

Dermatology News

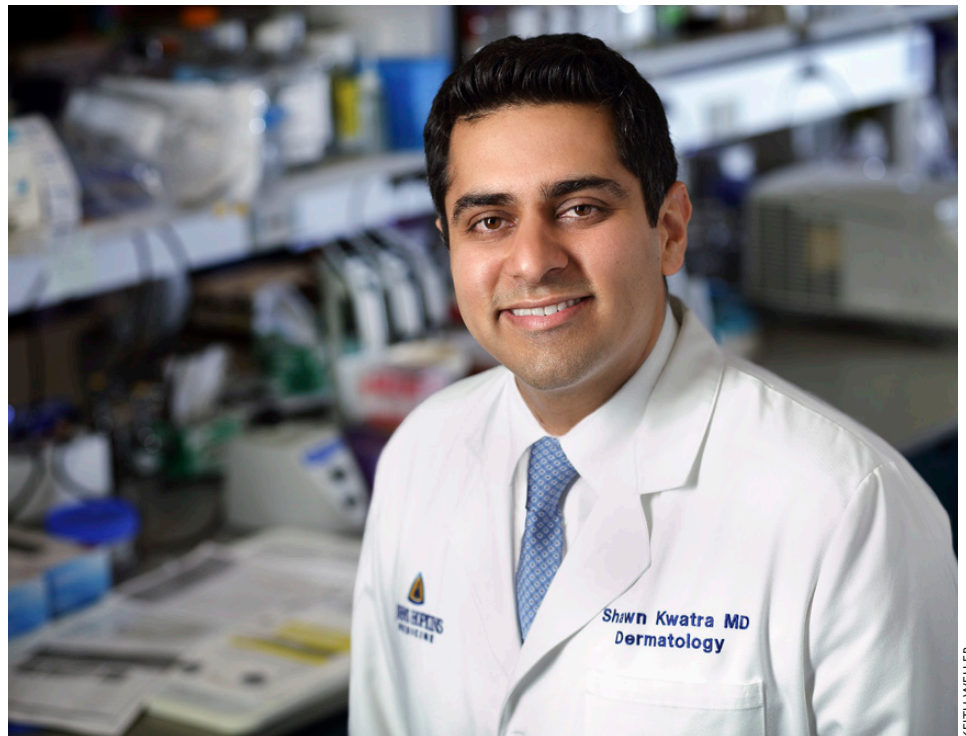
PURSUING WITH EXCELLENCE THE MISSIONS OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PATIENT CARE

Man on a Mission

DR. SHAWN KWATRA IS ON A mission. “I want to deliver the highest quality clinical care for patients with chronic itch and lead translational research in this area in the spirit of discovery,” he expressed. And that’s only scratching the surface of his future vision, which includes creating the world’s leading itch center for clinical care and cutting-edge research at Johns Hopkins Dermatology.

Chronic itch, or pruritus, is a disabling condition that negatively affects quality of life and sleep for millions of people worldwide. While itch is the most common symptom encountered by dermatologists, it is often one of the most difficult to treat. The most recent Global Burden of Disease Study by the World Health Organization categorized chronic pruritus in the top 50 most prevalent diseases worldwide. Chronic itch is commonly secondary to primarily dermatologic causes but can also be secondary to systemic causes such as chronic kidney disease and hepatitis, and accompanies many types of cancer.

Dr. Kwatra, who completed his dermatology residency at Johns Hopkins in 2017, has trained with international leaders in the field of itch, and joined the dermatology faculty directly following his training. He has developed an itch



Shawn Kwatra

specialty clinic at the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center in East Baltimore, which delivers comprehensive care to patients who suffer from chronic itch of various etiologies, including atopic dermatitis, prurigo nodularis, psoriasis, neuropathic pruritus, chronic pruritus of unknown origin and pruritus in patients treated with emerging targeted cancer therapies. “My vision has always been patient-centered research traversing from clinical questions developed at the bedside to implementing a variety of techniques to solve these problems,” said Dr. Kwatra.

He created an itch biorepository, including validated clinical scales and endpoints collected at each patient visit, as well as the collection of skin biopsy

specimens and blood samples from patients with severe itch. This approach allows him to clinically and molecularly group patients with chronic itch into previously unidentified unique cohorts. For one of their recent successes, Dr. Kwatra and his team used their unique data repository to discover a novel subgroup of “chronic pruritus of unknown origin” patients with marked blood or tissue eosinophilia who respond to immunomodulator therapy.

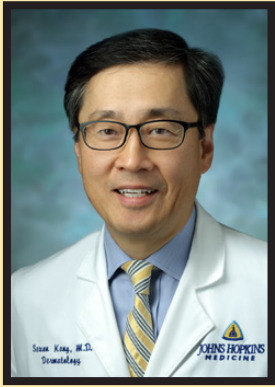
Ongoing studies involve RNA sequencing and systems biology approaches to identify signaling networks and novel therapeutic targets for patients with prurigo nodularis and atopic dermatitis.

“My vision has always been patient-centered research traversing from clinical questions developed at the bedside to implementing a variety of techniques to solve these problems.”

—DR. SHAWN KWATRA

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Chairman's Corner



Sewon Kang, M.D.

AS WE FOCUS ON PATIENT CARE, research and education, the Department of Dermatology continues to grow its footprint in academic medicine. Some recent department highlights are featured in this edition of the newsletter.

Itch is the most common symptom encountered by dermatologists, and it is often one of the most difficult to treat. A new itch clinic, led by **Dr. Shawn Kwatra**, is helping patients with this often debilitating condition. Along with clinical care, Dr. Kwatra has created the nation's first itch fellowship, and is conducting research that will have significant impact on patient care.

For decades, Department of Dermatology graduates have revolutionized the field of dermatology. **Dr. Sharon Hymes**, who recently served as our inaugural alumni lecturer, and **Dr. Herman Mogavero**, who regularly supports our academic programs, are alumni who

have gone on to innovate and educate the next generation of dermatologists in their communities and beyond.

The start of the 2020 academic year brings new energy and focus to Johns Hopkins Dermatology. New residents, fellows and faculty; new honors for two of our current faculty members recently promoted to full professors; and a new clinic at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., for general dermatology as well as Mohs surgery.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. For more on the department and our programs, please visit us at hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology.

Sewon Kang, M.D.
*Noxell Professor and Director
Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology*

Alumni Spotlight **Herman Mogavero, M.D.**

DR. HERMAN MOGAVERO trained and worked in the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology in the late 70s and early 80s. Following his dermatology residency, he completed a fellowship in dermatology and later became an assistant professor in the department. His career took him to Buffalo, New York, but his experiences at Johns Hopkins stayed with him.

Dr. Mogavero shared, "I left Johns Hopkins Dermatology in 1982 after being recruited to the Buffalo Medical Group—a physician owned and directed academic multispecialty group. As the inaugural dermatology chair, I incorporated specialty and subspecialty services, employing the model of Irwin Freedberg M.D., the first chair of the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology. The services included medical dermatology, dermatopathology, phototherapy, surgical dermatology, clinical research and cosmetic dermatology.

"Israel Zeligman, M.D., a former colleague at Johns Hopkins Dermatology, influenced my clinical practice model. In Buffalo, I established a somewhat atypical path as a 'downtown dermatologist,' and for 25 years conducted daily rounds with dermatology residents at Buffalo General Medical Center, part of the Kaleida Health System, where I later worked as the systemwide clinical service director for dermatology. In addition, I served on the medical executive committee and the Kaleida Health board of directors as corporate treasurer and chair of the finance committee.

"Influenced by my Johns Hopkins experience, I was an inaugural member of the board of directors of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, which brought together a historically disparate group of medical institutions to advance health care in western New York. One of our biggest successes—a 20-year effort—occurred in 2016 with the relocation of



the Children's Hospital of Buffalo to the medical campus, adjacent to an adult hospital and comprehensive oncology center.

"Presently, I practice outpatient medical dermatology and enjoy teaching young physician assistants in the department. My career mantra has always been that it is a unique honor and privilege to practice medicine and care for patients over multiple generations of families.

"On a personal note, Patricia and I celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary. We have three children and four granddaughters. We enjoy traveling the world and recently toured China. We are passionate Springsteen fans, and have seen Bruce and the E Street Band in more than 25 concerts on three continents.

"My Johns Hopkins experience has been a guiding force in all of my professional endeavors. You never truly leave the institution, as part of your soul always remains on the campus." ■

Alumni Happenings



Far left: Sewon Kang with Sharon Hymes.

Left: Dr. Sharon Hymes and the Johns Hopkins Dermatology Residency Class of 1982.

Front row left to right: Anne K. Bronner, Bernard A. Cohen, Thomas T. Provost (department chair), Margaret A. Weiss, Nancy K. Barnett. Back row left to right: John W. Skouge, Sharon R. Hymes, Russell P. Hall, III, Robert A. Weiss.

LAST YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF Dermatology established an annual alumni lectureship to showcase a prominent alumnus who is igniting discovery, creating clinical advancements and training the next generation of dermatology leaders in the United States and around the world. On May, 31, 2018, Sharon R. Hymes, M.D., came home to Johns Hopkins to serve as the inaugural alumni lecturer.

Dr. Hymes was born and raised in New York City. She earned her undergraduate degree in neurobiology from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Hymes completed an Osler internal medicine internship and residency at Johns Hopkins. Directly following, she went to the University of Washington in Seattle for her dermatology residency. She returned to Johns Hopkins to complete her residency in dermatology under the chairmen, Drs. Irwin Freedberg and Thomas Provost, and remained at the institution as the first dermatopathology fellow beginning in 1982.

Dr. Hymes is currently professor of dermatology at the University of Texas

MD Anderson Cancer Center, and serves as the associate medical director of the Melanoma and Skin Center. This multidisciplinary center focuses on patients with melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, as well as the cutaneous complications of cancer therapy and immunosuppression. She also is the co-director of the Chronic Graft versus Host Disease Clinic (GVHD). In a multidisciplinary fashion, this clinic addresses complex issues that patients experience following hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, focusing primarily on patients with chronic skin GVHD.

“My tenure at Johns Hopkins was during an exciting time in the field of medicine,” said Dr. Hymes. “The dermatology department was integrally involved in some of the most pivotal medical events of the 1970s and 1980s, including the recognition of skin problems like Kaposi’s sarcoma in patients infected with HIV. In addition, our robust hematopoietic stem cell transplantation program fostered my lifelong interest in cutaneous problems following transplantation, including graft-versus-host disease. The environment at Johns Hopkins fostered interdisciplinary collaboration, and excel-

lence in patient care and research. This was reflected in the work of the great medical innovators who shaped the Johns Hopkins program over the years.”

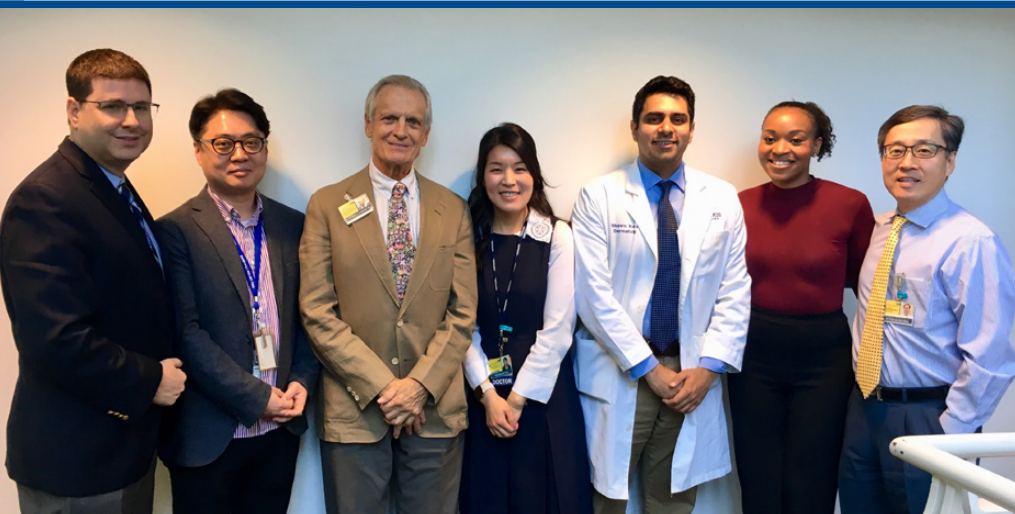
Dr. Hymes’ career combines passion for patient care with service and scholarly work. She has published more than 60 papers in peer-reviewed journals, participated in more than 40 clinical trials, and presented many abstracts and posters at national and international meetings. She has helped to train hundreds of residents and medical students. “Residency training provides so much more than just textbook knowledge,” said Dr. Hymes. “Mentors, peers and the training environment shape the kind of physician and teacher you strive to be for the rest of your career. While at Johns Hopkins, I was exposed to exemplary educators and dedicated professionals who worked long hours to ensure high-quality patient care, resident teaching and community education. Throughout my career, I have tried to reproduce in my own practice, through community outreach programs, what Johns Hopkins has uniquely created in their close relationship with the Baltimore community.” ■

For Our Alumni: SAVE THE DATE

Johns Hopkins Dermatology Alumni & Friends Reception

Saturday, March 21, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting
Denver, Colorado



Left to right Lloyd Miller, Dongwon Kim, Stan Lamberg, Noori Kim, Shawn Kwatra, Crystal Aguh, Sewon Kang

The Stanford I. Lamberg, M.D. Research Prize in Dermatology

THE DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO DR. STANFORD Lamberg, a longtime member of our faculty, and his wife, Lynne, a medical journalist, for their generosity and dedication to research and patient care. In 1973, George Hambrick, M.D., who led dermatology at Johns Hopkins, recruited Dr. Lamberg to manage dermatology at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. While at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Lamberg's research focused on fibroblast differentiation. In 2017, wanting to continue the legacy of Johns Hopkins Dermatology's innovation in translational research, Dr. Lamberg established the Stanford I. Lamberg, M.D., Research Prizes in Dermatology.

With 12 Lamberg Prize recipients over the years, we were excited to host a luncheon on April 24, 2019, for Dr. Lamberg to meet some of the past winners, including Crystal Aguh, Dongwon Kim, Noori Kim and Shawn Kwatra. A list of the latest winners is below. Congratulations to all.

2019 WINNERS

BEST PRESENTATION



Michelle Kerns, M.D.
"Upregulation of IL6R α Expression on Keratinocytes by Sulforaphane is Necessary for NRF2-Mediated Inhibition of UV-Induced Hyperpigmentation"

BEST PAPER (TIE): JUNIOR FACULTY PRIZE



Julie Stein, M.D.
"Major Pathologic Response on Biopsy (Mprbx) in Patients with Advanced Melanoma Treated with Anti-PD-1: Evidence for an Early, On-Therapy Biomarker of Response"



Sima Rozati, M.D., and Nathan Archer, Ph.D.
"Keratinocyte STAT $_3$ Signaling and S. Aureus in Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma"



Saleh Rachidi, M.D., Ph.D.
"Platelet Count Correlates with Stage and Predicts Survival in Melanoma"



A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO **Elizabeth Small, M.D.**, a former chief resident in the Department of Dermatology, for supporting the new Diversity Clerkship Awards in the Ethnic Skin Program. The awards will go to third- or fourth-year, non-Johns Hopkins medical students who are under-represented in medicine (UIM), with heavy financial burdens, who plan to apply for dermatology residencies in the future. The award will allow the students to gain exposure to the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology. The students will rotate through a variety of clinics, including the hair loss clinic, pediatric and general dermatology, and inpatient consultation services. Two students will benefit from the awards each year.

NEW FACULTY



Kristin Bibee, M.D., Ph.D., is a graduate of the Medical Scientist Training Program at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Her Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology was completed in the

Consortium for Translational Research in Advanced Imaging and Nanomedicine. Dr. Bibee's clinical practice will focus on the care of solid organ transplant patients and Mohs surgery.



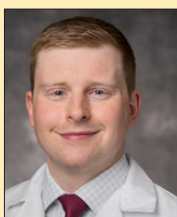
Megan Casady, M.D., earned her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. After an internship at MedStar Harbor Hospital in Baltimore, Dr. Casady

completed her dermatology residency training at Duke University School of Medicine in North Carolina. Dr. Casady's clinical practice will focus on general dermatology and women's health.



Jaroslaw Jedrych, M.D., earned his medical degree from the Medical Academy of Warsaw in Poland. He completed his residency in anatomic pathology at Yale University School of Medicine

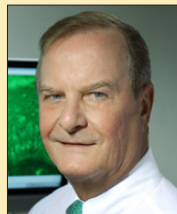
in Connecticut, followed by a fellowship in oncologic pathology at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York and a fellowship in dermatopathology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where he was a member of the faculty. Dr. Jedrych joins the department's dermatopathology team.



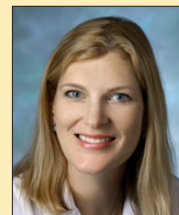
Jeffrey Scott, M.D., earned his medical degree from Yale School of Medicine in Connecticut, and completed an internal medicine internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

He then spent five years in Cleveland, Ohio, for dermatology residency and a micrographic surgery (Mohs) and dermatologic oncology fellowship at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Scott will lead the Johns Hopkins Mohs surgery team.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Grant Anhalt, M.D., received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 25th anniversary meeting of the International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation.



Lloyd Miller, M.D., Ph.D., and **Janis Taube, M.D., M.Sc.,** were promoted to full professors of dermatology. The title of professor is the highest academic honor at The Johns Hopkins University.



Mandy Criado, PA-C, M.S., was selected as a winner of the 2019 Miller Coulson Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Award at Johns Hopkins.



Shivani Patel, M.D., was selected as a winner of the 2019 Frank L. Coulson Jr. Resident Award for Clinical Excellence at Johns Hopkins.



Hester Lim, M.D., and **Anna Chien, M.D.,** were awarded Best Poster in Photodermatology at the World Congress of Dermatology in Milan, Italy, for their entry titled, "A Tale of Two Skin Types: Histologic Variations in Visible Light Response."

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Sewon Kang, M.D.
Noxell Professor and Chairman
Toba Rainess, *Editor*

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With funding and support from the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology, the Skin of Color Society, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, multiple industry collaborations, and the Dermatology Foundation, which awarded him a prestigious Medical Dermatology Career Development Award for his proposal examining “Racial Differences in Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets for Chronic Itch,” Dr. Kwatra is on his way to making his vision a reality. “It means a lot to have these different organizations believe in our vision for transforming itch therapy. I am confident these investments will translate to improvements in the management of patients with chronic itch.”

Dr. Kwatra has developed the nation’s first itch fellowship within the Department of Dermatology, with support from major pharmaceutical companies, including Abbvie and Pfizer. With this funding, trainees will have protected time to work on translational itch studies involving RNA sequencing, exome sequencing, proteomics and metabolomics to discover novel biomarkers for patients with chronic itch subtypes. Because of its location in Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Dermatology is

uniquely positioned to study itch in patients of all races and presentations.

Dr. Kwatra has published extensively, with more than 100 publications in top tier journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, *JAMA Dermatology*, the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, and the *British Journal of Dermatology*. Dr. Kwatra was also senior author on a book for patients titled *Living with Itch: A Patient’s Guide* and gave a plenary talk at the 2017 World Congress on Itch in Wroclaw, Poland. In February 2017, The Skin of Color Society awarded Dr. Kwatra a grant for his research project titled “Molecular Basis of Itch in African Americans.”

“Our group is working to improve patient care as quickly as possible and using Johns Hopkins resources to conduct integrated epidemiologic, clinical, translational and bench research studies. I am proud of our work in prurigo nodularis, where our group recently published the first prevalence estimate and burden of disease study in the United States, as we simultaneously analyze genomic data from these patients to identify new therapeutic targets. I am excited at our progress and look forward to continuing to conduct research that has a significant impact on patient care.” ■

Supporting Our Work

The Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology strives to provide outstanding individualized diagnosis and treatment of skin disease; educate the next generation of dermatologists to become leaders in medical dermatology, cosmetic dermatology, dermatologic surgery, dermatopathology and investigative dermatology; and develop new and better strategies to diagnose and treat skin disease through groundbreaking research.

If you wish to support any program or research project with a tax-deductible donation, please visit:

bit.ly/22JHgive

or call 443-287-2036.