

Message from our Department Chair:

Dear Friends of UCSD Dermatology:

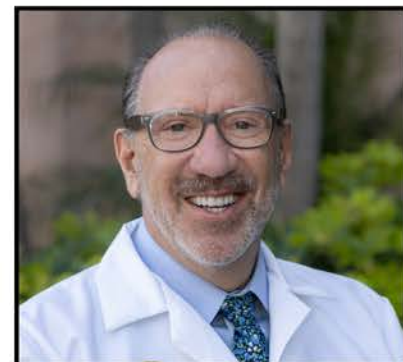
This is the 20th issue of our annual newsletter, and I am very happy and honored to reflect on the progress we have made over the last two decades. The Division of Dermatology in 2004 had 4 faculty in Medicine, 4 faculty in Pediatrics and 3 faculty at the VA.

Since that time, we achieved several important milestones including conversion to a full academic department, growing our faculty by 10-fold, expanding our residency and fellowship programs, and becoming nationally ranked in the top 10 for NIH funding of Dermatology Departments. This represents an unprecedented growth rate for a Dermatology program, and reflects the amazing faculty, staff, students, and environment of UCSD and our health system.

One of the challenges of rapid growth is keeping an eye out on our primary missions of patient care, research, education, and community service. Our exceptional team of physicians, scientists, nurses, students, and staff continues to amaze me with their dedication and the outstanding quality with which they fulfill our missions.

Warmest Regards,

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



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Meet our newest faculty members
- Dermatology Residency
- Awards and recognitions for 2024
- Department fellowship scholars
- Research lab highlights
- Notable publications

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to our outstanding faculty members **George Sen, PhD**, **Arisa Ortiz, MD**, **Brian Hinds, MD**, and **David Schairer, MD** for successfully completing the academic review process and being promoted at the start of this academic year.



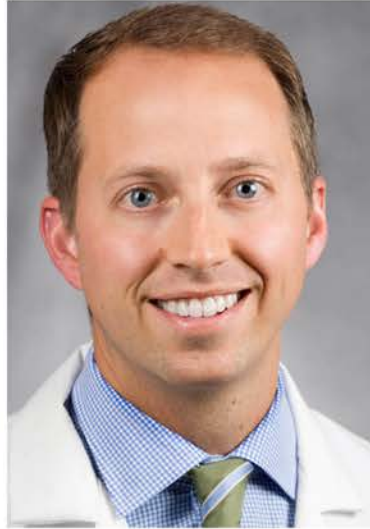
George Sen, PhD

Dr. Sen is a Professor of Dermatology and Cellular & Molecular Medicine. He also serves as Chief of the Division of Epithelial Biology. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms governing epidermal stem cell self-renewal and differentiation, with implications for understanding skin diseases.



Arisa Ortiz, MD

Dr. Ortiz is a Board-Certified Dermatologist and Director of Laser and Cosmetic Dermatology at UC San Diego Health. She specializes in the latest non-invasive procedures, including laser skin resurfacing, dermal filler and toxin injections, body contouring, skin tightening, and the treatment of scars.



Brian Hinds, MD

Dr. Hinds is a Board-Certified Dermatologist and Dermatopathologist who specializes in the study of skin under the microscope and treats dermatology patients with a focus on conditions such as acne, skin infections/warts, psoriasis, eczema, and skin cancers.



David Schairer, MD

Dr. Schairer is a Board-Certified Dermatologist, specializing in Pediatric Dermatology. He is involved in both clinical practice and academic research, focusing on innovative treatments for skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis and severe allergic reactions.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR 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.



Grace Y. Kim, MD is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology. She practices general dermatology and dermatopathology, with special interests in women's dermatology.

She completed her medical school training and dermatology residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She completed her dermatopathology fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. During her training, she also served as a counselor at Camp Discovery through the American Academy of Dermatology and enjoyed her time working with children with various dermatologic conditions.

Prior to venturing out to the midwest, Dr. Kim grew up in San Diego and attended college at the University of Southern California. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her 2 dogs, Latte and Macchiato, cooking Korean food, and trying new restaurants.

Matthew J Kolar MD, PhD, is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology. He practices general dermatology and conducts research in cutaneous biology at the Salk Institute. His research focuses on cutaneous lipid metabolism and its critical roles in maintaining skin structure and regulating inflammatory signaling.

Dr. Kolar earned both his MD and PhD at UCSD and completed his dermatology residency at UC San Diego. Outside of his professional pursuits, he enjoys spending quality time with his growing family.





Yasaman Mansouri, MD, FAAD, MRCP, is a caring and detail-oriented dermatologist who earned her medical degree from the University of Vienna, Austria. She is board-certified in both the United States and the United Kingdom, and has extensive experience treating a wide range of skin conditions.

As an Associate Professor in Dermatology, Dr. Mansouri trains medical students and residents at UC San Diego School of Medicine. She treats a wide range of dermatological conditions, including acne, eczema, pigmentary disorders, psoriasis, and skin cancers. Dr. Mansouri has a special interest in hair and scalp disorders.

In the US, she completed her residency at New York Medical College, where she also served as Chief Resident. In addition, Dr. Mansouri did a two-year dermatology fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where her focus was clinical research. Dr. Mansouri has published several peer-reviewed articles and textbook chapters and is a member of multiple national and international medical societies.

Dr. Mansouri is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of her patients. She is fluent in English, German, and Farsi, and proficient in French. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, tango, stand-up comedy, travel, and classical music.

Born and raised in San Diego, **Allison Han, MD** is thrilled to be joining the UCSD Dermatology team in the Pediatric and Adolescent Dermatology Division.

She completed her undergraduate degree at Harvard University, then returned to San Diego to attend medical school at UCSD, during which time she also completed a research fellowship at Rady Children's Hospital. She then went on to complete her Dermatology residency at UCSD, and her Pediatric Dermatology fellowship at Rady Children's Hospital.

She is so grateful to continue to learn from her dermatology family and extend that knowledge and care to the pediatric population.

Outside of work, Dr. Han enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two young kids, going to the park, building train tracks at home, and other fun crafts!



MEET OUR NEW DEPARTMENT STAFF

New Clinical Support Staff:

- Randall Jones, LVN
- Kayla Amaya, LVN
- Flossie Jones, LVN
- Kimberly Dela Crus, LVN
- Andrea Duarte, Front Desk

New Administrative Staff

- Amanda (Mandy) McKay –
Research Administrator/Fund Mgr
- Bella Pham – Research
Administrator/Fund Mgr

New Research Support Staff:

Postdoctoral Scholars:

- August Williams (Hangauer)
- Julia Gao (Hata)
- Kellen Cavagnero (Gallo)
- Neha Quadir (Sen)

Visiting Scholars:

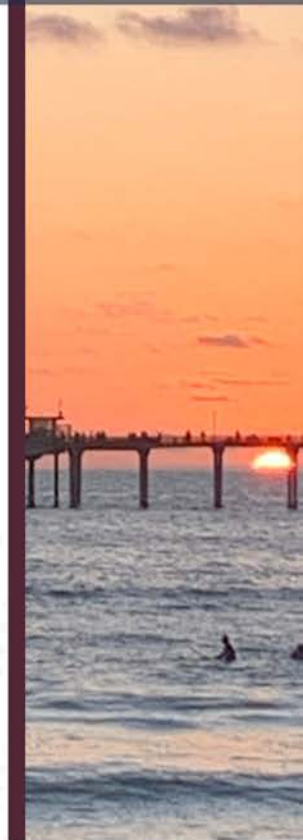
- Young Joon Seo (L Eichenfield)
- Marta Palomo (Gallo)
- Jung Eun Kim (Sen)

Visiting Graduate Students:

- Aaroh Joshi (Gallo)
- Laura Cobos Figueroa (Sen)

Lab Assistant:

- Victoria Li (Hata)



Health and Wellness

Have you heard of **Bright Breaks**? This FREE online **wellness program** that UC San Diego offers to its faculty and career employees. It provides access to hundreds of live and on-demand sessions that can help with mental and physical health.

Bright Breaks are designed to be interesting, engaging, and inspiring for individuals and groups. Sessions include: Meditation, Yoga, Stretching, Strength training, Gratitude talks, and Cooking workshops.

To learn more, visit:

<https://blink.ucsd.edu/sponsor/wellness/>



UCSD DERMATOLOGY FACULTY



- **Richard Gallo, MD, PhD**
Irma Gigli Chair in Dermatology,
Distinguished Professor & Founding Chair
- **Lawrence Eichenfield, MD**
Professor of Dermatology & Pediatrics
Chief, Pediatric and Adolescent
Dermatology & Vice Chair
- **Tissa Hata, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Dermatology Clinical Service Chief
Director of Dermatology Clinical Trials
- **Natasha Carter, MD, PhD**
Physician, VAHCS – Dermatology
- **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
- **Dawn Eichenfield, MD, PhD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Brian Eliceiri, PhD**
Professor, Department of Dermatology
Professor, Department of Surgery
- **Julie Akiko Gladsjo, MD, PhD**
Mohs Surgeon, VAHCS – Dermatology
- **Erik Gilbertson, MD**
Clinical Professor
- **Allison Han, MD**
Associate Physician Diplomate,
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Matthew Hangauer, PhD**
Assistant Professor In Residence
- **George Hightower, MD, PhD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **Brian R. Hinds, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Director, Dermatopathology
- **Eugene Huang, MD, PhD**
Physician, VAHCS – Dermatology
- **S. Brian Jiang, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Director, Dermatologic and Mohs
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
- **Y. Linda Liou, DO**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **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**
Associate Physician Diplomate
- **Charisse Orme, MD, PhD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **Arisa Ortiz, MD, FAAD, ACMS**
HS Clinical Professor
Director of Laser & Cosmetic Dermatology
- **Taraneh Paravar, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Director of Dermatology Residency Program
- **Laura Romero, MD**
Clinical Director, UCSD/VA
Clinical Professor of Dermatology
- **David Otto Schairer, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Jeremy Schneider, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
Director of 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, VA Dermatology
- **Marleigh Stern, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Wynniss 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



- **Brian Eliceiri, PhD** was appointed **Secretary of the Wound Healing Society 2024-2028**.
- **Lawrence Eichenfield, MD** was appointed as **President-elect of the International Eczema Council**.
- **Richard Gallo MD, PhD** was elected an **Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians**. The RCP was founded by royal charter from King Henry VIII in 1518, as the College of Physicians, and the RCP is the oldest medical college in England. Fellowship confers the post-nominal “FRCP “ and election of medical experts from countries other than England is a rare and high honor.
- **Matthew Hangauer, PhD** received a **Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) Melanoma Academy Scholar Award**
- **George Hightower, MD** gave several lectures, including: **"Full Spectrum: Updating Tools for Enhancing Acne Treatment in the Primary Care Setting"** at the 28th Annual Pediatric Update Conference hosted by Stanford Medicine and **"Housing, Health, and Pediatric Dermatology"** at The Society for Pediatric Dermatology 48th Annual Meeting. Dr. Hightower also received the **Robert A Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Award**.
- **Arisa Ortiz, MD, FAAD, ACMS** was promoted to **full clinical professor in the Department of Dermatology at UCSD**. Dr. Ortiz is also currently serving as the **President of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery**. She was recognized as one of the leading dermatologists in the region for excellence in patient care for **Top Doctors San Diego 2024**. She was also named one of the top doctors in the field of dermatology by **Castle Connolly Top Doctor 2024**.
- **Jeremy Schneider, MD** was honored as a recipient of the **Exemplary Professionalism in the Clinical Learning Environment Award**. This new award recognizes the exceptional commitment to professionalism, integrity, and ethical leadership in the clinical learning environment.
- **George Sen, PhD** will be awarded the **State of the Art Lecture at the Society for Investigative Dermatology's Annual Meeting**, May 7-10, 2025.



Last year, **Dr. Richard L. Gallo** was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) in recognition of his pioneering research in human immunology, skin biology, and the microbiome. **The formal induction ceremony took place in Washington, D.C., during NAM's annual meeting in October 2024.**

CLINICAL CARE

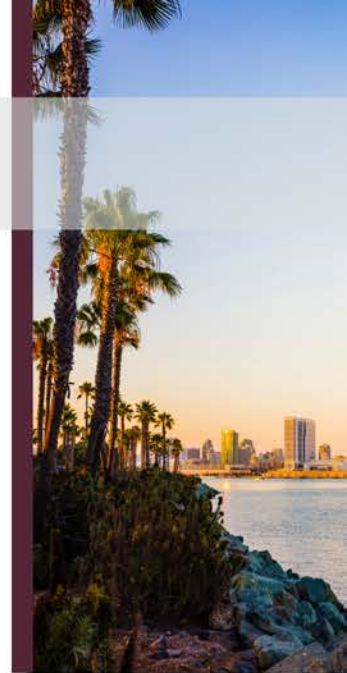
At the intersection of cutting-edge research and patient care, UCSD Dermatology's clinical operations play a pivotal role in shaping the future of skin health and providing the highest standard of care for the patients we served. Our department is committed to improving outcomes for our diverse patient population while fostering an environment where academic excellence and clinical practice seamlessly blend.

Collaboration is at the heart of academic dermatology, our clinical faculty work alongside experts in other specialties such as oncology, immunology, rheumatology and pediatrics to provide comprehensive care for our patients.

Dr. Tissa Hata in partnership with Dr. Doquyen Huynh of Rheumatology have piloted a multidisciplinary psoriasis clinic this year. The focus of the clinic is on early detection of psoriatic arthritis in patients with either new onset or existing psoriasis. Patients with joint disease whose diagnosis of psoriasis is questionable, as well as those with Pso/PSA with therapeutic management questions are also eligible for this clinic.

We strive to make a difference and prioritize compassionate treatment, clear communications and coordinated care plans to provide patient-centered care which lead to our high patient satisfactions and long-term health outcomes.

We are growing! As part of our continued efforts to expand capacity and enhance our services, we are excited to welcome new faculty members to our team. Please join us in extending a **warm welcome to Dr. Grace Kim, Dr. Matthew Kolar, Dr. Yasaman Mansouri and Dr. Allison Han.** Their expertise and passion for dermatology will contribute to our continued success in providing exceptional patient care.



CLINICAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT

Dermatopathology Lab

Greetings from the land of glass slides, organic chemicals, loud noises, and bright lights!

It is my pleasure to extend special thanks and shine the light on our **All-Star DermPath Team**, to include our histotechnologists, **Julie Albright, Angelica Ramos, Alisha Phisayavong**, and our lab coordinators, **Karina Echeagaray and Lexie Hernandez**, who collectively execute daily in the clutch, to consistently deliver outstanding quality in lab medicine.

Our dermatopathology service provides a sophisticated menu of over 80-plus tests that encompass special stains, immunostains, and in situ hybridization, serving the entire house of medicine. **We have always believed strongly in taking our high-quality to support the community**, with clients in NorCal and SoCal, extending East towards the desert with Palm Springs and El Centro. Our lab has close relationships with private practices and large hospital systems alike, recently providing coverage for City of Hope when they needed diagnostic services to close a dermatopathologist hiring gap and fostering a consultative partnership. In the pandemic, we purchased a Leica digital scanner, which has helped support academic teaching initiatives and will serve us well as the future of pathology turns towards digital workflows with whole slide imaging and artificial intelligence.

Please join me in warmly welcoming **Dr. Grace Kim**, who has a faculty appointment and will be working towards a niche clinic that focuses on dermatologic care initiatives in women's health. She is board-certified in dermatology/dermatopathology, with residency training from Mayo Clinic and fellowship at Cedars Sinai. As a San Diegan tried and true, we welcome her back to America's Finest City!

Please feel free to reach out to us at **dermatopathology@health.ucsd.edu** for any clinical requests or give us a call at 858-657-1285 (coordinators) or 858-657-1638 (lab).

Finally, it was a bittersweet June as **we said good-bye to our colleague Sheri Jackson** (aka. "The Grossing Queen"), and we celebrated her 12-years as a histotechnologist with our department. Together, Julie and Sheri were the superstar powerhouse that guided laboratory growth and allowed a sustained expansion of the service-line, particularly from 2012 to 2021. We had a proper send-off with a celebratory lunch seaside and extend our best always to Sheri in retirement.

- **Brian Hinds, MD, MS**



RESEARCH

UC San Diego (UCSD) Dermatology is a leader in both basic and clinical dermatological research, distinguished by its commitment to understanding the complex molecular and cellular mechanisms that govern skin health and disease. This cutting-edge research has earned the department a prominent position, ranking #9 in the nation for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding—a testament to the groundbreaking nature of its work and broad influence in the field.



The department's **research efforts are multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of topics** that contribute to advancing our understanding of skin biology. A key area of focus is the skin microbiome, where researchers investigate how the diverse microbial community on the skin interacts with the host to maintain skin homeostasis and prevent or contribute to various dermatological conditions. This research is particularly relevant for understanding skin diseases such as eczema, acne, and psoriasis, which are influenced by microbial dysbiosis.

Another area of focus is **stem cell biology and wound healing**, with researchers exploring how stem cells in the skin contribute to tissue repair and regeneration. This work holds promise for developing novel therapies for chronic wounds, burn injuries, and other conditions where skin regeneration is impaired.

UCSD Dermatology is also engaging in studies on cancer resistance, with emphasis on how cancer cells evade death signals and develop resistance to immunotherapies and targeted therapies. These findings are crucial for improving treatment strategies for melanoma and other cancers. And, **clinically, the department is committed to translating its basic research findings into practical applications for patient care**. Significant clinical research and trials are focused on conditions like atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, rosacea, acne, and vitiligo.

Additionally, the department has a **strong focus on pediatric dermatology**, by developing and evaluating new therapies for conditions such as atopic dermatitis, acne, psoriasis, and other inflammatory skin diseases. There is also ongoing research into systemic co-morbidities in pediatric inflammatory skin disorders.

The integration of basic and clinical research in dermatology is driving progress in understanding skin diseases, discovering new biomarkers, and developing innovative treatments that improve patient care.



RESEARCH 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.

He has published over 400 scientific papers and has been cited over 86,000 times. His group has published 13 papers in 2024. Other notable accomplishments in 2024 include: At the 2024 American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting, he presented significant updates on acne pathophysiology, emphasizing the role of specific *Cutibacterium acnes* strains and immune system interactions in disease development

Dr Hata's clinical research in Adult Medical Dermatology studies inflammatory skin disorders with a major emphasis in atopic dermatitis and the microbiome. Her clinical trials team is currently conducting several ongoing clinical trials in atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, rosacea, acne and vitiligo.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: Two recent publications in the field of atopic dermatitis and acne and ongoing trials within the NIH sponsored Atopic Dermatitis Research Network.



Tissa Hata MD
Clinical Prof. of Dermatology



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.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: Publishing a book chapter for Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine 10th edition as well as publications in the journal Immunity and the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

Dr. Hangauer's research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms which allow melanoma cells to survive drug treatment and acquire resistance to immunotherapy and targeted therapy. A central focus in the lab is on the observation that cancer cells can undergo cell death signaling yet survive, and how this process promotes therapy resistance.

In 2024, Dr. Hangauer was awarded a Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) Melanoma Academy Scholar Award and a Curebound Discovery Grant to pursue this work.



Matthew Hangauer PhD
Assistant Prof. of Dermatology



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. He recently discovered a novel factor called ECRG4 that regulates the inflammatory phase of wound healing. He is interested in how dysregulation of these factors can lead to diseases such as chronic wounds and neutrophilic dermatosis.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: Publications describing the role of ECRG4 in regulating the neutrophil response to infection (PLOS One), as well as collaborating to define signaling mechanisms dysregulated in diabetic impaired wound healing (Molecular Therapy).

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Brian Eliceiri PhD
Prof. of Surgery &
Dermatology

Dr. Eliceiri is interested in the role of extracellular vesicles (EV) in the mediating intercellular signaling pathways in wound healing. His work is focused on mechanisms that regulate EV formation, defining cell types that release EV, which cells uptake EVs and identify pro-reparative EV payloads for translation.

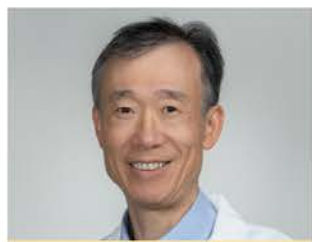
Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: Publication in *Molecular Therapy* identifying a mechanism for EV-mediated crosstalk between skin macrophages and fibroblasts that regulates the expression of adiponectin-evidence linking the biology of two different cell types in the skin. We also established a cell type-specific EV lineage mapping strategy to track the release of and uptake of fluorescent EVs that is helping demystify the complexities of EVs in wound healing.

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.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: The acquisition of clinically relevant samples from patients with mycoplasma-associated Reactive Infectious Mucocutaneous Eruptions.



Reid Oldenburg, MD, PhD
Assistant Prof. of Dermatology



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.

During the past year, he has served as a clinical investigator of a multicenter study for denileukin diftitox for CTCL, and joined the UCSD Cutaneous Lymphoma Clinic at Moores Cancer Center.

Dr. Matthew 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.



Matthew J Kolar MD, PhD
Associate Physician Diplomate

CLINICAL TRIALS



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

Our research interests include ongoing studies into basic immunologic defects present in patients with atopic dermatitis (Gallo Lab) and therapeutic trials at UC San Diego and Rady Children's Hospital.

- **Pilot study** to evaluate the survival of transplanted **staphylococcus hominis A9** on the skin of adults with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis targeted investigation of microbiome elimination (TIME-1)
- **Longitudinal** Endotyping of **Atopic Dermatitis** Through Transcriptomic Skin Analysis (LEADS Study)
- **Acne:** a disease of lipid metabolism, microbiome and the immune response
- **Inflammatory Skin Disease Treatment** Identification Study (IDENTITY)
- **An Open-Label, Multi-Center Extension Study** to Characterize the Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of **BMS-986165** in Subjects with **Moderate-to-Severe Plaque Psoriasis**.
- **A study** to assess the effect of sustained lotion use on the skin barrier, microbiome, and metabolome in adult patients with **atopic dermatitis**.
- Role of the **Innate Immune System in Skin Diseases**



Lawrence Eichenfield MD
Distinguished Prof. of
Clinical Dermatology &
Pediatrics

Dr Eichenfield's clinical research is focused on development and evaluation of new topical and advanced systemic therapies for atopic dermatitis, acne, psoriasis and other inflammatory skin conditions and promoting changes in by practice of primary care providers and specialists for pediatric dermatologic conditions.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 included: His appointment as President-elect of the International Eczema Council, over 70 publications in 2023 and 2024 on inflammatory and rare skin disorders, and contributing data leading to the development and approval of 9 new medications in the past year and a half.

Dr Tom'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.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: Dr. Tom co-authored a significant consensus statement on systemic therapy for atopic dermatitis in children and adolescents, published in *Dermatology*. She also presented on emerging therapies for moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis in children at the 12th PeDRA Annual Conference.



Wynniss Tom MD
Clinical Prof. of Dermatology
and Pediatrics



George Hightower MD PhD
Associate Clinical Prof. of
Dermatology and Pediatrics

Dr. Hightower's research focuses on clinical care for young adults with chronic skin conditions and the skin microbiome in pediatric atopic dermatitis.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: Dr. Hightower mentored over 15 trainees on projects that resulted in an accepted peer-reviewed abstract or manuscript. He also chaired the Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute IDEA Committee and completed scholarly work as part of the Robert A Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Award.

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.

Notable accomplishments in 2024 include: In August 2024, the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) featured Dr. Dawn Eichenfield and Dr. Jennifer Sui in the seventh episode of their "Getting to Know Your Research" series.



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



EDUCATION



CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATING RESIDENTS AND WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

Congratulations and best wishes to our recent graduates, **Joyce Cheng, MD, Matthew Kolar, MD, PhD, Nicola Natsis, MD, Somaira Nowsheen, MD, PhD, and Bobak Pousti, MD.** We are proud of all that you have accomplished and can't wait to see what you will achieve in your future careers!

Welcome to our 2024 First Year Residents:



Lena Chu, MD



Raj Fadadu, MD



Sophia Hadsall, MD



Michael Haft, MD



Ruth Wang, MD, PhD

Our Chief Residents for the 2024 – 2025 academic year are **Umber Dube, MD, PhD** and **Stephanie Lee, MD.**



Umber Dube, MD, PhD



Stephanie Lee, MD.

In August 2024, residents volunteered at the **VA Stand Down event in San Diego.** They offered dermatology care and skin cancer screenings.

Stand Down is a 3-day event designed to guide homeless veterans and those at risk of homelessness, to services that rapidly remove barriers caused by medical, legal, mental health, and substance use concerns.



DERMATOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS

Congratulations and best wishes to our recent graduates, **Adam Miller, MD, Shaundra Eichstadt, MD, Alreem Al-Nabti, MD, and Erina Lie, MD!**

UC San Diego Dermatology is overjoyed to have **Nolan Maloney, MD, Anna Sutherland, MD, Angelina Labib, MD, Amanda Shepard-Hayes, MD, Heather Gochnauer, MD, and Julia Gao, MD** as part of our Fellowship programs.

MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY AND DERMATOLOGIC ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



Nolan Maloney, MD is from Naperville, IL. He earned a degree in biochemistry and biophysics from Yale, before attending UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. He then completed a dermatology residency at Stanford.

His interests in dermatology include Mohs surgery and reconstruction, Merkel cell carcinoma, and risk stratification of high-risk skin cancers. He enjoys tennis and participates in recreational leagues, and is always up for a friendly match.

Anna Sutherland, MD is originally from Niwot, CO. She attended Amherst College in Amherst, MA where she majored in Anthropology as well as completing her premedical requirements. Prior to medical school, she worked as a clinical trials coordinator at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. She attended medical school at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

She completed her intern year in internal medicine there before heading to Boston University in Boston, MA to complete her dermatology residency. Outside of work, Anna likes hanging out with her dog and cats, tennis, and skiing.



CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



Julia Gao, MD is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical and Translational Research under Drs. Hata and Gallo. Dr. Gao received her MD degree from George Washington University in 2022 and completed her intern year at Dartmouth Health in 2023. She completed her Clinical and Research Fellowship in Dermatology at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center before coming to UCSD to continue working on clinical trials as she applies for dermatology residency.

Her hobbies include hiking, pottery, badminton, stand-up paddle boarding, enjoying good food with friends, exploring the beautiful nature and beaches in San Diego, and trying even more new hobbies.

PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



Angelina Labib, MD was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and attended UCLA for my undergraduate degree. It was during this time she discovered her love for the health sciences and shortly thereafter, she was accepted to the University of Miami for medical school.

She wants to make an impact in her future career and discover pediatric dermatology and itchy skin conditions during her time at UCSD. She is excited to continue learning amongst the excellent faculty at UCSD and Rady Children's Hospital.

Some of her interests outside of dermatology include singing, cycling and hot yoga, and learning how to make Middle Eastern delicacies like baklava with her mother's recipes.

Amanda Shepard-Hayes, MD is a pediatrician specializing in dermatology. She earned her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 2016 and completed her pediatrics residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In June 2024, she completed her dermatology residency at the University of Michigan Medical School. Following her residency, Dr. Shepard-Hayes pursued a pediatric dermatology fellowship at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Shepard-Hayes has contributed to research comparing the quality of ChatGPT- and physician-generated responses to patients' dermatology questions in electronic medical records. Her clinical interests include managing common pediatric skin conditions such as acne, eczema, and psoriasis.



Heather Gochner, MD was born and raised in Lancaster, PA, where she enjoyed many adventures with her three sisters, including indulging in local delights like whoopie pies and spending countless hours outdoors. Her post-collegiate academic journey began with two years of basic science research in the Dermatology department at the University of Pennsylvania, where she learned a lot about skin and maybe more importantly, met her husband, Jeremy. She earned her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine and completed her intern year at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children.

She then pursued her dermatology residency at the University of Massachusetts. Outside of her professional commitments, Heather is an avid outdoor enthusiast, with running and cycling being her favorite activities. She is happy to eat tacos and ice cream daily.

SPECIAL LECTURES IN 2024:

STOUGHTON LECTURE

The 29th annual Stoughton Lecture, in memory of Dr. Richard Stoughton, took place Thursday, April 13, 2024.

The special guest speaker was **Marjana Tomic-Canic, PhD**. Dr. Tomic-Canic delivered the talk on **“From Clinic to the Bench and Back: Innovative Science Advancing Wound Care”**.

William H. Eaglstein M.D. Chair in Wound Healing
Vice Chair of Research and Professor of Dermatology
Director of the Wound Healing and Regenerative Medicine Research Program in the Dr. Phillip Frost Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine



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 Dr. Terry O'Grady Lectureship took place on Thursday, October 10, 2024.

Our special guest speaker was **April W. Armstrong, MD MPH**. Dr. Armstrong gave a talk called **“Pso Exciting: Emerging Therapies and Clinical Pearls on Caring for Psoriasis Patients”** at the ACTRI Main Auditorium.

April W. Armstrong, MD MPH
Professor and Chief, Division of Dermatology
Department of Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine
University of California Los Angeles

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 2023 - 2024

The UCSD Department of Dermatology faculty had **137 publications this year**. We are proud to have a team with highly successful research programs that reflect broad interests in skin immunology, genetics, development, cancer and disease specific programs.



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

Robert Dorschner, MD

- Park DJ, Choi W, Sayeed S, et al. Defining the activity of pro-reparative extracellular vesicles in wound healing based on miRNA payloads and cell type-specific lineage mapping. *Mol Ther*. 2024;32(9):3059-3079. doi:10.1016/j.ymthe.2024.02.019
- Pool KD, Hemmat GJ, Dorschner RA. ECRG4 mediates host response to cutaneous infection by regulating neutrophil recruitment and adhesion receptor expression. *PLoS One*. 2024;19(11):e0310810. Published 2024 Nov 7. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0310810

Lawrence Eichenfield, MD

- Silverberg JI, Eichenfield LF, Hebert AA, et al. Tapinarof cream 1% once daily: Significant efficacy in the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in adults and children down to 2 years of age in the pivotal phase 3 ADORING trials. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2024;91(3):457-465. doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2024.05.023
- Eichenfield LF, Tarabar S, Forman S, et al. Efficacy and Safety of PF-07038124 in Patients With Atopic Dermatitis and Plaque Psoriasis: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2024;160(2):156-163. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2023.4990

Richard Gallo MD, PhD

- Dokoshi, T. et al. Dermal injury drives a skin to gut axis that disrupts the intestinal microbiome and intestinal immune homeostasis in mice. *Nature Communications* 2024 Apr 8;15(1):3009. doi: 10.1038/s41467-024-47072-3.
- Nakamura Y. et. al. Increased LL37 in psoriasis and other inflammatory disorders promotes LDL uptake and Atherosclerosis. *J Clin Invest*. 2024 Mar 1;134(5):e172578. doi: 10.1172/JCI172578.
- Cavagnero K.J. et al. CXCL12+ dermal fibroblasts promote neutrophil recruitment and host defense by recognition of IL-17. *J Exp Med*. 2024 Apr 1;221(4):e20231425. doi: 10.1084/jem.20231425.

Brian Eliceiri. PhD

- Choi W, Park DJ, Eliceiri BP. Defining tropism and activity of natural and engineered extracellular vesicles. *Front Immunol*. 2024;15:1363185. Published 2024 Apr 10. doi:10.3389/fimmu.2024.1363185
- Park DJ, Choi W, Zhang H, Eliceiri BP. Lineage Mapping of Extracellular Vesicles: What Cells Do They Come from And Where Do They Go?. *Adv Wound Care (New Rochelle)*. Published online August 26, 2024. doi:10.1089/wound.2024.0068

PUBLICATIONS 2023 - 2024

Matt Hangauer, Ph.D.

- Hangauer MJ, Gutkind JS, Ferguson FM. Pan-RAF:MEK Molecular Glues Take Center Stage. *Cancer Discov.* 2024;14(7):1143-1144. doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-24-0539
- Russo M, Chen M, Mariella E, et al. Cancer drug-tolerant persister cells: from biological questions to clinical opportunities. *Nat Rev Cancer.* 2024;24(10):694-717. doi:10.1038/s41568-024-00737-z

Tissa Hata, MD

- Cavagnero KJ, Li F, Dokoshi T, et al. CXCL12+ dermal fibroblasts promote neutrophil recruitment and host defense by recognition of IL-17. *J Exp Med.* 2024;221(4):e20231425. doi:10.1084/jem.20231425
- Kenney HM, Yoshida T, Berdyshev E, et al. CERS1 is a biomarker of *Staphylococcus aureus* abundance and atopic dermatitis severity. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* Published online September 27, 2024. doi:10.1016/j.jaci.2024.09.017

Arisa Ortiz, MD

- Ortiz AE, Ahluwalia J, Anderson RR, Franco W, Brian Jiang SI. Autofluorescence Excitation Imaging of Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer for Margin Assessment Before Mohs Micrographic Surgery: A Pilot Study. *Dermatol Surg.* 2024 Jul 1;50(7):616-619. doi: 10.1097/DSS.0000000000004171. Epub 2024 Mar 22. PMID: 38518178.

George Sen, PhD

- 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, In Press.
- Batzorig U, Chen Y, Liu Y, Fernandez-Mendez C, Mahapatra S, Lim SH, Hong SP, Sen GL. The SWI/SNF subunit ARID1A mediates neutrophil associated skin inflammatory responses. *Journal of Investigative Dermatology.* 2024 March 28.
- Stabell AR, Lee GE, Jia Y, Wong KN, Wang S, Ling J, Nguyen SD, Sen GL, Nie Q, Atwood SX. Single-cell transcriptomics of human skin equivalent organoids. *Cell Reports.* 2023 May 30;42 (5). PMID: 37195865.

Marleigh Stern, MD

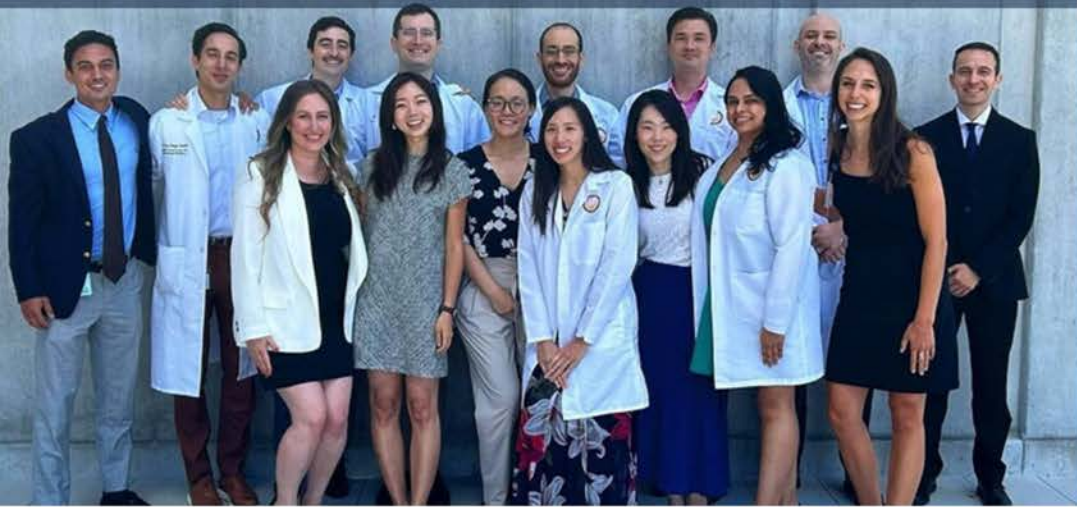
- Obijiofor CE, Sikora M, Liu L, Stern MJ, Hena KM, Mazori DR, Friedman S, Mandal S, Caplan AS. Investigating corrected QT prolongation with hydroxychloroquine use among patients with cutaneous sarcoidosis: A multicenter retrospective study. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2024 Jun 15:S0190-9622(24)00911-3. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2024.06.018. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38885839.



CANDID SNAPS



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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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