients. This work was presented at the annual SID meeting in San Diego.

The Dorschner lab also collaborated to identify a role for EVs in regulating the recruitment of neutrophils to cutaneous injury, resulting in a recently published article in JID. Finally, the Dorschner lab received an Academic Senate grant to identify, more broadly, the transcriptional reprogramming of neutrophils in diabetes that contribute to their dysfunction.



Reid Oldenburg, MD, PhD
Assistant Prof. of Dermatology

Dr. Oldenburg's research focuses on deciphering the immunopathogenesis of Severe Cutaneous Adverse Reactions, notably Reactive Infectious Mucocutaneous Eruption and Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) Syndrome.

Cytokine profiling and transcriptomics are used to implicate future use of targeted therapy. Dr. Oldenburg also investigates eosinophil biology, dysfunction, survival and inflammatory signaling.

2025 Highlights:

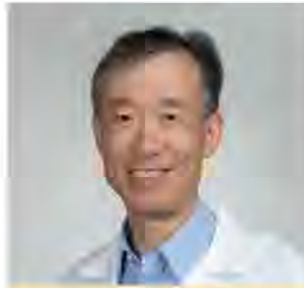
T cell receptor sequencing of clinically relevant samples from DRESS and RIME patients. 6 publications in peer reviewed journals of clinical research studies using population databases.



Umber Dube MD, PhD
Assistant Clinical Professor

Dr. Dube is broadly interested in the role of pigment and pigmentation in health, disease, and aging with a particular focus on individuals of admixed genomic ancestries.

He is currently investigating the impact of hematopoietic stem cell-mediated ex vivo gene therapy on pigmentation in the rare disease cystinosis. He is also working on developing in vivo confocal skin imaging as a biomarker and companion diagnostic in cystinosis.



Henry Wong
Prof. of Surgery &
Dermatology

Dr Wong's main area of research interest is in the pathogenesis and treatment of Sezary syndrome and mycosis fungoides, the most common forms of cutaneous T cell lymphoma.

He has identified novel genes expressed in Sezary syndrome and is currently studying their mechanism of dysregulation and their role as biomarker for the early diagnosis mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome.



Jennifer Lin MD, PhD
Associate Physician Diplomate

Dr. Jennifer Lin's research focuses on melanocyte biology and pigmentary disorders, with dual interests in the mechanisms of nevus and melanoma formation and the treatment of pigmentation abnormalities.

RESEARCH LAB HIGHLIGHTS



Mayumi Fujita MD, PhD
Professor of Dermatology

Dr. Mayumi Fujita's research focuses on the biological roles and molecular regulation of **1)** IL-37 in adaptive immunity, **2)** IL-1b, inflammasomes, and autoinflammation in human melanoma, and **3)** damage to melanocytes and skin cells. Her lab was among the first to identify the inflammasome

platform in melanoma cells and the first to demonstrate the tolerogenic function of IL-37 in adaptive immune cells, including dendritic cells and regulatory T cells. Dr. Fujita has published 122 peer-reviewed manuscripts and continues to make significant contributions to dermatology and immunology research.

2025 Highlights:

Joined the UCSD Department of Dermatology Research Team in August and initiating a new VA Merit Award-funded project in April. The lab is also supported by an NIH/NIAID R01 and a Breakthrough T1D research award.



Dawn Eichenfield MD PhD.
Assistant Clinical Prof. of
Dermatology and Pediatrics

Dr. Dawn Eichenfield's clinical research in Pediatric Dermatology addresses alopecia areata, the genetics of linear morphea, acne, and laser surgery. She works to advance clinical and translational research through studies focusing on acne vulgaris, pediatric dermatology, and laser

medicine. Her unique background allows her to offer her patients the most advanced and personalized skin care treatments.

2025 Highlights:

Dr. Eichenfield continued to expand her impact in pediatric dermatology research. She served as Principal Investigator on a Phase 3 clinical trial investigating ruxolitinib cream for pediatric nonsegmental vitiligo, a major study aimed at broadening therapeutic options for children with pigmentary disease.



Matthew J Kolar MD, PhD
Associate Physician Diplomat

Dr. Kolar investigates the critical role of cutaneous lipid metabolism in skin diseases, with a specific focus on acne and atopic dermatitis.

His work emphasizes the development and application of non-invasive methodologies to collect skin samples, leveraging

cutting-edge analytical technologies to uncover novel insights into disease mechanisms and potential therapeutic targets.



Lawrence Eichenfield MD
Distinguished Prof. of
Clinical Derm. & Pediatrics

Dr. Lawrence Eichenfield's clinical research centers on the development and evaluation of new topical and systemic therapies for atopic dermatitis, acne, psoriasis, and other inflammatory skin diseases. His work also focuses on improving clinical practice by advancing evidence-based care among both

primary care providers and specialists treating pediatric dermatologic conditions, helping translate emerging research into real-world improvements for children and adolescents.



Wynn Timer MD
Clinical Prof. of Dermatology
and Pediatrics

Dr Wynn Timer's research interests focus on inflammatory skin disorders in pediatric patients with a particular interest in systemic co-morbidities of these diseases and their treatments.

Her clinical-research portfolio includes large-scale surveys and

real-world evidence studies in pediatric dermatology as well as expert consensus guideline development for systemic treatments in children.



CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATING RESIDENTS AND WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

Best wishes to our recent graduates! We are proud of all that you have accomplished and can't wait to see what you will achieve in your future careers.

Introducing our 2025 First Year Residents:



Selena Chen, MD



Dianne Lumaquin-Yin, MD, PhD



Mollie Qian, MD, PhD



Jennifer Sui, MD



Katherine Young, MD

Our Chief Residents for the 2025 – 2026: Helen Park, MD and Caitlin Penny, MD.



Helen Park, MD



Caitlin Penny, MD

Our Program Directors:

Taraneh Paravar, MD and Robert Dorschner, MD



Taraneh Paravar, MD



Robert Dorschner, MD

Skin Cancer Screening at Legends of Science and Surfing



On September 13, 2025, UCSD Dermatology residents and faculty participated in the Legends of Science and Surfing event, providing free skin cancer screenings to the community. A total of 54 individuals were screened, with four skin cancers identified.

DERMATOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS

MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY AND DERMATOLOGIC ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



Christine Lin, MD was born and raised in Austin, TX. She majored in Neurobiology and played Division I Women's Golf at Harvard College. She then earned her medical degree from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX. After medical school, she completed intern year at The University of Colorado in Aurora, CO and her dermatology residency at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA. Her academic/research interests include high-risk skin cancer and social determinants of health. Outside of clinic, she enjoys indoor bouldering, golfing, snowboarding, and volunteering with underprivileged youth.

Nayha Shetty, MD is originally from Hernando, MS. She attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where she majored in History of Art. Prior to medical school, she obtained her Masters in Physiology and Biophysics at Georgetown University. She attended medical school at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. She completed her transitional year and dermatology residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Outside of work, Nayha enjoys spending time with her husband and 16-month-old son, playing tennis, and gardening.



CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



Selcen Yuksel, MD is a Clinical Trials Postdoctoral Fellow working under Drs. Hata and Gallo. She is originally from Istanbul, Turkey, and her family currently resides in Houston, TX. She attended Yale University, where she studied Mandarin and majored in Molecular and Cellular Biology. She completed medical school at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. She went on to complete two years of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI before starting her research fellowship at UCSD. Outside of work, she likes to try new ice cream shops and bakeries, attend solid core classes and complete the NYT Crossword (not the mini)

PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

Courtney Haller, MD is excited to be back in her hometown! She grew up in Encinitas and went to SDA—go Mustangs! She just graduated from her dermatology residency in Austin, Texas, where Emily Henkel was her chief resident and best friend the year before. Outside of work, Dr. Haller loves hanging out with her Pomeranian and enjoying a coffee by the beach. She can't wait to work with everyone in Pediatric Dermatology!



Emily Henkel, MD grew up in the small town of Sour Lake, Texas. She attended medical school at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she met her husband, Mitch, who works as an emergency medicine physician. She completed her dermatology residency at The University of Texas at Austin (with Courtney Haller, her bestie!). She recently completed a fellowship in dermatopathology at Emory University. When not working, she enjoys jogging with her husband, learning piano, and watching college football.

SPECIAL LECTURES IN 2025:

STOUGHTON LECTURE

The annual Stoughton Lecture, in memory of Dr. Richard Stoughton, took place Thursday, April 24th, 2025.

The special guest speaker was **Michael Rosenblum, MD, PhD**. Dr. Rosenblum delivered the talk on **"Immune Regulation in Skin"**.

Dr. Michael Rosenblum, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Dermatology and Vice Chair of Research at University of California San Francisco. His work focuses on skin immunology, particularly how immune responses are regulated in tissues, with the goal of developing new therapies for autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.



Dr. Richard Stoughton was a scientist, teacher and clinical dermatologist of great distinction who made many contributions to the practice of dermatology. In a long and productive research-oriented career, Dr. Stoughton developed a system for the assay of the potency of topical corticosteroids that has become the world standard. He produced over 150 publications and contributed chapters for books on various aspects of dermatology. Dr. Stoughton became the first full-time Director of the Division of Dermatology at UCSD in 1974 where he held the rank of Professor of Medicine. He passed away in May 1992.

O'GRADY LECTURE



The annual Dr. Terry O'Grady Lectureship took place on Thursday, October 23rd, 2025.

Our special guest speaker was **John T. Seykora, MD, PhD**. Dr. Seykora gave a talk called **"How analysis of skin lesions informs our understanding of cancer and inflammatory diseases"** at the ACTRI Main Auditorium.

Dr. John T. Seykora, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania whose research focuses on skin cancer, psoriasis, and keratinocyte biology. He is also a practicing dermatopathologist with expertise in alopecias, appendageal tumors, and melanocytic lesions.

Dr. Terry O'Grady was a faculty member with the UCSD School of Medicine, Division of Dermatology, for 14 years, and served as Residency Program Director from 2004-2008. Dr. O'Grady's skills as a Dermatopathologist and Dermatologist improved the lives of countless patients and his inspired teaching launched many careers. He was a retired Navy captain, an avid surfer and a longtime San Diego Padres season ticket holder. He passed away September 17, 2008, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 60 years old.



PUBLICATIONS 2024 - 2025

The UCSD Department of Dermatology faculty produced over 150 publications, reflecting the department's exceptional strength in clinical, translational, and basic science research.



Here are a few noteworthy publications from some of our staff:

Robert Dorschner, MD

- Choi W, Park DJ, Dorschner RA, Pool K, Sayeed S, Kezios J, Lee J, Adlawan S, Eliceiri BP. Regulated release of small extracellular vesicles directs neutrophil recruitment in cutaneous wound healing. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2025 Sep 4. PMID: 40914410.
- LaMonica LC, Oldenburg R, Dorschner RA, Hinds B, Schneider JA.* Immune-checkpoint inhibitor-induced toxic epidermal necrolysis responding to repeated dosing of adjuvant therapy with etanercept. *JAAD Case Rep*. 2025;64:171–174. Online July 13, 2025. Corresponding Author.
- Choi W, Park DJ, Dorschner RA, Nakatsutsumi K, Yi M, Eliceiri BP. CDK1-loaded extracellular vesicles promote cell cycle to reverse impaired wound healing in diabetic obese mice. *Mol Ther*. 2025 Mar 5;33(3):1118-1133. PMID: 39865653.
- Pool K, Hemmat G, Dorschner RA.* ECRG4 mediates host response to cutaneous infection by regulating neutrophil recruitment and adhesion receptor expression. *PLoS One*. 2024 Nov 7;19(11). PMID: 39509414. Corresponding Author.

Richard Gallo, MD, PhD

- Chan H, Li F, Dokoshi T, Cavagnero KJ, Li Q, Chen Y, Aguilera C, Nakatsuji T, Liu E, Indra A, Yang D, Valentina O, Numata T, Crown B, Li H, Williams KJ, Chiu IM, Bensinger SJ, Chen W, Gallo RL. Psychological stress increases skin infection through the action of TGF β to suppress immune-acting fibroblasts. *Sci Immunol*. 2025 Apr 11;10(106):eads0519. PMID: 40215323; PMCID: PMC12183641.
- Cavagnero KJ, Albright J, Li F, Liu E, Dokoshi T, Bogle R, Kirma J, Kahlenberg JM, Billi AC, Fox J, Chan MP, Coon A, Dobry CJ, Hinds B, Tsoi LC, Harms PW, Gudjonsson JE, Gallo RL. Positionally distinct interferon-stimulated dermal immune-acting fibroblasts promote neutrophil recruitment in Sweet's syndrome. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2025 Jun 16. PMID: 40516577.
- Cavagnero KJ, Li F, Aguilera C, Jo H, Palomo-Irigoyen M, Mares AR, Chan H, Gallo RL. Targeting fibroblast TNF receptor 1 attenuates type 17 skin inflammation. *Cell Rep*. 2025 Aug 26;44(8):116111. PMID: 40802508.

Dawn Eichenfield, MD, PhD

- Lee T.S., O'Connor M., Castelo-Soccio L., Eichenfield D.Z., Lee D., Paller A.S., Valdebran M., Vroman J., Yang A., Lee G.L., Craddock M., Sibbald C. An International Multicenter, Retrospective Cohort Study of 203 Patients with Pediatric Androgenetic Alopecia. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025 Feb 5:S0190-9622(25)00192-6. PMID: 39921108
- Eichenfield D.Z., Knapp K.D., Claxton A., Munoz B., Crawford J.M., Balu S., Kim Y., Schneider S., Haft M.A., Silverberg J.I., Thaci D., Eichenfield L.F., Bagel J., Rhoads J.W., Paller A.S. TARGET-DERM AD Investigators. Unmet Needs of Effective Advanced Systemic Therapies in Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis Patients in the TARGET-DERM AD Registry. *Dermatitis*. 2025 Feb 19. Online ahead of print. PMID: 39969951.

PUBLICATIONS 2024 - 2025

Matt Hangauer, PhD

- Williams AF, Gervasio DAG, Turkal CE, et al. DFFB suppresses interferon to enable cancer persister cell regrowth. *Nat Cell Biol.* 2025. PMID: 40894800.
- Wang MX, Mauch BE, Williams AF, et al. Antigenic cancer persister cells survive direct T cell attack. *BioRxiv preprint.* 2025 Mar 17;2025.03.14.643359. PMID: 40166148.

Tissa Hata, MD

- Gao JL, Hata TR. Microbiome as a Potential Target for Treatment and Prevention of Atopic Dermatitis. *Immunol Allergy Clin North Am.* 2025 Nov;45(4):501-513. doi:10.1016/j.iac.2025.06.003.
- Gallo RL, Nakatsuji T, Roso Mares A, Moon J, Osuoji O, Li V, Fernandez-Desoto A, Wu A, Nodzenski M, David G, Coleman A, Hata TR. Atopic Skin Resists Colonization by Beneficial Bacteria: A First-in-Human Analysis of the Rate of Elimination of Topically Applied Bacteria. *J Invest Dermatol.* 2025 Sep 23. doi:10.1016/j.jid.2025.09.014.

Reid Oldenburg, MD, PhD

- Adjei-Frimpong NA, Delacqua F, Croker BA, Oldenburg R. Pyoderma gangrenosum associated with major adverse cardiovascular events. *JEADV Clin Pract.* 2025 Jul 9. PMID: 40756774.
- Gialama D, Bonnekoh H, Rothermel ND, Oldenburg R, Khan DA, Hoffman HM, Lang D, Kolchir P. Differential diagnosis of chronic spontaneous urticaria. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2025 Sep;13(9):2242-2250. PMID: 40562278.

George Sen, PhD

- Mahapatra S, Gomez J, Batzorig U, Liu Y, Fernandez-Mendez C, Chen Y, and Sen GL. Nelfb promotes dermal white adipose tissue formation through RNA Polymerase II mediated adipogenic gene regulation. *Development.* 2025, In Press.
- Liu Y, Sen GL. Protocol for inducing epidermis-specific gene deletion and establishing a UVB-irradiated skin inflammation model. *Star Protocols.* 2025 March 16. PMID: 40096090.
- Liu Y, Chen Y, Batzorig U, Li J, Fernandez-Mendez C, Mahapatra S, Li F, Sam S, Dokoshi T, Hong SP, Nakatsuji T, Gallo RL, Sen GL. The Transcription Regulators ZNF750 and
- LSD1/KDM1A Dampen Inflammation on the Skin's Surface by Silencing Pattern Recognition Receptors. *Immunity.* 2024 Oct 8; 57(10): 2296-2309. PMID: 39353440.

Featured Publication: Bacterial Chatter Slows Wound Healing

In a 2025 study published in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, Dr. Richard Gallo and colleagues identify a previously unrecognized mechanism by which *Staphylococcus aureus* delays wound healing through quorum sensing, a form of bacterial communication.

The research demonstrates that bacterial signaling suppresses key metabolic pathways in keratinocytes, impairing skin barrier repair, and that disrupting this communication restores normal wound healing even in the presence of high bacterial burden. By reframing impaired wound healing as a consequence of bacterial signaling rather than bacterial burden alone, **this work introduces new conceptual and translational directions for understanding and treating chronic wounds**

CANDID SNAPS





CONTRIBUTE

UC San Diego Dermatology provides the highest quality of care to patients suffering a variety of skin disorders and diseases. It also trains the brightest and most talented new physicians and researchers.

As one of the world's leading biomedical research institutions, UC San Diego also implements a range of studies on dermatologic diseases and disorders that are devastating to patients and their families. It has built a strong bridge, bringing new laboratory discoveries to patients and providing top-quality care with expertise and compassion.

You can make a much-needed gift to benefit our work in the following areas:

- Education - supporting our Residency and Fellowship Programs
- Patient Care/Clinical Services
- Research
- General Support for UCSD Department of Dermatology

Gifts and pledges may support current programs or needs, or establish a named endowment.

For more information about making a gift to UCSD Department of Dermatology, please contact our administrative office or visit our website by scanning the QR code:



Click on Health and Medicine and select Dermatology in the drop down box.

We are grateful for your support.

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