

DERMATOLOGY NEWS

SUMMER 2022 | NEWSLETTER

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

7 doctors recognized as Sacramento's top Doc's

Ranked 11th in the nation with NIH Funding. **\$577,217** increase in NIH Funding from 2020

\$1,639,557 increase in other grant and research funding over 2020

5 senior residents passed the ABD boards, some of whom are in fellowship training in fields such as Dermatologic surgery and Pediatric Dermatology

An Yen, M.D., invested in the department by establishing an annual lecture to promote the advancement and education of residents, staff, and the community. **Jean Bologna, M.D., of Yale University**, and author of the most widely used textbook of dermatology for residency training programs, was our inaugural speaker.

We held our virtual **Novy lecture with Kisher S. Nehal M.D. from Memorial Sloan Kettering**. The lecture "Challenges in the Management of Lentigo Maligna Melanoma" was valued by our residents, staff, and the overall community. Prior to the lecture, we were able to honor Lawrence J. Bass, our Founding Department Chair, on his retirement.

A note from the Department Chair

The Department of Dermatology has remained strong despite the trying times for our global community. But we are emerging from the pandemic, and I am proud of our faculty, trainees, and staff as we continue to create our path forward. Our department plans on doing a bi-annual newsletter to share recent accomplishments associated with faculty, including publications, grant funding and resident success. Please see the sidebar to the left that references our impressive recent highlights.



I'm proud to announce that my wife, Kathy, and I have personally invested to form the Department of Dermatology Endowed Chair Support Fund. Our hope is that other faculty members and former Department Chairs will also contribute to this effort. An Endowed Chair will help attract an outstanding scholar from outside the university or may be awarded to a current faculty member to honor excellence and to assist in retention. The purpose of the Chair is to give special recognition to the individual selected and to provide supplemental financial support for teaching, research, outreach, and other related purposes. I will provide updates related to our progress along the way.

Some priorities for the remainder of 2022 include:

- Develop a council of past faculty and residents to increase alumni engagement and connect former residents interested in mentoring our current residents. Once established, we hope this group can explore ways to enhance resident education, alumni/trainee engagement opportunities, equipment and supplies, stipends, lectureships, and other opportunities.
- Recruit and retain high-quality clinical faculty by offering one of the most dynamic academic Dermatology departments in the country.
- Develop sub-specialty clinics that make us "the referral center of choice for dermatology in the Sacramento Valley." Inform the community that we are a resource to treat the most difficult of skin diseases with expertise and excellence in clinical care that is not available at Kaiser, Sutter, or any other local health system.

Please enjoy this first issue of the Dermatology Department newsletter. Your comments and feedback are most appreciated and can be sent to me at sthwang@ucdavis.edu.

On behalf the Department and its members,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam T. Hwang, M.D., Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam T. Hwang M.D., Ph.D.

Chair and Professor of Dermatology
UC Davis School of Medicine
UC Davis Health

Doctors' Day Recognition

Doctors' Day took place on March 30, 2022 to honor our healthcare heroes that make a difference. The following faculty were recognized by our grateful patients.



Marc Silverstein, M.D.
Associate Professor
Residency Program Director
*"Thank you for your hard work, selfless dedication and compassion to improving lives."
– Grateful patients David and Cindy*



Victor Huang, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Dermatology
*"You are an amazing physician and I am grateful for your care and expert guidance."
– Grateful patient Jerry*



Peggy A. Wu, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Clinical Dermatology
*"Physicians like you give people hope during difficult times – thank you for your skills and expertise."
– Grateful patient May*



Jason Ezra Hawkes, M.D., M.S., F.A.A.D.
Associate Clinical Professor
*"I really appreciate your knowledge, clear instructions, and explaining things in easy to understand terms."
– Grateful patient Eric*



Philina Lamb, M.D.
Associate Physician
*"Dr. Lamb is always very thorough and efficient in her examination and answers all my concerns and questions. Plus, I love her upbeat attitude and humor! I always look forward to seeing her."
– Grateful patient Bruce*



Renu Rehal, M.D.
Associate Physician
*"My most trusted doctor today is Dr Rehal. She just exudes excellence. Smart, kind and compassionate, knowledgeable. She is the best possible representation of medicine that I can imagine. Very thankful for her!"
– Grateful patient Monica*

Faculty recognition with philanthropy



Emanuel Maverakis, M.D. Professor in Residence
Received a **\$1,000** donation from the daughter of a grateful patient, who shared:
*"Thank you for taking amazing care of my mother. We greatly appreciated your expertise and most importantly, the compassionate care you give to all your patients."
Alisa, daughter to grateful patient Charna*



Yoshikazu Takada, M.D., Ph.D. Professor
Donated **\$50,000** to create the "Takada Biochemistry and Molecular Research and Professional Education Fund."



Samuel T. Hwang, M.D., Ph.D. Professor and Chair
Dr. Hwang received a **\$50,000** donation two years in a row, for a total of **\$100,000**, from a grateful patient. This gift is advancing his research efforts in psoriasis.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

IZUMIYA LAB RESEARCHERS IDENTIFIED A PROTEIN in the cancer cell's nucleus as a critical agent keeping Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) dormant and undetected by the body's immune system.

They used virology as an entry point to shed light on the function of CHD4 in gene regulation in general. During virus-host co-evolution, KSHV cleverly learned to hijack host proteins that can help keep the gene responsible for viral replication dormant.

Yoshihiro Izumiya and his team used Capture Hi-C and DNA FISH methods to profile and analyze chromosomal interactions on three cancer cell lines naturally infected with KSHV. They located the virus's preferred docking sites inside the host chromosomes. The binding patterns, similar among the three cancer cell lines, showed a nuclear ecosystem that can attract and help keep the virus in its silent form.

The team also found that CHD4 (chromodomain helicase DNA binding protein 4) binds to the virus's genomic elements. CHD4, a protein in the host cell's chromosomes, suppresses the work of the gene responsible for viral replication. The study showed that CHD4 is a key regulator of the KSHV latency-lytic switch.

Other Research Directions:

- Studies on basic cellular gene regulatory mechanisms with mini-viral chromatin as a model.
- Finding a way to target KSHV-associated malignancies more specifically by taking advantage of viral etiology with novel drug combinations.



SUPPORTING OUR WORK

The UC Davis Department of Dermatology is ranked #11 in the Blue Ridge NIH grant funding rank list for US dermatology departments. Our faculty and researchers conduct innovative, rigorous, and high-impact clinical studies to discover novel therapies to benefit patients. Donations from supporters strengthen and enhance our dermatologic research, treatments, and patient care.

If you wish to support any program or research project with a tax-deductible donation, please contact our Development Consultant, **Reese Scherber**, at tmscherber@ucdavis.edu or **916.291.5775**. You can also donate online by visiting give.ucdavis.edu/MDER.

THANK YOU for considering a gift to support our growing success.



Faculty Spotlight

Majia Kiuru, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Clinical Dermatology and Pathology

IN ADDITION TO OBTAINING HER MEDICAL DEGREE

from the University of Helsinki in Finland, Dr. Kiuru received her doctorate degree in medical genetics. Her doctoral dissertation research identified an inherited genetic defect causing a syndrome with skin tumors, uterine fibroids, and kidney cancer. She continued to pursue her research interests in genetic medicine as a post-doctoral research fellow at Weill Cornell Medical College and at Columbia University studying hereditary skin blistering and hair and nail disorders. She also continued her internship and dermatology residency training at Weill Cornell Medical Center. Following her residency training, she completed a fellowship in dermatopathology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Kiuru joined UC Davis in 2014 and practices as a dermatologist and a dermatopathologist. Additionally, she leads a research team funded by the National Institutes of Health, including fellows, residents, and medical students. Dr. Kiuru also acts as a program liaison for the Dermatology Department for the Women in Medicine and Health Sciences at UC Davis. Dr. Kiuru is an active member of the Women's Dermatologic Society. This year, Dr. Kiuru is joining the mentorship committee for fostering mentorship in residents and faculty. Through both the Women's Dermatologic Society and the Women in Medicine and Health Sciences team at UC Davis, Dr. Kiuru hopes that she can help integrate helpful ways to further her passion of mentoring and leading others.

“Throughout my career, I have had many outstanding mentors, who I am very grateful for. I have learned something different and valuable from each of them and have tried to put it all together to become that mentor myself. Outside of any academic achievement, if I can be a colleague and a mentor that people want to work with, I would be most proud of that.”

On a personal note, Dr. Kiuru's greatest joy is her family. She has three children (12, 10 and 7 years old). Dr. Kiuru's husband, Jacam Manricks, Doctor of Musical Arts, moved to UC Davis from New York City. Her husband is a jazz musician and he is extremely supportive of her advancing her career as they both share familial responsibilities.

Dr. Kiuru plans continue on the path to becoming a Professor at UC Davis, helping patients in both clinic and dermapathology (specializing in hereditary skin diseases, tumor syndromes and melanoma), inspiring trainees and peers with her research, continuing to grow as a mentor, and advancing her research program.

Getting to know Dr. Kiuru

Is there something that most people do not know and many would be surprised to find out?

I grew up about 100 miles from the Arctic Circle and biked to school year round.

What is your favorite television show, movie or book?

There are a lot. The first TV show that comes to mind is *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. I read both in Finnish and English. One of my current favorites is a Finnish author Kjell Westo.

What is your favorite hobby?

Yoga. I re-started practicing yoga during the pandemic. Yoga is so helpful for both physical and mental wellness.

What is the one lesson you have learned in your career that you would tell your younger self if you could?

Listen to yourself and be honest to yourself to find your ideal career. Work hard and think big.

Inaugural AN YEN, M.D. LECTURE

We were proud to bring a new lecture to our community this year through the generosity of a volunteer clinic Professor, An Yen, M.D. Jean Bologna, M.D., Professor of Dermatology at the Yale School of Medicine, joined us as our keynote speaker for our inaugural lecture. Over 50 of our current faculty, former and current residents, and community members joined us for the lecture *The Many Faces of Lupus*, on Tuesday, April 12th at the Betty Irene Moore School of Medicine. Many dermatologists from the United States and beyond also joined the lecture via Zoom. Dr. Bologna did an informative presentation with her quick wit and humor sprinkled throughout.

Dr. Yen shared he ***“always appreciated the importance of our specialty education throughout my medical career of over 40 years. I feel proud to give back.”*** Dr. Yen grew up during the Cultural Revolution in China, where education was not a focus throughout his childhood. Fortunately, the opportunity to receive a college education was reinstated in 1977, and Dr. Yen and his younger brother were able to enroll in college that year. With Dr. Yen's passion for knowledge, it's only fitting that he has dermatology training in both China and the United States.

Dr. Yen credits mentors Drs. Xuejun Zhu (Beijing University), Irma Gigli and Robert Goltz (UC San Diego) with influencing his career development. Dr. An Yen is a double board certified physician in general dermatology and micrographic

dermatologic surgery. Dr. Yen sees the skin “being a window to your body,” and focuses on surgical dermatology. His specialties include excisions, skin defect reconstruction, and Mohs micrographic surgery. Dr. Yen currently splits his time between teaching resident physicians as a volunteer clinic professor with UC Davis, leading the nonprofit International Dermatology Education Charitable Organization, and practicing dermatology at the Pacific Skin Institute as a founding partner.

Dr. Yen and his wife of 40 years, Ellen Liang, had their son, Kevin, in China and their second son, Michael, in San Diego. Kevin owns a startup medical practice managerial company in Sacramento, while Michael is completing medical school in Florida. Dr. Yen and his wife are also proud grandparents and value their time together as a family.



An Yen, M.D., Jean Bologna, M.D., & Sam T. Hwang, M.D., Ph.D.



UC Davis residents, along with An Yen, M.D., Jean Bologna, M.D., and Sam T. Hwang, M.D., Ph.D. at the lecture.

ALUMNI CORNER

Danielle Marie Tartar, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Program Director
Co-Director of Inpatient Dermatology
Co-Director of Autoimmune Dermatology Clinic
Associate Professor, Department of Dermatology



RECENT HONORS & AWARDS

- Sacramento “Top Docs” for Dermatology, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Outstanding faculty teaching award, chosen by UCD Dermatology Residents, 2019

IT’S NOT UNUSUAL THAT LIFE EXPERIENCES SHAPE THE DIRECTION OF ONE’S CAREER.

In the case of Dr. Tartar, that was most definitely the case. Dr. Tartar’s brother was in a tragic car accident that left him a quadriplegic. Through helping take care of him and talking with his medical team, Dr. Tartar felt compelled to study medicine. A St. Louis native, Dr. Tartar completed her undergraduate work at University of Missouri, where she graduated in 2004. Dr. Tartar went on to get her Ph.D. in Immunology in 2009 and completed medical school at the University of Missouri in 2013.

Dr. Tartar was excited to venture to Northern California and joined the resident program in 2014. When Dr. Tartar and her husband, Josh, came for her residency, they didn’t expect to stay in Sacramento, but grew to love the town. Throughout her residency, Dr. Tartar found that in immunology underlines everything in dermatology, as the skin offers many clues as to what is going on within the body. Upon completing her third year of residency in 2017, Dr. Tartar decided to specialize in immunology.

Dr. Tartar truly enjoys the opportunity to work with world-class leaders at UC Davis and appreciates the environment that leadership has created. More specifically, she values how Dr. Hwang allows for each faculty to follow their passion and how she partners so well with Dr. Brassard.

“The nice thing with dermatology is that you form long-term relationships with patients and their families. I have been with some patients since I began in 2014 and have really gotten to know them. I feel that is one of the most fun parts of my job and one of many reasons that I love dermatology.”



Dr. Tartar, her husband, Josh, and daughter, Ava.

Getting to know Dr. Tartar

Favorite color – Green

Favorite pastime – My husband and I enjoy taking advantage of the outdoors and the many recreational activities in Northern California. We love hiking with our two Siberian Husky dogs and daughter. I also love CrossFit exercise.

My favorite book - *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* always makes me smile. *When Breath Becomes Air* always makes me think. Ava is 15 months old now, though, so I’ve mostly been reading books about dinosaurs and things by Dr. Seuss lately.

Most people would be surprised - I grew up riding horses in Missouri. I actually worked as a wrangler in high school and college. I trained horses and taught horseback riding lessons.

Advice for working mom’s & professionals: Give yourself grace and know that you can’t accomplish everything. It’s okay to say no.

Dr. Tartar – Patient Story

A FEW DAYS AFTER JUDAH OSHAUGHNESSY TURNED TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD, he woke up feeling like a train hit him. He was working on building a home in Humboldt near Mount Shasta, so he attributed it to being run down from that. However, as the week progressed, Judah got progressively weaker each day. Symptoms like tongue numbness, tickling in the back of his throat, and getting a rash on his knuckles prompted Judah to go to the doctor. Subsequent lab work showed he was ANA positive, which indicates the presence of an auto-immune disease.

After learning of the presence of an auto-immune disease, Judah rapidly declined and was admitted to UC Davis Medical Center. In the beginning of Judah’s two month hospital stay, he was seen by a myriad of different departments. Everyone was trying to figure out what was causing his severe symptoms. Judah’s blood pressure became so high he could not see. He developed difficulty breathing and soon became dependent on a ventilator. It was Judah and his mother’s worst nightmare to celebrate his twenty-third birthday in the hospital. Instead of celebrating with family and friends, Judah was fighting to survive. However, things started to turn when Dr. Tartar became part of his care team.

“Dr. Tartar was so adamant about the cause of cause of my decline and didn’t take no for an answer. The way Dr. Tartar included my mother’s input, who has a clinical background, was truly appreciated. She was positive and reaffirming. She saved my life.”

Dr. Tartar helped discover that Judah had a rare bacterial infection that triggered an acute flare up of juvenile dermatomyositis with vasculitis. With appropriate medicine and monitoring after this diagnosis, Judah slowly began to improve. Judah demonstrated his strength and determination to recover when he had to relearn how to do the most basic things like swallowing and walking again. Many marvel at how he went from not being able to walk without assistance to teaching himself how to do a push up. Each milestone in fitness and physical activity helped Judah feel more like himself. Soon, Judah was running again and finished building his home.

Judah is deeply grateful for the care he received from UC Davis and Dr. Tartar. In fact, Dr. Tartar’s extraordinary care influenced Judah’s career decision. Once Judah recovered, he studied to become a nurse. Judah is on track to graduate with his Associate’s Degree in Nursing from College of the Redwoods Nursing in May of 2023 and will then go on to earn his BSN from Cal Poly Humboldt. Judah just married his wife, Karina. They live happily together with their dog in the house he was able to finish building after his recovery.



The rash and blisters Judah developed in his acute flare up of juvenile dermatomyositis with vasculitis.



“I knew once I was in the hospital, that if I survived, I wanted to become a nurse. I now view nursing as my way to thank God every day for the way He has restored my life and brought so many caring people together to help me along the way.”



Judah, Karina and their dog enjoy hiking around the big trees near their home.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FORMER RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

We are looking to garner involvement from our past residents and faculty to build an Alumni Society. This society could help build connectivity amongst former and current residents and foster potential mentorship opportunities. We want those interested to join the steering committee that will develop the purpose and direction of the Alumni Society.

Thank you to the following for joining the steering committee to spearhead the development of our Alumni Society. We appreciate your leadership!

Kim Frederickson, M.D. (1997)
Farzam Gorouhi, M.D. (2018)
Ann F. Haas, M.D. (1991)
Artur Henke, M.D. (2004)
Faranak Kamangar, M.D. (2016)
Khalil A. Khatri, M.D. (1995)
Larissa Larsen, M.D. (2014)
S. Teri McGillis, M.D. (1988)
Martin Reichel, M.D. (1992)
Sima Zahra Torabian, M.D. (2008)
Sarvenaz Zand, M.D. (2009)

Preliminary goals of the Alumni Society:

1. Maintain a current roster of all alumni of residents, fellows, and former faculty.
2. Encourage, foster, and promote close relations among the alumni. Promote a sustained sense of belonging to the UC Davis Department of Dermatology through facilitating a platform for alumni to acknowledge their gratitude for their residency.
3. Provide information regarding the department to graduates, faculty and students. Guide and assist alumni through engagement opportunities.
4. Support efforts of the department through obtaining funds for advancement.
5. Provide a forum for alumni to exchange ideas about academic, cultural, and social issues through coordinating reunion activities for the alumni.
6. Provide alumni access to UC Davis resources such as the library, grand rounds, and other educational events.

We have had only one zoom meeting, so it's not too late to get involved. We plan to have another meeting this fall to strategize next steps. Our goal is to formally launch during a reception at the American Academy of Dermatology Conference in March of 2023.

If you're interested in participating, please contact **Benson Won, Chief Administrative Officer**, at **916-551-2608** or **bwon@ucdavis.edu**.

CONGRATULATIONS to our resident & fellowship 2021-2022 graduates!

Meet our 3rd Year resident graduates



**Suzana Saric-Bosanac,
M.D., M.A.S.**

Undergraduate: University of California, Berkeley: Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A.)

Graduate: University of California, Davis: Clinical Research (M.A.S.)

Medical School: University of California, Davis (M.D.)

Internship: Kaweah Delta Health Care District: Visalia, CA (Transitional)

Clinical Research Fellow: University of California, Davis



Caitlin Peterman, M.D.

Undergraduate: Tufts University: Medford, MA: Biology and Psychology (B.S.)

Medical School: Tufts University School of Medicine (M.D.)

Internship: Kaweah Delta Health Care District: Visalia, CA (Transitional)

Internship: Newton-Wellesley Hospital: (Internal Medicine)



Caroline Opene, M.D.

Undergraduate: California State University, Long Beach: Cell and Molecular Biology (B.S.)

Medical School: University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine (M.D.)

Internship: Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center (Internal Medicine)



Alexandra Vaughn, M.D.

Undergraduate: Brigham Young University: Exercise Science (B.S.)

Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine: Philadelphia, PA (M.D.)

Internship: Intermountain Medical Center: Murray, UT (Transitional)

Clinical Research: University of California, Davis



Michelle Vy, M.D.

Undergraduate: University of California, Berkeley: Integrative Biology (B.A.)

Medical School: Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine (M.D.)

Internship: Kaiser Permanente San Francisco (Internal Medicine)



2021 – 2022 FELLOW GRADUATE

Melissa Danesh, M.D.

Undergraduate: Emory University: Human Biology and Anthropology (B.S.)

Medical School: University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine (M.D.)

Internship: (PGY-1) Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Internal Medicine)

Residency: (PGY-2-4) Harvard Combined Dermatology Residency Program

Fellowship: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Cutaneous Oncology)



Group of residents at the graduation, which was held at Del Paso Country Club on June 18th. Thank you to our Founding Chairman, Dr. Larry Bass, for sponsoring this reception.

SELECT RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Patrick GJ, Liu H, Alphonse MP, Dikeman DA, Youn C, Otterson JC, Wang Y, ... **Maverakis E**, Garza LA, Milner JD, Gao P, Ramanujam M, Raymond EL, Archer NK, and Miller LS. Epicutaneous Staphylococcus aureus induces IL-36 to enhance IgE production and ensuing allergic disease. Journal of Clinical Investigation 2021 131(5)

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Claudia Cécile Valérie Lang, Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, **Emanuel Maverakis**, Marie Charlotte Brügger Targeting interleukin-5 with benralizumab: a novel treatment for drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS). Allergy. 2022 Mar 14. doi: 10.1111/all.15283.

M-C Brügger, **Maverakis E, et al**. Supportive care in the acute phase of Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis: an international, multidisciplinary Delphi-based consensus. Br J Dermatol. 2021.

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