

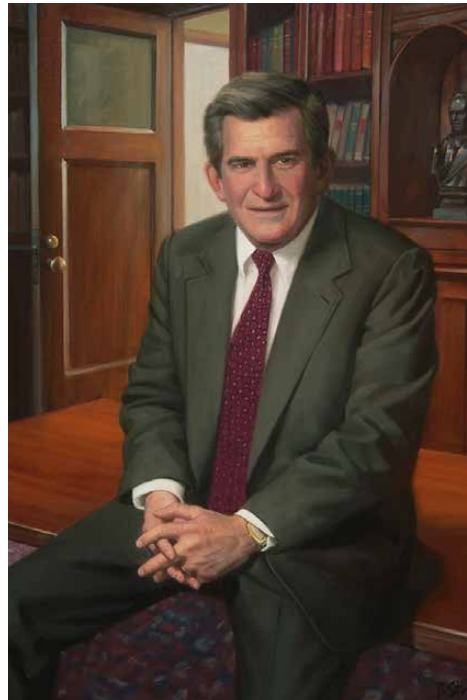
# Dermatology News

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

## 40 Years of Excellence

**H**OW DO YOU CELEBRATE 40 years of excellence at Johns Hopkins Medicine? On Nov. 11, 2017, alumni, faculty, fellows and friends gathered for a symposium and gala to celebrate the Department of Dermatology's 40th anniversary as a full-fledged department at Johns Hopkins. Prior to 1977, Dermatology was a division of the Department of Medicine, yet we can trace our legacy back a century to the days of Dr. William Osler, one of Johns Hopkins' founding physicians, who published more than 100 papers on the subject of dermatology. He had a fascination with skin diseases, as do we, and our work to advance skin health for patients worldwide remains our mission.

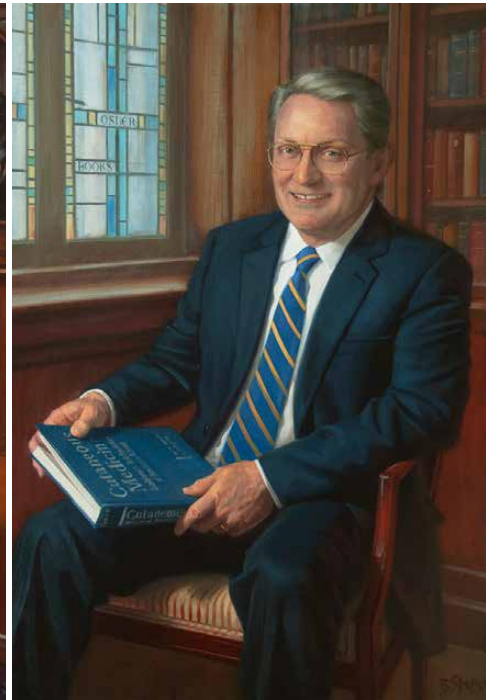
Research was the focus of our anniversary symposium, with more than a dozen speakers presenting their work. Dr. Tung-Tien "Henry" Sun (New York University), Dr. Russell Hall (current chair at Duke) and Dr. Luis Diaz (former chair at University of North Carolina), along with former Johns Hopkins Dermatology faculty Dr. Toni Hood, Dr. Evan Farmer and Dr. Robert Weiss all participated. Each has strong ties to Johns Hopkins as former trainees or faculty members. Among our current faculty members, Dr. Anna Chien, Dr. Luis Garza, Dr. Manisha Loss, Dr. Lloyd Miller, Dr. Ginette Okoye, Dr. Kate Puttgen, Dr. Mary Sheu and Dr. Janis Taube gave overviews of their research. Afterward, participants toured our labs and clinical spaces. Later that evening, 140 people, including Dr. Paul Rothman (dean and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine), Mr. Ronald R. Peterson (president emeritus, Johns Hopkins Health System and special advisor to the dean/CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine)



**Irwin M. Freedberg, M.D.**  
**Chair, Department of Dermatology**  
**1977-1981**

and Dr. Redonda Miller (president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital) gathered at the historic Engineers Club in Mount Vernon for a gala celebration. Dinner, dancing, toasts and tributes capped off a truly remarkable and festive day.

To mark this important milestone, the department commissioned portraits of our first two chairs, Dr. Irwin M. Freedberg and Dr. Thomas T. Provost. Famed artist Bradley Stevens painted the portraits, which now hang in our clinic in the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center. We also created a commemorative book highlighting our history, research, patient care and teaching. The pages are packed with the work of our incredibly talented and dedicated faculty, fellows



**Thomas T. Provost, M.D.**  
**Chair, Department of Dermatology**  
**1981-1995**

and residents who make up the Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology. If you would like to purchase the book, or donate to the Department of Dermatology in honor of our 40th anniversary, please contact Toba Raines at [traines1@jhmi.edu](mailto:traines1@jhmi.edu).

It has been a remarkable year as we celebrate the past and look toward the future. We thank you for being a part of our lives and for entrusting your skin health to the Department of Dermatology.

Sincerely,

Sewon Kang, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Noxell Professor and Chair*  
*Department of Dermatology*



(L-R) Dr. Sewon Kang, Dr. James Fragetta, Ms. Marianne Banister, Dr. Kelly Cordoro, Dr. Kate Puttgen

# Clarity and Hope in the Fight Against Childhood Melanoma

**T**HE JOHNS HOPKINS DEPARTMENT of Dermatology has joined with the Claire Marie Foundation to fight melanoma in young people through awareness, education and prevention. On Oct. 25, 2017, the department held the Inaugural Claire Marie Wagonhurst Lecture-ship in Pediatric and Adolescent Melanoma. Claire was a vibrant 17-year-old who lost her life to melanoma three years ago. Her parents, Marianne Banister and Rocky Wagonhurst, founded the Claire Marie Foundation to take action and save lives. “With Claire’s diagnosis, we found there to be a great gap in information within the medical profession. Many of those diagnosing the disease are



**Claire Marie Wagonhurst**

unaware that melanoma can develop in kids, especially in adolescents and young adults, and that it presents different nuances than in the adult population,” said Marianne Banister.

The inaugural lecturer was Kelly Cordoro, M.D., associate professor of dermatology and pediatrics, assistant division chief and fellowship director, pediatric dermatology, at the University of California, San Francisco. “It’s huge to have a foundation like this that is dedicated to education and advocacy in understanding what melanoma looks like in children. If detected early, there is a 98-100 percent chance of a total cure. We should not be losing children to this disease,” added Dr. Cordoro. ■

## Free skin screening

The Department of Dermatology and the Claire Marie Foundation will be holding a free skin screening for children ages 8-21 at our Green Spring Station location on Saturday, May 12, 2018. For more information or to reserve an appointment for your child(ren), please contact Toba Rainess at [traines1@jhmi.edu](mailto:traines1@jhmi.edu).





## 40th Anniversary Symposium Speakers and Chairman's Circle Members

**Front row L-R:**  
 Dr. Steve Mandy, Dr. Mary Sheu, Dr. Evan Farmer, Dr. Toni Hood, Dr. Sewon Kang, Dr. Anna Chien, Dr. Manisha Loss

**Second row L-R:**  
 Dr. Lloyd Miller, Dr. Ginette Okoye, Dr. Robert Weiss

**Third row:**  
 Mr. David Swanson, Dr. Luis Diaz, Dr. Tung-Tien Sun

**Fourth row:**  
 Dr. Russell Hall, Dr. Elizabeth Small

**On upper steps:**  
 Dr. Kate Puttgen, Dr. Janis Taube, Dr. Luis Garza



**Dr. Janis Taube at podium**



**Dr. Jack Strahan, Dr. Peggy Strahan, Dr. Russell Hall, Mrs. Jean Hall, Dr. Luis Diaz**



**Mrs. Yuna Kang, Mrs. Linda Grossi, Mr. Richard Grossi, Dr. Sewon Kang**



**Dr. Jessica Feig, Dr. Marina Shuster, Dr. Shivani Patel, Dr. Rena Zuo**



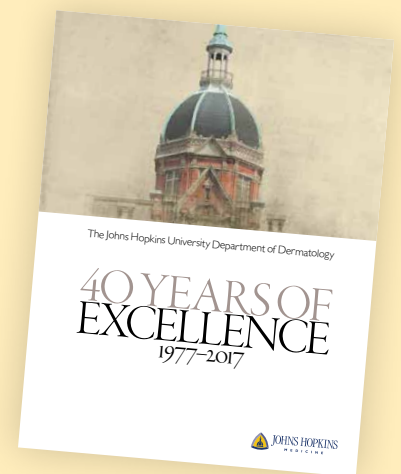
**Mr. Jacob Hodes, Dr. Annie Grossberg, Dr. Paul Rothman**



**Dr. Kene Ukeje, Dr. Amarachi Eseonu, Dr. Ginette Okoye, Mr. Stephen Okoye**



**Mrs. Rooney Peterson, Mr. Ron Peterson, Dr. Redonda Miller**



# Leveling the Health Care Playing Field

**A**CCCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH care should be simple to obtain in 2018 America, but that is not the case for everyone. In fact, research shows significant health disparities in disease outcomes in patients from racial and ethnic minority groups and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The Johns Hopkins Department of Dermatology is most concerned about these inequities. In the research arm of the Ethnic Skin Program, we have completed several studies investigating health disparities in dermatology. According to our findings, societal inequities, patient-provider communication issues and other aspects of the complex interactions between health care providers, patients and the health care system are mainly the cause.

Dr. Ginette Okoye, director of the Ethnic Skin Program, has found striking health disparities in several disease areas. “Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) is more common in black patients, who are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced disease and are more likely to die from their disease compared to white patients. We have also shown that black women are disproportionately

represented among patients with hidradenitis suppurativa, a painful inflammatory skin disease.” Dr. Okoye continues, “Black patients are also more likely to present with a severe form of cutaneous sarcoidosis, called lupus pernio, which is usually accompanied by severe pulmonary disease. In addition, although melanoma is much less common in black and Latino patients, they are more likely to be diagnosed at advanced stages of melanoma and are more likely to die from this disease than white patients.”

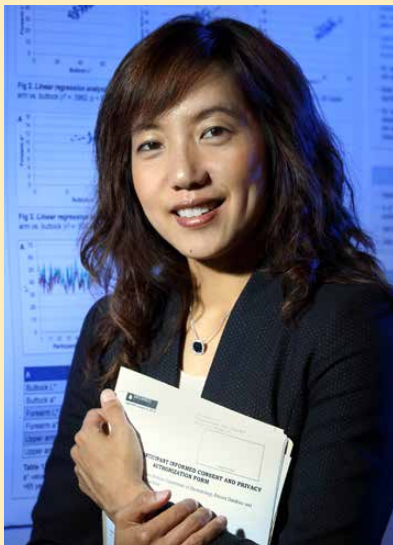
We take a holistic view of the causes of health disparities when caring for our patients here at Johns Hopkins. In our studies and in our day-to-day interactions with patients, we keep in mind that our patients’ trust, satisfaction with their care and their outcomes depend on a multitude of factors ranging from access to specialists and the cost of health care, to provider attitudes and biases. There is still a lot of work to be done in this area of dermatology and we hope to continue to contribute to the literature in this regard.

For more information on the Ethnic Skin Program, please contact Toba Raines at [traines1@jhmi.edu](mailto:traines1@jhmi.edu). ■



**Ginette Okoye, M.D.**

WE TAKE A HOLISTIC VIEW OF THE CAUSES OF HEALTH DISPARITIES WHEN CARING FOR OUR PATIENTS HERE AT JOHNS HOPKINS.



**Anna Chien, M.D.**

## Johns Hopkins Dermatology at Howard County Medical Pavilion

**A**T FIRST, WHEN WE OPENED A FEW YEARS AGO, IT WAS JUST MYSELF working two half-days of clinic,” says Anna Chien, medical director of the Howard County satellite. “Now, there are four faculty dermatologists here doing general dermatology for adults and children. It’s great access for patients in the region.”

Dermatology’s permanent commitment includes buying new space (they’re currently leasing), and bringing in additional staff. They’ll be needed to handle new patients expected to avail themselves of expanding services including more cosmetic procedures and, eventually, skin surgery. “We’ll be going live by early next year,” says Chien. “It will be more like what we’re doing at Green Spring Station, but it will be easier for our patients from southern Maryland and D.C. who want to come here instead of traveling farther.” ■



**Howard County General Hospital**





Front row L-R: Dr. Shivani Patel, Ms. Toba Rainess, Dr. Courtney Ensslin  
Back row L-R: Dr. Angel Byrd, Dr. Michelle Kerns, Ms. Marsha Mackey, Dr. Manisha Loss, Dr. Ginette Okoye, Dr. Luis Garza, Dr. Byron Ho

## Maryland Food Bank

**T**HE ETHNIC SKIN PROGRAM SPONSORS OPPORTUNITIES FOR our faculty, residents, fellows and staff members to participate in community service. Beyond team building, this program gives us a chance to learn about Baltimore City and connect with our patients outside of the clinic.

Last August, 10 members of TEAM DERMATOLOGY volunteered at the Maryland Food Bank. Our group packed and sorted donated items for food pantries across the state. The work was meaningful and provided us a chance to give back to the community we serve. ■

## Honoring MLK

**E**ACH YEAR, THE ETHNIC SKIN PROGRAM holds its Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professorship Lecture to honor Dr. King's legacy and promote diversity in the field of dermatology. This year's lecture was held on Jan. 17, 2018, and featured Ponciano Cruz, M.D., distinguished professor and the Paul R. Bergstresser Chair in Dermatology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Chief of Dermatology at the Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



**Ponciano Cruz, M.D.**

Dr. Cruz's lecture is entitled "Genes, Germs and Zeal: The Future of Human Diversity." As director of the Dermatology Residency Training Program at UT Southwestern, Dr. Cruz works to recruit residents with increased potential for working in underserved areas of the country after their training. Dr. Cruz is the recipient of numerous awards and grants for research and teaching, including the American Academy of Dermatology Excellence in Education Award. The lecture is sponsored by Valeant Pharmaceuticals. ■

## Welcome new faculty

The Department of Dermatology recently welcomed four new faculty members, all as assistant professors of dermatology.



**Noori Kim, M.D.**, received her medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and completed a combined dermatology residency and clinical research fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Kim's clinical and research focus is in photomedicine, in particular understanding the mechanisms of phototherapy to treat symptoms of itch and pain.



**Shawn Kwatra, M.D.**, received his medical degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine and completed his dermatology residency at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Kwatra's clinical and research focus includes itch, eczema and dermatology for ethnic skin.



**Elise Ng, M.D.**, received her medical degree from Columbia University and completed her dermatology residency at New York University School of Medicine, followed by a fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital,

also in New York. Dr. Ng specializes in MOHS surgery and skin cancer.



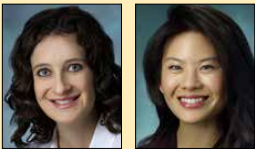
**Sima Rozati, M.D., Ph.D.**, received her medical degree from the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Iran. After completing her internal medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic, she completed a research fellowship in cutaneous lymphoma at the University Hospital of Zürich in Switzerland. She returned to the U.S. for a combined dermatology residency and skin lymphoma fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Rozati's main clinical and research focus is cutaneous lymphoma.

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[hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology](http://hopkinsmedicine.org/dermatology)

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

## Awards & Recognition



**Annie Grossberg, M.D.**, and **Nikki Tang, M.D.**, were recently appointed as our residency program director and assistant director, respectively.



**Shawn Kwatra, M.D.**, presented his research during the plenary session of the Ninth World Congress of Itch, held in October 2017 in Wroclaw, Poland.



**Manisha Loss, M.D.**, received an award for the first year of the Epic Faculty Scholars Program. All awardees are faculty members who are predominantly clinicians and who proposed research projects based on electronic medical record sources of data.



**Lloyd S. Miller, M.D., Ph.D.**, and his laboratory discovered a key underlying immune mechanism that explains how skin becomes inflamed from conditions such as eczema. The finding was published in *Cell Host & Microbe* in November 2017.



**Kate Puttgen, M.D.**, who directs our Pediatric Dermatology Division, was promoted to associate professor of dermatology and pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Medicine.



**Mary Sheu, M.D.** and **Sewon Kang, M.D.**, received a Johns Hopkins Discovery Award for their research on real-time laser-tissue interaction assessment and control using speckle variance optical coherence tomography.

## 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](http://bit.ly/22JHgive)

or call 443-287-2036.