

UC SAN DIEGO

DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY

2023

Newsletter highlights:

- Meet our newest faculty members
- Awards and recognitions for 2023
- Spotlight on UC San Diego Health Laser & Cosmetic Dermatology Center
- Research lab highlights
- Dermatology Residency
- Meet our department fellowship scholars
- Notable publications by our esteemed faculty

Message from our Department Chair:

Dear Friends of UCSD Dermatology:

This is the 19th annual newsletter for Dermatology at UC San Diego, and I am excited to once again welcome you to learn about the wonderful things going on in our community of physicians, scientists, teachers, students, and staff that make up the Dermatology family.

The mission of UCSD Dermatology is four-fold. 1: To provide outstanding medical, procedural and laboratory service in dermatology. 2: To train the next generation of dermatologists and cutaneous biologists. 3: To advance understanding of cutaneous biology through basic and clinical research., and 4: To serve our community. We continue to strive to fulfil this mission, and as you can see from this newsletter, the talents, hard work and sacrifices made by everyone in the Dermatology family has enabled the Department to continue to be successful.

As the famous quote goes "Change is the only constant in life". This is certainly true in academic medicine and healthcare where challenges abound but also occur with remarkable discoveries and advances in clinical care. I am privileged to be in academic medicine and a part of this fantastic team. I am also happy to work with a group that approaches current challenges by the motto of James Baldwin who said: "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." My sincere thanks go to all who are facing the challenges of today to make a better tomorrow.

Please enjoy this newsletter and thank you for your interest and support.

Warmest Regards,

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



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.



Dr. Timothy Dang, MD is an assistant clinical professor of dermatology at UC San Diego School of Medicine. He practices general dermatology with special interests in oncodermatology (the management of dermatologic issues and toxicities that arise in the setting of cancer treatment) and cutaneous lymphoma. He strives to provide patient-centered and tailored dermatologic care, with an emphasis on a palliative approach—symptom-directed care with a focus on quality of life.

He completed his medical school training at Stanford University School of Medicine and completed his residency in dermatology at the Harvard Combined Dermatology Residency Training Program, during which he maintained a continuity clinic at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Dr. Dang grew up in Yorba Linda, CA and Carlsbad, CA. In his free time, he enjoys running, swimming, cooking, and exploring new restaurants and hiking trails throughout Southern California.

Dr. Y. Linda Liou, DO, is a board-certified dermatologist who treats a variety of general dermatological conditions including acne, eczema, psoriasis, skin cancers, hair and nail problems. She has a special interest in patients with contact dermatitis who need patch testing.

Dr. Liou completed her dermatology residency at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center through Case Western Reserve University. During her training, she also maintained a continuity clinic at the Louis Stokes Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where she enjoyed serving the Veterans of Northeast Ohio. Dr. Liou earned her medical degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology.

Prior to venturing out to the Midwest, Dr. Liou grew up in Southern California and attended college at UC San Diego. She is excited to return to her alma mater and serve the people of San Diego. Outside of work, Dr. Liou enjoys spending time with her family by going on hikes, exploring new restaurants, and exploring the new attractions around San Diego.





Brian Eliceiri, PhD Dr. Brian Eliceiri, a faculty member since 2007 in the Department of Surgery's Division of Trauma, Acute Care, and Burns, has recently taken a joint appointment in the Dept of Dermatology at UCSD.

His work, deeply rooted in cutaneous wound healing, infection, and injury, is driven by his lab's focus on extracellular vesicles (EVs). These EVs play a critical role in intercellular signaling in wound healing and trauma, with Dr. Eliceiri's lab uncovering specific EV protein payloads that influence extracellular microenvironment remodeling, crucial in injury recovery processes.

Renowned for advancing our understanding of EVs in wound healing, the Eliceiri lab employs cutting-edge technologies to overcome challenges like EV heterogeneity and identifying cell-specific EV sources. Their research spans from the cellular and molecular biology of inflammation responses to their implications in tissue repair. Emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach, the lab merges the expertise of PhD post-doctoral scholars with surgical residents' interests, contributing significantly to the field, including studies on EV immunology and clinical research on metastatic breast cancer.

Apart from his professional achievements, Dr. Eliceiri enjoys spending quality time with his family, glamping, and exploring state parks, reflecting his love for nature and adventure.

Dr. Marleigh Stern, MD is a board-certified dermatologist who practices general dermatology and treats a variety of skin conditions including acne, psoriasis, eczema, skin cancers, and others. She has a particular interest in granulomatous and other inflammatory conditions.

As an assistant professor at UC San Diego School of Medicine, Dr. Stern trains residents during the weekly continuity clinic and during the annual lecture series. She is also active in research and has contributed to the field through publications within the medical dermatology field.



Dr. Stern earned her medical degree from New York University and completed her intern year at Mount Sinai Hospital. She then completed her residency in dermatology at NYU where she served as chief resident.

In her free time, she enjoys dancing, traveling, cooking and baking, and hiking.



Jennifer Lin, MD spent the past 29 years of her life in Massachusetts: First, at Harvard University as a biochemical sciences major, then the Harvard/MIT branch of Harvard Medical School, and then Harvard Combined Program in Dermatology. She did spend one year in California at Stanford for her internship in internal medicine and was very happy living in California then.

Within dermatology, Dr. Lin has a strong interest in melanoma. She did a post-doc with David Fisher MD, PhD, working on the tanning pathway. She also has an interest in lasers and devices after spending a year with Rox Anderson and Mat Avram at the Wellman Institute of Photomedicine.

Most recently, Dr. Lin had been working with the Brigham and Women's Department of Dermatology. While there, she helped found the Skin of Color Clinic. She also ran the Melanoma Risk and Prevention Clinic (formerly Pigmented Lesion Clinic) and the Multidisciplinary Melanoma Clinic at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. She was also the Melanoma Clinical and Translational research director.

She is happily married to Brian Levy, director of jazz studies at SDSU. Together they have two amazing kids named Louise (7) and Coltrane (4.5).

Dr. Anna Di Nardo: Emeritus Recognition

Dr. Anna Di Nardo, a distinguished member of the UCSD Dermatology Department, has been honored with Emeritus status as Professor of Clinical Dermatology, effective January 16, 2024. This esteemed recognition highlights Dr. Di Nardo's exceptional contributions to the field, including her significant role as a Principal Investigator in groundbreaking NIH-funded research projects.

Her work, particularly in understanding mast cell conditioning and recruitment in the skin, has been instrumental in advancing our knowledge of skin allergic reactions and innate immune defenses. Dr. Di Nardo's dedication and achievements reflect the high standards of UC San Diego and her commitment to both scientific inquiry and clinical excellence



Introducing Our New Advanced Practitioner Provider



Julie Omran DNP, FNP-BC is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. She holds both Masters and Doctorate degrees and has 12 years of experience in general and cosmetic dermatology with a particular focus on autoimmune skin conditions and skin cancer screenings.

Before practicing dermatology, Julie worked for 3 years as a Rheumatology Nurse Practitioner during which time, she developed her interest in the field of dermatology through caring for patients with autoimmune diseases presenting with a vast array of challenging skin conditions. In her free time, Julie cherishes spending time with her husband and son going to the beach, hiking and traveling.

MEET OUR NEW DEPARTMENT STAFF

New Clinical Support Staff:

- Abraham Hernandez, MA
- Edwardo Valderrama, MA
- Evelyn Cabrales, MA
- Cherlyne Oljol, MA
- Alexis Cruz, MA
- Susie Ventura-Ruiz, Front Desk
- Isabel Ocampo, Front Desk
- Evelyn Gomez, Mohs Histotech
- Lauren Chonko, Mohs Histotech
- Alexis Hernandez, Lab Coordinator, DermPath
- Allison McInnis, Histotech, Derm Path

New Research Staff

- Dr. Austin (June) Moon, Fellow (Hata)
- Dr. Tomofumi Numata, Visiting Scholar (Gallo)
- Lea Debortoli, Visiting Graduate Student (Sen)
- Keith Lugo, SRA 1 (Gallo)
- Alexandra DeSoto Fernandez, Clinical Research Coordinator (Hata)

New Administrative Staff

- Erica Lupien – Residency and Fellowship Program Coordinator

New Pediatric Dermatology Staff

- Anthony Camel, Director, Specialty Clinics (Ortho, Peds. Derm, Rehab)
- Sena Ghebre, Program Manager, Peds Derm



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
- **Victoria Barrio, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **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**
Vice Chair for Research
Professor of Clinical Dermatology
- **Tatsuya Dokoshi, PhD**
Assistant Project Scientist, Gallo Lab
- **Robert Dorschner, MD**
Assistant Professor of Dermatology
- **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
- **Matthew Hangauer, PhD**
Assistant Professor of Dermatology
- **George Hightower, MD, PhD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **Brian R. Hinds, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
Director, Dermatopathology
- **Eugene Huang, MD, PhD**
Physician, SD VAHCS – Dermatology
- **S. Brian Jiang, MD**
HS Clinical Professor of Dermatology
Director, Dermatologic and Mohs
Micrographic Surgery
- **Swati Kannan MD, FAAD, FACMS**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Genevieve Kaunitz, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Jennifer Lin, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **Y. Linda Liou, DO**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Marian MacDonald, MD**
Physician, San Diego VAHCS
- **Teruaki Nakatsuji, PhD**
Project Scientist, Gallo Lab
- **Reid Oldenburg, MD, PhD**
Assistant Professor of Dermatology
- **Charisse Orme, MD, PhD**
Associate Clinical Professor
- **Arisa Ortiz, MD, FAAD, ACMS**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
Director of Laser & Cosmetic Dermatology
- **Sachi Patel, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Taraneh Paravar, MD**
Clinical Professor of Dermatology
- **Laura Romero, MD**
Clinical Director, UCSD/VA
Clinical Professor of Dermatology
- **David Otto Schairer, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics
- **Jeremy Schneider, MD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **George Sen, PhD**
Chief of the Division of Epithelial Biology
Professor of Dermatology, Professor of
Cellular & Molecular Medicine
- **Daniel Shaw, MD**
Associate Physician Diplomate
- **Veronica Shi, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Peter Shumaker, MD**
Associate Clinical Professor
Section Chief, VA Dermatology
- **Marleigh Stern, MD**
HS Assistant Clinical Professor
- **Bryan Sun, MD, PhD**
HS Associate Clinical Professor
- **Wynniss Tom, MD**
HS Clinical Professor
Department of Dermatology & Pediatrics

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





Dr. Richard L. Gallo Elected to National Academy of Medicine



Richard L. Gallo, MD, PhD, the founding chair of Dermatology at UC San Diego, has been honored with election to the **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)**, a testament to his exceptional impact on health and medicine. This election is one of the most esteemed recognitions in the medical field, signifying extraordinary professional achievement and commitment to service.

Dr. Gallo's induction into NAM not only celebrates his leadership in dermatology and immunology but also places him among the elite in the medical community, recognizing his dedication to advancing medical sciences, healthcare, and public health through his innovative research and mentorship.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



- **Richard Gallo MD, PhD** was awarded several accolades in 2023: **Eugene Van Scott Lectureship, American Academy of Dermatology Frost Award, American Academy of Dermatology, Michael Frank Lectureship, American Academy of Asthma Allergy and Immunology, and Elected National Academy of Medicine.**
- **Dawn Eichenfield MD, PhD** received the **Academy of Clinician Scholars Whitehall Prize for Excellence.**
- **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.**
- **Matthew Hangauer PhD** received a **Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) Idea Award** and a **Tower Cancer Research Foundation Career Development Award.**
- **Swati Kannan MD FAAD, FACMS** was recognized as a **2023 Castle Connolly Top Doctor in San Diego.**
- **Reid Oldenburg MD, PhD** was a recipient of the **JSID/SID Young Fellow Collegiality Travel Award.**
- **Arisa Ortiz, MD, FAAD, ACMS** was recognized as a **2023 Castle Connolly Top Doctors in Dermatology**, as well as **Exceptional Women in Medicine.** She was named one of **2023 Newsweek America's Best Dermatologists** and the **2022 American Society for Dermatologic Surgery President's Outstanding Service Award.** (She was also recently featured on 2 episodes of TLC's Dr. Pimple Popper!)
- **Jeremy Schneider, MD** was honored to be elected for membership in the **Academy of Clinician Scholars in the spring of 2023.**

CLINICAL CARE

Our patient care initiatives have achieved remarkable success this year, marked by record high patient visits and overwhelmingly positive feedback. We're excited to announce our growth in adult dermatology services, further enriched by the addition of outstanding new dermatology specialists to our team.

We are advancing our Oncodermatology and Melanoma care. The initiative began with Dr. Charisse Orme and Dr. Aaron Goodman at Moores Cancer Center establishing the region's first multidisciplinary cutaneous lymphoma clinic. In August, Dr. Tim Dang joined the team, bringing his expertise in oncodermatology to Moores Cancer Center. He specializes in managing skin issues and side effects from various cancer treatments like chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, and bone marrow transplantation. He holds a weekly clinic every Friday.

Furthermore, in December 2023, Dr. Jennifer Lin will join as the Director of the new Melanoma Risk and Prevention Clinic at Moores Cancer Center. This multidisciplinary clinic will offer comprehensive care for melanoma patients, integrating the expertise of dermato-oncologists, medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, and radiation oncologists in one location. It focuses on providing personalized care during and after the acute phase of melanoma, along with guidance for ongoing management.



New Pediatric Dermatology Office

Our **Pediatric Dermatology** division has proudly announced the opening of its new state-of-the-art facility at **7910 Frost Street, Suite 120**. Following a comprehensive buildout, the new location boasts an expansive 8,000 square feet of space. The facility features 20 examination rooms, 3 procedure/surgical rooms, and a conference room. Additionally, the new office houses the clinical research center.



CLINICAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



Health Laser & Cosmetic Dermatology Center

The UC San Diego Health Laser & Cosmetic Dermatology Center stands as a globally acclaimed hub for advanced laser and cosmetic treatments, earning recognition on both national and international scales. Established in 2014 under the directorship of **Dr. Arisa Ortiz, MD**, this distinguished center has expanded its roster of expert faculty with the addition of **Dr. Swati Kannan, MD**, in 2022.

In response to the escalating demand from our patient community, we have recently moved to an expanded facility, equipped with additional treatment rooms to ensure we can meet the growing patient influx. Concurrently, we have augmented our repertoire of services by incorporating state-of-the-art energy-based devices and innovative treatment methodologies.

Our center takes great pride in its specialized offerings, which encompass scar revision, laser resurfacing, and treatments addressing rosacea, pigmentation concerns, and tattoo removal. Moreover, we administer injectable treatments, including dermal fillers and neuromodulators, alongside chemical peels and sclerotherapy.

In alignment with our commitment to inclusive healthcare, we are delighted to offer gender-affirming services that aid individuals in their journey toward gender reassignment. These services feature laser hair removal and other feminization/masculinization procedures, thus facilitating a holistic approach to gender transition. Notably, we have recently entered into a collaboration with Kaiser Permanente to provide hair restoration for their transgender patients, underscoring our dedication to comprehensive patient care.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



UC San Diego demonstrates a steadfast dedication to **health and wellness** through a diverse array of events designed to enrich the physical and mental well-being of its community.

Upcoming Events:

- Guided hikes at Torrey Pines State Reserve
- Virtual wellness gatherings on Zoom
- Social hour events at UPC
- Mindfulness training and retreat sessions

RESEARCH

Dermatology at UC San Diego is a full academic department and exemplifies scientific excellence, evidenced by our stellar history of obtaining competitive research grants. **The department secured research grant awards totaling over 9 million dollars for fiscal year 2023, ranking us 9th in the nation in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).** UCSD Dermatology has a central influence on medical research nationwide, and our academic standing also supports our ability to recruit the top clinical faculty in the nation. Despite significant obstacles in the current climate, we continue to succeed in the ideal of the tripartite mission for academic medicine.

Our robust funding profile is bolstered by noteworthy grants like the NIH's U01, P50, R01 and R21 mechanisms, which fund only the most competitive, high-impact research projects. Our faculty have also received generous backing from research foundations such as the Melanoma Research Alliance and the Skin Cancer Foundation, which supports some of our most cutting-edge studies. These significant financial endorsements, coupled with strategic alliances with industry, attest to the relevance, innovation, and impact of our research endeavors.

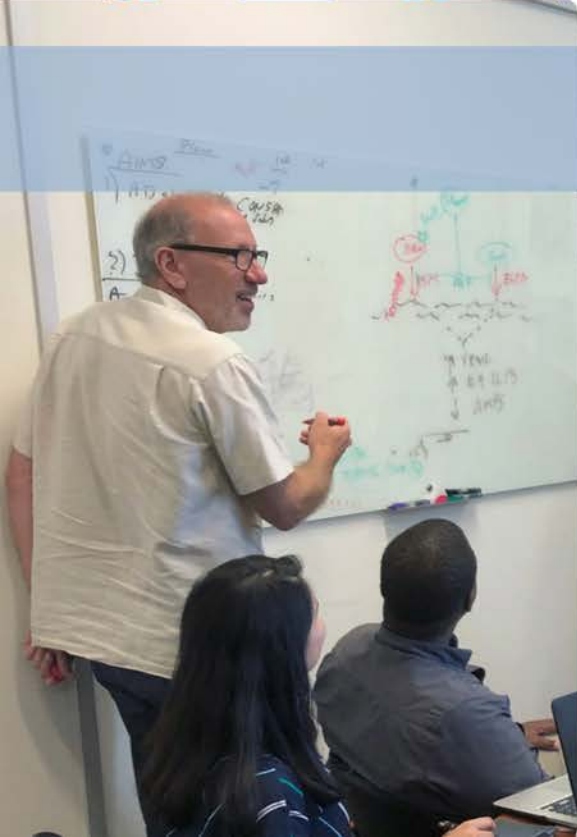


RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Dermatology at UC San Diego involves research in both clinical and basic science. Our programs are interdisciplinary and cover a broad range of skin disorders.

Our faculty members are distinguished leaders in the field of dermatology research, consistently making significant contributions to the advancement of the field.

We are proud to have highly successful research programs that reflect broad interests in skin immunology, genetics, development, cancer and disease specific programs



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Richard Gallo MD PhD

Distinguished Prof. of Dermatology



Dr. Gallo investigates mechanisms of communication between the host and microbes. His findings for the functions of antimicrobial peptides and the skin microbiome are advancing the understanding and treatment of several skin diseases and disorders of other organ systems.

Thus far in 2023 his lab has published 10 new papers in Journals such as Cell Reports, Science Advances and Nature Immunology. He was awarded the 2023 Eugene Van Scott Lectureship and Philip Frost Award from the American Academy of Dermatology.

Anna Di Nardo MD PhD

Prof. of Clinical Dermatology



Dr. Di Nardo's career has been focused on understanding the skin's innate immune system and translating this knowledge into clinical applications. Her laboratory focus has been to establish the role of mast cells in the skin's innate immune system. Specifically, they are interested in understanding how mast cell and bacterial interactions modulate control of skin inflammation.

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 clinical trials team is currently conducting several ongoing clinical trials in atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, rosacea, acne and vitiligo.

Notable accomplishments in 2023 include four recent publications in the field of atopic dermatitis, ongoing trials within the NIH sponsored Atopic Dermatitis Research Network, and a recent book chapter for Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine 10th edition.

Dr. Sen studies the molecular mechanisms governing skin stem cell self-renewal and differentiation. His lab is also interested in determining how perturbations in these processes lead to skin disease. 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 2023 include developing genetically altered mice that develop spontaneous skin inflammatory diseases. Dr. Sen was also promoted from Associate to Full Professor as of July 2023.

George Sen PhD

Prof. of Dermatology and Cellular and Molecular Medicine



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Brian Sun PhD

Assistant Prof. of Dermatology



Dr. Sun's research interests focus on the molecular and genetic mechanisms that regulate the development and homeostasis of mammalian skin, as well as how these processes are disrupted in skin diseases. His lab is currently studying the function of non-coding RNAs in the skin as well as discovering genetic mutations that lead to skin diseases.

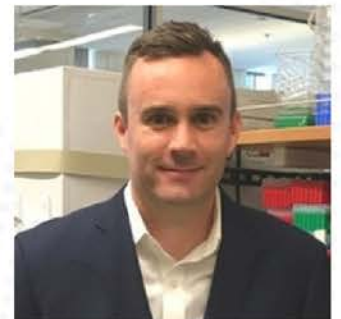
Notable accomplishments in 2023 include publications in the British Journal of Dermatology, Human Genetics, and Journal of Investigative Dermatology, and invited lectures at Northwestern, Yale, UCLA, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hangauer's research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms which allow tumors to acquire resistance to cancer therapies. One current project is focused on the discovery that cancer cells which survive therapy paradoxically utilize death signaling to accelerate their adaptation and resistance to therapy, and inhibition of this mechanism prevents tumors from becoming therapy resistant.

In 2023, Dr. Hangauer was awarded a Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) Idea Award and a Tower Cancer Research Foundation Career Development Award.

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 2023 include the development of a genetic mouse model to study tissue specific expression of ECRG4 in injury and infection.

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 2023 include: recent publications in the Journal of Nanobiotechnology, a new NIGMS R35 grant on EVs in wound healing, and a patent submitted deploying serine protease inhibitors for the treatment of impaired wound healing.

Brian Eliceiri PhD

Prof. of Surgery and Dermatology



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS - Pediatrics

Lawrence Eichenfield MD

*Distinguished Prof. of
Clinical Dermatology and Pediatrics*



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

Notable accomplishments in 2023 include publications on a multimodal program to improve general pediatric provider management of atopic dermatitis in children, which included utilization of a 'topical volume calculator' to direct appropriate use of topical prescription medications along with educational interventions to improve pediatric care in San Diego County, and contributions leading to the approval of 4 new medications for inflammatory skin conditions.

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 2023 include: Dr. Tom is a member of a multi-center initiative to develop consensus treatment guidelines for the use of methotrexate for inflammatory skin disease in pediatric patients. This paper is now published in the Pediatric Dermatology Journal. Methotrexate is a time-honored drug, but there is a lack of clinical trials for its use for skin disease, particularly in children. Thus, the group performed a literature review and developed 46 consensus statements on indications, contraindications, dosing, adverse effects, interactions, and monitoring.

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, patient outcomes and the skin microbiome in children and adolescent patients.

Notable accomplishments in 2023 include: Lectures , Full Spectrum: Updating Tools for Enhancing Acne Treatment in the Primary Care Setting, 28th Annual Pediatric Update Conference hosted by Stanford Medicine, Housing, Health, and Pediatric Dermatology, The Society for Pediatric Dermatology 48th Annual Meeting. Grants: 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 2023 include: Academy of Clinician Scholars Whitehall Prize for Excellence, 3 papers, 1 grant, and 10 lectures.

Dawn Eichenfield MD PhD.

*Assistant Clinical Prof. of
Dermatology and Pediatrics*



RESIDENCY



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
GRADUATING RESIDENTS AND
WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!**

Congratulations and best wishes to our recent graduates, **Nicholas Bohrer, MD, Elise Burger, MD, PhD, Allison Han, MD, Shadi Khalil, MD, PhD, and Carrie Vuong, 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 2023 first year residents!



Grace "Sora" Ahn, MD



Giuseppe Ingrasci, MD



Zachary Jaeger, MD



Helen Park, MD



Caitlin Penny, MD

Our Chief Residents for the 2023 – 2024 academic year are Somaira Nowsheen, MD, PhD, and Bobak Pousti, MD.



Somaira Nowsheen, MD, PhD



Bobak Pousti, MD

In July 2023, residents volunteered at the **VA Stand Down** event at the Pechanga Arena in San Diego. They offered dermatologic 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 **Naomi Briones, MD**, **Alessandra Chen, MD**, **Maria Buethe, MD**, **Allison Han, MD**, and **Carrie Vuong, MD** as part of our Fellowship program.

MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY AND DERMATOLOGIC ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



Naomi Briones, MD is originally from Montevideo, MN. Dr. Briones graduated from medical school at University of Michigan, where she also completed her Dermatology residency. Her Dermatology interests are cutaneous oncology, Mohs surgery and reconstruction, and cosmetic dermatology. In her time outside the clinic, she enjoys spending time with her dog Rocky, trying new restaurants and traveling.

Alessandra Chen, MD is from Folsom, CA. Dr. Chen earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with Honors from Haverford College, PA - where she also played collegiate soccer. For medical school, she attended the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and graduated as the top female student of her class, receiving the Glasgow-Rubin Award from the American Medical Women's Association. She trained in dermatology at the University of Southern California / LAC+USC Medical Center residency, serving as a chief resident in her final year. When not in clinic, Dr. Chen spends her time surfing (coated in mineral sunscreen!).



PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



Maria Gnarra Buethe, MD, PhD, FAAD, is a Board Certified Dermatologist. She received her Medical degree Summa Cum Laude from Catholic University of Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy, before moving to the USA to pursue her PhD research in Vascular Anomalies at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School and Columbia University. Prior to her dermatology residency at SUNY Downstate, Dr. Buethe worked in the healthcare hedge fund and private equity industry in New York.

In her free time, she loves cooking homemade Italian food and spending quality time with her husband, children and her two fur babies, Riley and Bean. Dr. Maria Gnarra Buethe is fluent in both English and Italian"

Carrie Vuong, MD is a Clinical Fellow in Pediatric Dermatology at Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego. Dr. Vuong graduated magna cum laude at Princeton University where she majored in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, received an award for best senior thesis in global health, and competed in track and field. She received her medical degree from New York University School of Medicine and graduated as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. She completed her dermatology residency at the University of California San Diego.

Her interests in pediatric dermatology include hidradenitis suppurativa, acne, vascular lesions and education. She is inspired by her interactions with patients and their families and enjoys the team-based approach to patient care. Outside of medicine, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, hiking, playing soccer and other pick-up sports, trying new recipes and restaurants, baking, and reading.



Allison Han, MD completed her undergraduate studies at Harvard University with cum laude distinction. She then received her medical degree at University of California, San Diego, during which time she also completed a year as a Pediatric Dermatology Research Associate at Rady Children's Hospital. She then had the pleasure of staying at UCSD to complete her dermatology residency, and is thrilled to now be back at Rady Children's Hospital pursuing a fellowship in pediatric dermatology

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, including her toddler. She enjoys participating in themed events, re-discovering children's books, making DIY crafts, and appreciating any live performances of the performing arts, such as ballets and musicals. She also enjoys traveling, and looks forward to traveling more frequently when her toddler is older!

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Alexandra Fernandez Desoto, MPH graduated from UC San Diego in 2018 where she received her bachelor of science in public health. In 2022 she graduated from San Diego State University (SDSU) where she received her Master of Public Health (MPH), with a concentration in Health Promotion and Behavioral Science. Alex joined the UCSD Dermatology Clinical Trials Unit in July 2023 as the Clinical Research Coordinator. Alex helps organize, coordinate, and carry out clinical trials relating to atopic dermatitis, acne, and psoriasis. Her hobbies include reading, yoga, spending time with family and friends, and finding new hiking trails.



Austin Moon, MD received his MD degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 2022 and completed his intern year at the Medical College of Georgia Internal Medicine program in 2023. He will be starting his dermatology residency at New York Medical College in July 2024. He began his work as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical and Translational Research under Dr. Hata and helps with the conduction of numerous clinical trials.

His hobbies include fishing and exploring the beautiful nature and beaches in San Diego.



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.

For more information about our active clinical trials, please email:

✉ dermstudies@ucsd.edu

CLINICAL TRIALS

- **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**

SPECIAL LECTURES IN 2023:

STOUGHTON LECTURE

The 29th annual Stoughton Lecture, in memory of Dr. Richard Stoughton, took place Thursday, April 13, 2023.

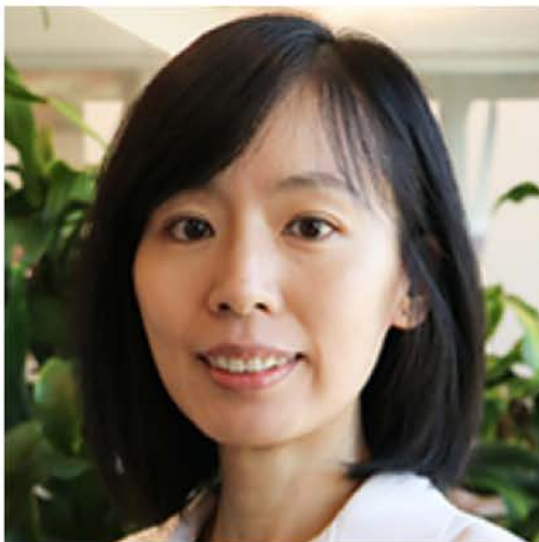
The special guest speaker was **Daniel Kaplan, M.D., Ph.D.** Dr. Kaplan delivered the talk on “**Neuronal Control of Cutaneous Inflammation**”.

Dr. Kaplan is a Professor in the Department of Dermatology & Immunology at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine. He also serves as the Director of the Cutaneous Biology Research Center and the Director of Dermatology Medical Student Research at the same institution.



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, September 14, 2023.

Our special guest speaker was **May P. Chan, M.D.** Dr. Chan gave a talk called “**Update on Classification and Molecular Pathology of Cutaneous Adnexal Neoplasms**” at the ACTRI Main Auditorium.

Dr. Chan is a Professor of Dermatopathology and Surgical Pathology at Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan. She is the Director of Immunohistochemistry, Program Director of the Dermatopathology Fellowship, and the Interim Section Head of Dermatopathology. Her extensive experience and leadership in dermatopathology bring invaluable insights to this year's lecture.

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 2022 - 2023

The UCSD Department of Dermatology faculty had **over 130 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:

Richard Gallo MD, PhD

- Competition between skin antimicrobial peptides and commensal bacteria in type 2 inflammation enables survival of *S. aureus*. Nakatsuji T, Brinton SL, Cavagnero KJ, O'Neill AM, Chen Y, Dokoshi T, Butcher AM, Osuoji OC, Shafiq F, Espinoza JL, Dupont CL, Hata TR, Gallo RL. Cell Reports. 2023 May 30;42(5):112494. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2023.112494. Epub 2023 May 10. PMID: 37167061 Discovery of how the microbiome is controlled in patients with atopic dermatitis
- Commensal Cutibacterium acnes induce epidermal lipid synthesis important for skin barrier function. Almoughrabie S, Cau L, Cavagnero K, O'Neill AM, Li F, Roso-Mares A, Mainzer C, Closs B, Kolar MJ, Williams KJ, Bensinger SJ, Gallo RL. Sci Adv. 2023 Aug 18;9(33):eadg6262. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.adg6262. Epub 2023 Aug 18. PMID: 37595033 Discovery that the bacterium *C. acnes* causes the skin to produce lipid that improves how it protects the body from the environment.

Anna Di Nardo, MD PhD

- Mast cell tolerance in the skin microenvironment to commensal bacteria is controlled by fibroblasts. Cell Rep. Di Nardo A, Chang YL, Alimohammadi S, Masuda-Kuroki K, Wang Z, Sriram K, Insel PA. 2023 May 30;42(5):112453. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2023.112453. Epub 2023 Apr 28. PubMed PMID: 37120813; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10290424.
- *S. epidermidis* Rescues Allergic Contact Dermatitis in Sphingosine 1-Phosphate Receptor 2-Deficient Skin. Masuda-Kuroki K, Alimohammadi S, Di Nardo A. Int J Mol Sci. 2023 Aug 25;24(17). doi: 10.3390/ijms241713190. PubMed PMID: 37685997; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10487941.
- Factors Influencing Marker Expressions of Cultured Human Cord Blood-Derived Mast Cells. Alimohammadi S, Masuda-Kuroki K, Szöllösi AG, Di Nardo A. Int J Mol Sci. 2023 Oct 4;24(19). doi: 10.3390/ijms241914891. PubMed PMID: 37834338; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10573221.

Matt Hangauer, Ph.D.

- Drug-tolerant persister cancer cells are vulnerable to GPX4 inhibition. Hangauer MJ, Viswanathan VS, Ryan MJ, Bole D, Eaton JK, Matov A, Galeas J, Dhruv HD, Berens ME, Schreiber SL, McCormick F, McManus MT. Nature. 2017 Nov 9;551(7679):247-250. doi: 10.1038/nature24297. Epub 2017 Nov 1. PMID: 29088702; PMCID: PMC5933935.

PUBLICATIONS 2022 - 2023

George Hightower MD PhD

- Neighborhood-based analysis of adolescent hidradenitis suppurativa prevalence in a large metropolitan area. Vuong CL, Park HH, Zhang S, Conic RRZ, Hightower GK. JAAD Int. 2022 Aug 30;9:80-81. doi: 10.1016/j.jdin.2022.08.015. PMID: 36248206; PMCID: PMC9557723.
- Reply to “A practical guide to starting a hidradenitis suppurativa specialty clinic” Park HH, Toledo I, Kellogg C, Richmond A, Vuong CL, Zhang S, Hightower GK. Published: February 15, 2023 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdin.2023.01.022>
- Pain management and emergency care in adolescent patients with hidradenitis suppurativa: a cross-sectional hospital-based study. Park HH, Vuong CL, Phan K, Nyun K, Kleinman E, Ignacio RC Jr, Hightower GK. Int J Womens Dermatol. 2023 May 3;9(2):e086. doi: 10.1097/JW9.0000000000000086. PMID: 37152610; PMCID: PMC10155899.

S. Brian Jiang, MD

- Postoperative Complications in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Patients Undergoing Mohs Surgery: Increased Risk of Bleeding-Related Complications From Ibrutinib. Hirotsu KE, Loh TY, Cheng J, Jiang SB. Dermatol Surg. 2023 Jan 1;49(1):103-105
- Post-Operative Complications in Patients on Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors Undergoing Mohs Micrographic Surgery. Panian J, Hirotsu KE, Loh TY, Jiang SB. J Cutan Med Surg 2022 27:1, 71-73.
- Sequencing of within-Subject Primary and Metastatic Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinomas Reveals Novel Diagnostic and Therapeutic Targets for Metastatic Disease. Chow M, Murray S, Miller A, Chang R, Hinds B, Sun B, Jiang SB. J Clin Investigat Dermatol 2022; 10(1):2

George Sen, PhD

- SPT6 Promotes Epidermal Differentiation and Blockade of an Intestinal-Like Phenotype through Control of Transcriptional Elongation. Li J, Xu X, Tiwari M, Chen Y, Fuller M, Bansal V, Tamayo P, Das S, Ghosh P, and Sen GL. Nature Communications. 2021 Feb 4; 12(1) 784. PMID: 33542242.
- Regulation of Integrin and Extracellular Matrix Genes by HNRNPL is Necessary for Epidermal Renewal. Li J, Chen Y, Tiwari M, Bansal V, and Sen GL. PLOS Biology. 2021 Sept 20; 19(9).
- DDX6 Orchestrates Mammalian Progenitor Function through the mRNA Degradation and Translation Pathways. Wang Y, Arribas-Layton M, Chen Y, Lykke-Andersen J, and Sen GL. Molecular Cell. 2015 Oct 1;60(1):118-30. PubMed PMID: 26412305; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4592480.



OPEN RECRUITMENTS

We are currently recruiting for the following position:

TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POSITION:

The Department of Dermatology at the University of California San Diego is seeking accomplished Physician Scientists at any rank to advance knowledge in Dermatology through basic research in Cutaneous Biology.



The preferred candidate will join a dynamic and productive group of independent investigators with research programs that include Immunology, Microbiology, Developmental Biology, or Cancer Biology in the skin.



The applicant will be expected to lead a successful independent research program, participate in university service, and may choose to have clinical duties based on the training and clinical experience of the candidate.



Applicants must have a MD, PhD or combined MD/PhD. Candidates with an MD must be Board Certified/Eligible dermatologist. All candidates should have active grant support and demonstrated ability to conduct a state-of-the-art research program .

Assistant Professor (tenure-track):

<https://apol-recruit.ucsd.edu/JPF03798>

Associate or Full Professor (tenure):

<https://apol-recruit.ucsd.edu/JPF03799>

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor (non-tenure):

<https://apol-recruit.ucsd.edu/JPF03800>

FAREWELLS

As we wrap up 2023, we bid farewell to our colleagues who are moving on from UCSD Dermatology, whether stepping into new opportunities or embracing retirement. While we will deeply miss their presence, we celebrate their new chapters and extend our gratitude and best wishes for their future endeavors.

- **Victoria Barrio, MD**
- **Magdalene Dohil, MD**
- **Anna Di Nardo, MD, PhD**
- **Bryan Sun, MD, PhD**



CANDID SNAPS



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 com- passion.

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 UCSD Advancement 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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Pediatric Dermatology Clinic

Rady Children's Hospital & Health Center

- 3020 Children's Way, MC5092, San Diego, CA
- 92123 Phone: 858-966-6795 | Fax:858.966.7479

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