

VANDERBILT  
Dermatology 2022

LEADING THE FUTURE IN SKIN HEALTH



REMEMBERING DR. LLOYD ELIJAH KING, JR.  
1939-2022

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# WELCOME

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February 2022

Dear Friends,

**We send heartiest greetings to you all, and hope that you're staying healthy and resilient.** This year has brought major changes to our Department: first, we have used the retirement of Dr. Lloyd King to celebrate his remarkable career! As you know, Lloyd founded Vanderbilt Dermatology as a Division and oversaw its growth clinically, educationally, and in research for over 30 years. Second, we also bid farewell to Dr. Jo-David Fine, who has retired after a stellar career in academic Dermatology. Jo-David set uncompromising standards as a renowned expert in genetic and autoimmune blistering diseases, and as a premier mentor to junior dermatologists. Third, Dr. Sharon Albers has moved to Florida to join her family. In addition to her expertise in pediatric dermatology, we will all miss Sharon's tireless enthusiasm and work to improve our Department, from the electronic medical record to our activities to promote health equity. Finally, a major challenge for us was the loss in January 2021 of our colleague and friend Jeff Byers, MD. Jeff was Interim Chief of the Division and a tremendous physician and dermatologist. He left us with a legacy of unfailing respect and kindness to others, and we remember him often (especially when we gather and miss keenly his musical talent and sense of humor).

Our department—now nearly four years old—is thriving, and we're very glad to share with you some of our exciting happenings. Our faculty continues to grow as we've been fortunate to recruit top-flight dermatologists. We're delighted to report that in January 2022 Dr. Nicole Ward will join us as Professor and Vice-Chair for Basic Research. Nicole, a professor from Case, is an outstanding laboratory investigator in skin research. I am greatly looking forward to working closely with her as we continue to build our research capacity in the Department.

Fingers crossed that we will be able to see you all in person at the AAD meeting in Boston in March. Meanwhile, happy 2022, and I hope you're able to join our weekly Grand Rounds series on Zoom!

Best regards,

Meg Chren



Dr. Mary-Margaret Chren  
Professor and Chair, Department  
of Dermatology

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I am so sorry to report that after we had prepared this newsletter to honor Dr. Lloyd King, we learned the heartbreaking news that he died at Vanderbilt Hospital on February 8, 2022. We have lost a leader, mentor, colleague, and friend.

Whether you've been part of Vanderbilt Dermatology for decades, or you came through as one of our students or residents, or you've joined us only recently, we all come to realize the role Lloyd has had in building and developing Vanderbilt Dermatology. He did it all—teaching, caring for patients, studying important research questions in the lab—with grace, kindness, and his absolutely inimitable sense of humor.

We join his family in grieving. In the year ahead we will consider as a Department how best to honor and carry on his legacy.

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF

## DR. JEFFREY DAVID BYERS

Ever since Jeff's passing in January 2021, my husband, Ravi Chari, and I have been reflecting on our friendship with Jeff and how to best honor his memory and continue his legacy. We decided an endowed, named lectureship would continue his passion for teaching and once a year the grand rounds audience would pause and remember Jeff and what he meant to all of us. For those who did not know Jeff, it is an opportunity to learn about a great man, dermatologist, and educator, and his time on this earth.

Ravi and I have known Jeff since 1989 when he was a Duke medical student and we were both interns. As fate would have it, we all ended up in Nashville. In 2016, Jeff reached out to me and asked if I would like to discuss joining Vanderbilt Dermatology. After a two-hour cup of coffee, catching up on our lives and reminiscing, I joined the Vanderbilt Dermatology family.

The lectureship will provide an annual lecture in pediatric dermatology. Not only is that my passion, but it is also what brought Jeff and me to the same place, practicing together after all the years had passed. I have asked Dr. Neil Prose, a highly regarded Duke pediatric dermatologist, who trained Jeff from 1993-1996, to give the inaugural lecture in 2022. His reply was that he would be honored as, "Jeff was one of my favorite residents of all time." I think all who knew Jeff would say the same thing: he was an all-time favorite for all of us!

—Sharon E. Albers, MD



**J**effrey David Byers, MD, was the Associate Professor of Clinical Dermatology and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Dermatology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He passed away on January 9th, 2021 at the age of 54.

Dr. Byers graduated from Rice University in Houston in 1988 and completed medical school at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina in 1992, followed by a year of training in internal medicine at VUMC in 1993. He then completed dermatology residency at Duke University

Medical Center in 1996. After finishing his residency in 1996, he joined Rivergate Dermatology until 2004.

He joined Vanderbilt Dermatology in 2004 and became the first Dermatologist to start a full-time practice off campus in Franklin, Tennessee. He served a vast number of patients as an outstanding clinical Dermatologist in this area. His patients loved his bedside manner and amazing sense of humor. He was also known for making jokes or puns and singing with his favorite tune on the radio. He was very compassionate and empathetic with his patients and many had followed him from his previous Dermatology practice. He was an outstanding clinician and educator in our department. He stood out with his infectious positivity and calm demeanor. From January 2016 to January 2018, he served as the interim director of Dermatology, which was then still a division of the Department of Medicine.

He was loved and admired by his colleagues, staff, medical students, and residents. He was a great listener and a true loyal friend. He was fair and portrayed patience and honesty. His musical talent was known by all that knew him. He was our piano man and annually played Christmas carols at our holiday gatherings for the department. His singing and quick wit brought joy and happiness to all that had the pleasure of hearing him play. He was a performer that also wrote original music. He also played piano for his church to lead worship at Brentwood United Methodist Church.

He was a special person that left a lasting impression in the Dermatology department. Dr. Byers is survived by his wife, and four children. He will be greatly missed by his Dermatology family, his many colleagues, and his many patients that he has served over the years.

# NEW PRACTITIONERS



**TERRY HENGES, PA-C** Native Phoenicians, Terry's family took a few detours on their way to Franklin, TN after trying to join family who moved here in 2003! He started his career in surgery at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. After eight years in Hospital Internal Medicine, he moved to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota in 2011 to be trained in Dermatology. He worked there for two years before joining a private practice in North Carolina. He's excited to join Vanderbilt!

**MEAGAN KEEFE, MD, FAAD** joins VUMC Dermatology after completing her residency and spending time in private practice in Brooklyn, New York. She practices general, medical and cosmetic dermatology. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her dog and exploring Nashville.



**CARLA LEE, MD, PhD**, a native of Warner Robins, Georgia, joins Vanderbilt from Heritage Medical Associates. Her focus is on general and medical dermatology in both pediatric and adult patients. Dr. Lee completed undergraduate school at the University of Georgia, earned a PhD in cellular biology from Harvard, completed medical school and dermatology residency at Vanderbilt, as well as a fellowship in pediatric dermatology at the University of San Diego. We're are happy to have her back at Vanderbilt Dermatology!

**JASON MEYER, MD, PhD** joins Vanderbilt Dermatology after completing undergraduate, PhD, and MD degrees from the University of Kentucky, and residency and fellowship programs at UC San Francisco. His goal is to investigate the pathogenesis of barrier dysfunction to inform the development of new treatments and preventative strategies. This is expected to have applications to many skin diseases. A parallel clinical goal is to bring the existing knowledge on skin barrier physiology into dermatology clinics and dermatology training programs.



**PHILIP MILAM, MD** is a Nashville native. He recently moved to Franklin from Columbus, OH. His interests are in general medical dermatology and inflammatory dermatoses. His spare time is usually spent cleaning up his son's monster trucks and his daughter's art supplies, but now and then he plays backgammon with friends at a local brewery.

# THE “KING” OF DERMATOLOGY



Dr. Lloyd Elijah King, Jr.  
1939-2022



Lloyd Elijah King, Jr was born in Mayfield, Kentucky on Sept 10th, 1939, the second child to Mary Frances and Lloyd King, Sr., two hard-working parents who owned and operated King's Flower Shop. From a young age, Lloyd was taught the meaning of hard work and sacrifice, as all holidays were spent filling endless orders for flower arrangements. Lloyd and his older sister Annette were taught to help. They never had the luxury of celebrating the holidays on the actual holiday and had to wait days, sometimes weeks after to celebrate. In 1957, Lloyd began his education at Vanderbilt University. He graduated in 1961 with a B.A. in Mathematics and Physics. Lloyd then joined the military, serving his country for two years in active duty with the United States Navy as Lieutenant, during which time he learned many ideals which served him well during his medical career. He would be heard referring to his military experience, saying, "responsibility rolls uphill." In 1963, his father passed away and his military career was cut short to return home and care for his mother. Lloyd continued his education, earning his M.D. and his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, Memphis in 1967.

After completing both degrees, Lloyd served his fellowship at Baptist Memorial in Memphis where a highlight of his time there was helping deliver Elvis and Priscilla Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie (at 1.60 per hour!). Lloyd married Wanda Waller in 1968, beginning their life's journey together and proceeded to successfully raise three children, Kevin, Matthew, and Courtney. They became doting grandparents to two beautiful granddaughters, Briar and Callie.

In 1977, Lloyd accepted a position as Chief at the VA and VUH and moved to Nashville with his family. It wasn't easy taking up

roots and moving their entire family to a new city, but they persevered. Dr. King began his medical career at the VA in a tiny office with one assistant and a rack of mice right there in his office next to his desk. Leading the way as Chief for the next 25 years, he enthusiastically built and expanded the Dermatology division. When Lloyd retired from his position as chief in 2002, he retired to a full-time job, continuing his legacy as a mentor, researcher, skilled practitioner, and dermatopathologist. He never lost sight of his goal to reach departmental status for Dermatology at Vanderbilt. His persistence and dedication paid off when the Division of Dermatology became a Department in 2018.

Lloyd served on numerous boards, committees, societies, and foundations throughout his career. He dedicated his life to the advancement of medicine. He didn't have any hobbies; medicine was his hobby. He joked about his inquisition, saying he would "pay five dollars to watch a frog jump." He laid the groundwork for brown recluse spider bite treatment and is known worldwide for his work in determining appropriate treatment for this venomous arachnid bite in humans. His collaborative work on epidermal growth factors with Stanley Cohen resulted in a Nobel Prize. He met John Sundberg D.V.M., Ph.D. by chance at a psoriasis meeting in 1990, and then later in the year, he sat down to dinner with him in Bethesda and began discussing mouse models. Dr. King was intrigued and so began a 30-year collaboration and friendship. Together, Dr. King and Dr. Sundberg became one of the best-known teams for dermatological research, publishing 32 papers, numerous book chapters, and receiving multiple NIH grants. Their collaboration resulted in identifying the first mouse model for alopecia areata. But accolades were never Lloyd's thing, as

he was a very humble man and didn't want to be "famous." He frequently joked that he "would rather be the best doctor nobody ever knew."

After years practicing general dermatology, Lloyd began sub-specializing in Alopecia (hair loss) and focused his work on that condition, treating and consoling many patients over the years. Whistling a tune while walking the halls to see his patients, he would always greet them with a hearty smile and warm introduction. His patients would often voice how much they appreciated the time he took, the attention he gave, and the education and treatment they received. He was known to use metaphors in explaining problems and procedures. One that many love and remember is that he referred to skin growths as "weeds in the garden of life". Many of Dr. King's students have expressed that they learned to take the time to carefully listen to the patient, as he did, to understand the patient as a whole and treat complex medical problems. He had endless patience and could whip out a supporting article like a magician to the subject at hand. He was never in it for the monetary rewards, only to improve his patients' quality of life and advance the science of medicine.

It's hard to keep a good man down and Lloyd was a stoic man. Only hospital stays would keep him from his duties, and even then he was known to lay in the hospital bed with his shoes on! His wife Wanda would have to convince him to stay home on holidays, as he would come in and work if she didn't. All those years at the florist taught him that working on holidays was a good thing. He would often say, "If something bad is going to happen, it will happen over the holidays."

Always exhibiting an optimistic attitude, Lloyd mentored dozens of medical students,

staff, residents, fellows, and colleagues along the way. He made such a positive influence on them; some even named their children after him! Regarding the residents as his children, some of them affectionately referred to him as "Dad" and continued to greet him that way for years to come. Always mindful and considerate of others, he served his fellow man with genuine respect. He was the ultimate humanitarian, always striving to better the science of medicine and enriching others' knowledge with education. He was a blessing to so many, furthering careers and teaching his numerous lessons of patience, persistence, preparedness, dedication, and loyalty, always with a smile on his face.

Carol Vick, RMA, who worked closely with Dr. King for eighteen years, recalled once asking Dr. King what his advice would be for her when owning and operating her own business. His response was simple, yet profound. He stated, "Be nice." Thank you, Dr. King, for teaching us, leading the way, enriching our lives with your lessons and examples, and being the epitome of a "nice" person. Your legacy lives on in all our work, now and in the future years to come.



# REFLECTIONS UPON RETIREMENT

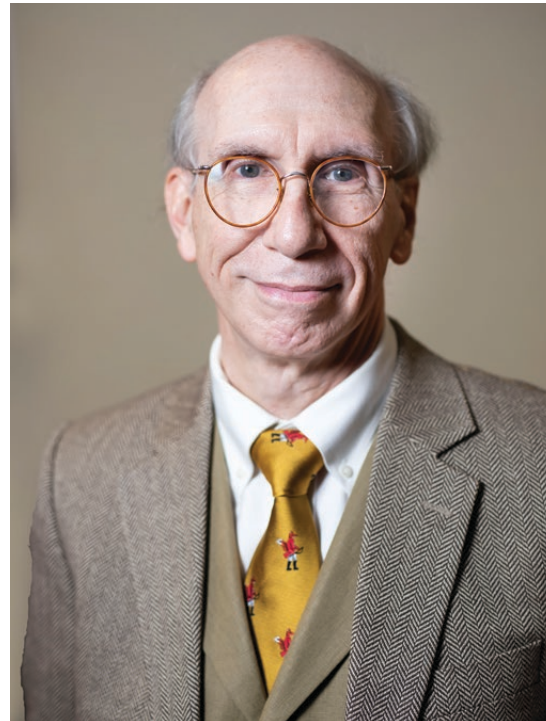
WITH DR. JO-DAVID FINE

**M**y first encounter with Vanderbilt was as a senior chemistry major at Yale. I was invited to interview for medical school in Nashville. Much to my disappointment, I ended up not being offered a place, so I attended one of my state medical schools, at the University of Kentucky.

My next visit to Nashville was to interview for an internal medicine residency, with the intent on being an academic gastroenterologist. Presumably based on my class standing and several honors received as a medical student (especially the Internal Medicine Prize), the Chair of Medicine, Grant Liddle, a remarkable investigative endocrinologist, offered me a position right after the interview was completed. He then asked that I introduce him to my wife, who was waiting for me in the lobby of the Round Wing, at which time he asked her to be his secretary.

In the end, I chose Duke for residency, since at the time it had far more ancillary services available to the house staff than did Vanderbilt. During my internship, I applied for GI research fellowships and was offered the one position available at Vanderbilt. On a lark, I also applied to only one dermatology residency program (at Harvard), since I was becoming bored with outpatient IM practice and really enjoyed my dermatology rotation at the Beth Israel Hospital.

After very thoughtful advice by my own chair, James Wyngaarden (who later became the NIH Director), I chose to withdraw from my commitment to Vanderbilt. Instead, I did my dermatology residency in Boston (based at the MGH but also covering all of the other Harvard Medical School hospitals), an additional year at the Lahey Clinic in a one-on-one relationship with a senior physician affiliated with Harvard, Samuel Moschella, who I still believe is one of the most outstanding American clinical dermatologists,



Jo-David Fine, MD, MPH, FRCP (London)

and finally two years at the NIH in the Dermatology Branch as one of Stephen Katz's immunodermatology fellows.

Subsequently, I served on the faculty at UAB (7 years), UNC-Chapel Hill (both medical and public health schools; 12 years), and UK (clinical faculty; 2 years), before accepting a generous offer in 2004 by an old friend and colleague, George Stricklin, to join the faculty at Vanderbilt.

Several of our current faculty, most notably Darrel Ellis and Jami Miller, were collaborators of mine while I was at UNC-CH, and Lloyd King had played a surrogate role as a mentor to me ever since I left NIH, so my ties to Vanderbilt have indeed been deep ones.

There are several aspects of my career in academic medicine since my two residencies and fellowship of which I really am proud. The most important one, though, is having had the privilege of working with, teaching, and learning from about 130 outstanding dermatology residents over the course of my career. As I've told many of them with sincerity, if I have any real lasting legacy, they are it. Hopefully over the course of their own careers they may remember something that I taught them that they hadn't thought of before (or even just some well-placed humor or sarcasm), just as I still remember similar experiences with my own many mentors, most notably Sam Moschella, Tom Fitzpatrick, Ken Arndt, Art Sober, Ernesto Gonzalez, and Howard Baden, all at Harvard, Robin Eady (London), and the legendary Gene Stead and James Wyngaarden at Duke.

I'm also proud that I was able to contribute to the field of blistering diseases, especially inherited EB, via several decades of bench, translational, clinical, and finally epidemiological research, to include my role as Head and Co-P.I. of the National EB Registry, a project in which my team assembled and characterized the largest cohort of EB patients in the

world. As a correlate, I am now into my 24th year, serving as a member, former Chair, and now Clinical Lead for DEBRA-International's Medical and Scientific Advisory Panel, which reviews EB-related grant proposals for possible funding.

Finally, it was a unique experience to have been one of the first three investigative dermatologists to create monoclonal antibodies nearly 20 years before these molecules finally found pivotal roles in the treatment of numerous diseases (and last year, as the ultimate completion of the proverbial circle, to then be treated by one when I contracted Covid-19).

While I will not miss the never-ending emails, notices, and newsletters from the medical center, along with its yearly required learning modules, I will dearly miss personal interactions with my residents and faculty friends, and the two members of my nursing team who closely worked with and supported my clinical efforts ever since I joined this faculty 17 years ago.

What advice would I leave with current dermatology residents? Continue to improve upon your observational skills, based on cutaneous morphology, and not be swayed

first by a history or diagnosis made by someone else, since neither may be correct or pertinent, and to then use what you see to instinctively generate an appropriate differential diagnosis. While it's important to also read, in order to pass the ABD certification examination, the most important skill in dermatology, analogous to those training in radiology, involves being able to see and appreciate sometimes subtle pathologic features on the skin.

*Dr. Fine plans to spend his retirement with Cathy, his wife of nearly 50 years, and continuing to explore his favorite hobbies. He and Cathy are hoping that sometime in the coming year it will finally be safe to again travel abroad, along with many cameras and equipment, to see old friends, visit new places, and, whenever possible, try to improve upon his landscape and wildlife photography skills. Dr. Fine says his ideal day in retirement would be, "to share the time with my wife, read, possibly study some obscure but intriguing subject, watch an old movie from my collection, and if the weather permits, go somewhere together for several hours, walking with cameras, lens, and tripod, and photographing landscape and wildlife."*



As Halloween 2019 landed on the same day of the week as Grand Rounds, Dr. Fine capitalized on the opportunity to create a themed group costume for the day. A few weeks in advance, he picked the theme of Harry Potter, selecting individual characters for each resident, as well as for a few faculty.

# CLINICAL UPDATES



Dr. Michel McDonald

## MOHS UPDATE

by Dr. Michel McDonald

The Dermatology Procedural unit continues to thrive at Vanderbilt. **Dr. Anna Clayton** is in her ninth year as Program Director of the Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology fellowship. She continues to foster the careers of future dermatologic surgeons and work with them on published projects that improve the quality of our profession.

**Dr. William Stebbins** continues to excel at both teaching and patient care. Nationally, he remains involved with surgical oncology as a member of the NCCN Guidelines Committee, Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Panel. He remains committed to education by lecturing at national meetings. He was recently part of an excellent Mohs panel discussion at the Tennessee Dermatology Society annual meeting.

**Dr. Allison Hanlon**, who practices at VUMC One Hundred Oaks as well as being Chief of Dermatology at the VA Medical Center, is adding Masters of Business Administration to her title. She is currently attending the Owen school of Business at Vanderbilt.

I remain involved with advocacy initiatives as the ACMS delegate to the AMA. On the research front, the surgery unit continues to be involved in a randomized clinical trial of a novel biomaterial for wound healing.

We have missed connecting with you all, and we very much look forward to seeing you all in person again, either at the AAD in Boston or the ACMS in Philadelphia.



Dr. Anna Clayton



Dr. William Stebbins



Dr. Allison Hanlon

Dr. Anna Clayton was promoted this year to Associate Professor of Dermatology. She is the Director of the Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology Fellowship and will be celebrating 15 years at Vanderbilt Dermatology this year. Congratulations, Dr. Clayton!

## INPATIENT CONSULTS

The inpatient consult service continues to operate at very high volumes. From July 2020 to June 2021 we saw a total of 795 consults with an average of 66 consults per month. That is an almost 20% increase in the number of consults since 2017 when we introduced a dedicated, fellowship-trained dermatologist as Director of Inpatient Dermatology. We are excited that Dr. Eva Parker is also part of the inpatient consult team, covering the service for 12 weeks of the academic year. The cases we see continue to be complex and challenging. This year alone the residents have diagnosed and treated congenital syphilis, severe cutaneous blastomycosis resulting meningitis and osteomyelitis, congenital erythropoietic porphyria, erythroderma secondary to MALT1 deficiency, and innumerable cases of SJS/TEN. We were excited to collaborate with 10 other major academic medical centers to publish our collective experience caring for patients with acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis. The review, which is the largest to date, is expected to be published this coming year. As we look to the future, we hope to continue to expand our robust service, develop a specialized senior medical student rotation, and establish a complex medical dermatology fellowship.



Dr. Annie Dewan leads our Inpatient Consult service. She and the residents enjoy exploring VUMC's main campus while on consults, as shown with chief residents Dr. Eric Mukherjee (above) and Dr. Casey Murphey (left).

# RESEARCH

## VANDERBILT DERMATOLOGY TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CLINIC



Above: Madeline Alder, Eric Tkaczyk, and Shramana Ghosh during a session to measure skin stiffness by using the Myoton, a device developed by Arved Vain, a collaborator in Estonia.

Right: Inga Saknite, graduate of Vanderbilt Biomedical Engineering program and now Optical Engineer at OnLume Inc., Emmanuel Mannoh, and Lindsey Seldin



At the annual Vanderbilt Postdoc Awards Ceremony led by Vanderbilt University's Vice Provost Christie-Mizell on May 25th, two of our dermatology researchers won the top two major Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Association awards. Dr. Lindsey Seldin from Cell and Developmental Biology was named the Postdoc of the Year. Dr. Seldin is noted in the official award announcement as a “fearless experimentalist who has boundless enthusiasm, and shows unusual brilliance in her thinking about cell and developmental biology.” She is now an Assistant Professor in Cell Biology and Dermatology at Emory University. Dr. Inga Saknite, the first postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Dermatology, was named the inaugural Postdoc Mentor of the Year. As described in the official award announcement, Dr. Saknite’s “passion is rigorous inquiry in the physical and medical sciences. She courageously undertakes innovative interdisciplinary work that can benefit patients and society.” Over the past three years, Dr. Saknite has been the primary mentor of six medical students and five undergraduate researchers who have moved on to prestigious positions in graduate and medical schools and dermatology residencies across the country. She is now an Adjoint Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt Dermatology.

## WELCOME TO DR. WARD

The Department is thrilled to welcome **Nicole Ward, PhD** from Case Western Reserve University as Professor and Vice-Chair of Basic Research, effective in January 2022. Dr. Ward is a renowned leader in investigative dermatology. Her particular scientific focus is the immunopathology of complex inflammatory skin diseases, especially psoriasis, and how skin-initiated inflammation can be a mediator of distant organ injury and co-morbid disease. In addition, she is a prominent research leader; she serves as secretary and treasurer of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, and is the first non-MD to serve on the board of directors of the International Society for Investigative Dermatology (where she also serves on the executive committee). She is an experienced teacher and academic mentor, and an editorial board member for several key scientific journals.

Dr. Ward grew up in Canada and studied biology and psychology at the University of Winnipeg. She earned a Master's degree in neuroscience at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and a doctorate in neurobiology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 2004, she joined the faculty at Case, where she became a professor with tenure in the departments of Nutrition, Dermatology, and Neurosciences.

To achieve national leadership in dermatological research we want to build on our past legacy in science, and on the extraordinary investigative environment at VUMC and Vanderbilt. Nicole is the perfect leader for this vision, and we're excited to build with her!



Nicole Ward, PhD



Left: Members of the Vanderbilt Dermatology Translational Research Clinic before a team social event: horseback riding at the Natchez Trace Stables.

## MARY JANE AND ALBERT WERTHAN LECTURE SERIES VISITING PROFESSORS IN DERMATOLOGY

The Mary Jane and Albert Werthan Visiting Lectureship in Dermatology fund was established in 1997 by Mr. Albert Werthan and Mrs. Mary Jane Werthan, B.A. 1929, M.A. 1935, to provide lectureship support for the Division of Dermatology at the School of Medicine. This fund supports bringing a renowned physician/scientist to Vanderbilt annually to discuss the most up-to-date advances in the diagnosis, treatment and causes of skin lymphoma and other types of skin cancers. In 2021, we had eight wonderful speakers present (virtually) to our faculty and house staff on lymphoma and other types of skin cancers.

### SANCY LEACHMAN, MD, PHD

*Professor and Chair of Dermatology; Director, Melanoma Research Program, Knight Cancer Institute*



Dr Leachman talked about her “war on melanoma” (Oregon’s Early Detection Experiment), presenting a number of public health initiatives; these included a general marketing campaign for the general public, a “mole monitoring” cellphone application that allows home dermoscopy, and new testing that has recently become available.

### CRYSTAL AGUH, MD

*Director, Ethnic Skin Program; Director, Ethnic Skin Fellowship; Assistant Professor, Dept. of Dermatology, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*



Dr Aguh reviewed the genetics of Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia (CCCA) and discussed clinical presentations. She also discussed treatment algorithms and differing treatment approaches for both the inflammatory and post-inflammatory stages of disease.

### KANADE SHINKAI, MD PHD

*Professor of Clinical Dermatology; Endowed Chair in Dermatology Medical Student Education; Vice Chair of Education, UCSF Department of Dermatology*



Dr. Shinkai reviewed pearls on the diagnosis and subsequent work-up for approaching patients with a suspected diagnosis of pyoderma gangrenosum. She also discussed

treatment options as well as possible future therapeutic options as we learn more about the pathogenesis and immunologic underpinnings of the disease.

### STEVEN T. CHEN, MD, MPH, MS-HPED

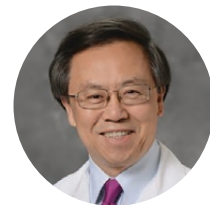
*Assistant Professor of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School; Director of Medical Education, MGH Department of Dermatology; Assistant Program Director, Harvard Dermatology Residency Program; Co-Director, Comprehensive Cutaneous Lymphoma Program, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center*



Dr. Chen shared multiple in-press papers, detailing the most cutting-edge information on cutaneous toxicities to checkpoint inhibitors including how to recognize, diagnose, and treat a variety of reactions, as well as their prognostic implications.

### HENRY W. LIM, MD, FAAD

*Former Chair, Department of Dermatology, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Henry Ford Health System*



Dr. Lim shared his expert knowledge on the treatment of a variety of photodermatoses and discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the safety of phototherapy.

### VALENCIA D. THOMAS, MD

*Professor, Department of Dermatology; Dermatopathologist, UT Houston McGovern School of Medicine; Center Medical Director,*



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In October of this year, we welcomed our inaugural recipients of the Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) Stipend Award. Ms. Christen Brown from Tulane University School of Medicine and Mr. Juan Acosta from SUNY Upstate Medical University joined us for a four-week clinical rotation.

This two-thousand-dollar award is available annually for two qualifying medical students to defray the cost of an away dermatology rotation at Vanderbilt. The application process opens in May and includes the candidates’ CV, a letter of recommendation, and a short essay describing their interest in Vanderbilt Department of Dermatology.

The Department of Dermatology is committed to increasing diversity in our specialty. We believe that having physicians that reflect the population that we serve will help close the health equity gap and improve healthcare outcomes.

If you have an URiM medical student you would like to nominate for the award please reach out to Mrs. Kristina Maynard at [kmaynard@vumc.org](mailto:kmaynard@vumc.org)



*Dr. John Zic, Dr. Annie Dewan, Ms. Christen Brown, Mr. Juan Acosta, and Dr. Sharon Albers*

*Mohs and Dermatology Unit, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center*

Dr. Thomas shared most difficult Mohs closures from her own personal experience, as well as complications she has encountered in surgery, and how she approaches management.

### TIMOTHY H. McCALMONT, MD

*Professor of Pathology and Dermatology; Co-Director of UCSF Dermatopathology and Oral Pathology Service*



Dr. McCalmont reviewed difficult cases he has encountered at UCSF, and how

dermatopathology altered patient workup and care.

### PEARL E. GRIMES, MD

*Director, Vitiligo & Pigmentation Institute of Southern California*

Dr. Grimes shared her clinical pearls on how she approaches the diagnosis and treatment of vitiligo in her specialty referral clinic. She discussed the data supporting both prescription and over-the-counter therapies as well as emerging therapeutic options.





# RESIDENCY UPDATES

**LAURA GARDNER, MD, (PGY-3)** was selected as one of Harvard's Virtual Magic Wand Initiative Scholars for their program that focuses on identifying unmet clinical needs and fosters innovation in dermatology. She was awarded an Early Career Innovation Grant from the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery for her idea on helping dermatologists order appropriate imaging studies for their patients. Her oral presentation entitled "Illuminating the Diagnosis: a Bullous Eruption in a Neonate" at the 2021 Tennessee Dermatology Society Meeting was on a rare case of congenital erythropoietic porphyria that she diagnosed on the inpatient consult service at VUMC. She serves as a medical student mentor on an AAD case report abstract and a manuscript in progress on Medicaid acceptance among dermatologists.

**DAVID SCHAUDER, MD, PHD, (PGY-2)** had a paper published in April 2021 that identified a transcription factor that directly regulates the epigenetic landscape of CD8 T-cells to promote memory T-cell formation.

**SAAGAR JADEJA, MD, (PGY-4)** Chief Resident, presented a case of congenital syphilis diagnosed by the inpatient consult service at VUMC at the Tennessee Dermatology Society Meeting. He submitted a case series looking at hydroxychloroquine-induced cutaneous drug eruptions as well as a case report on a Sister Mary Joseph nodule.

**LISA ISHII, MD, (PGY-4)** Chief Resident, was selected as a resident liaison for the American Society of Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS) in July. She collaborates with resident liaisons across the country on a monthly virtual meeting to discuss outreach and volunteerism within the society, as well as acting as participant and moderator in the ASLMS monthly virtual journal clubs. Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Ishii have been working on a quarterly Cosmetic Dermatology Chalk Talk series. The series takes place during Friday resident didactics and covers neuromodulators, fillers, laser surgery, and energy-based devices. The educational goal is to have a chief resident-led overview throughout the year so that residents are more prepared to engage in the more advanced talks given by cosmetic guest lecturers and faculty.

**CASEY MURPHEY, MD, (PGY-4)** Chief Resident, and **ASHLI FITZPATRICK, MD, (PGY-3)**, are working with Dr. Monahan on a sustainability project on ways to make the dermatology clinic more environmentally friendly. They are designing a survey to assess if patients are concerned

about climate change and if patients think the clinic's green initiatives are important. Dr. Murphey and Dr. Fitzpatrick think that having this data would help support funding of green initiatives at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

**ERIC MUKHERJEE, MD, PHD, (PGY-4)** Chief Resident, had a paper on a meta-analysis of pancreatic cancer screening effectiveness accepted in gastroenterology. The group conducted a meta-analysis and systematic review to improve pancreatic cancer screening in high-risk populations, discovering that more needs to be done to detect pancreatic cancer in early stages.

**KAREN ARNAUD, MD, (PGY-3)** is leading a randomized clinical trial to elucidate if a novel biomaterial containing gelatin, manuka honey, and hydroxyapatite enhances secondary intention healing when compared to conventional secondary intention healing for surgical defects after Mohs micrographic surgery on the head and distal lower extremities (below the knee). This biomaterial has been FDA cleared for surgical wounds.

In terms of resident recruitment, our dermatology residency program continues to be competitive.

RECRUITMENT STATISTICS FOR 2020-2021	NUMBERS
Total residency applicants that applied	608
Residency applicants invited to interview	52
Residency applicants interviewed	52
Residency applicants matched	5

We are thankful that away rotations re-opened this fall (each medical student in the country was allowed to do one away rotation), and we hosted several visiting medical students. The upcoming interview season will be entirely virtual via Zoom as required by Vanderbilt University Medical Center and recommended by The Association of Professors in Dermatology. Our hard-working Residency Selection Committee has reviewed applications and will be involved in the virtual interviews. We have updated our residency recruitment videos and encourage all alumni to watch them to see what exciting things our residents are doing!

# RESIDENCY & FELLOWSHIP GRADUATES

CLASS OF  
2021



**DR. ELIZABETH MACHEN** is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in cosmetic and general dermatology at Lafayette Dermatology & Cosmetic Center in Lafayette, LA.

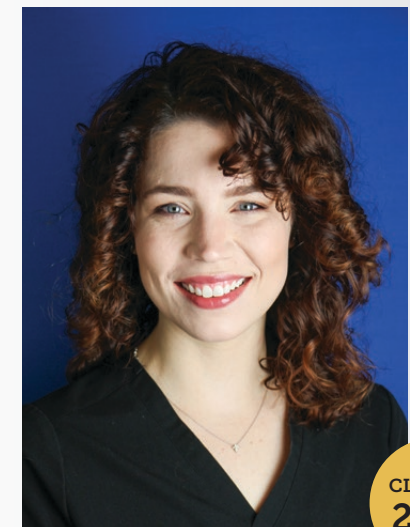
**DR. MATTHEW WALLACE** is a board-certified dermatologist, and a current Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Fellow at Zitelli & Brodland Skin Cancer Center in Pittsburgh, PA. In July 2022, he will be starting a Mohs Surgical Center at Richmond Dermatology in Richmond, VA.

**DR. ASHLEY MATTHEWS** is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in general, surgical, and cosmetic dermatology at Pinnacle Dermatology in Nashville, TN. Ashley and her husband, James, are expecting their first child, a boy, in April 2022!

**DR. ALEXANDER HICKS** is a board-certified dermatologist and a current Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Fellow at Saint Louis University.

**DR. RACHEL BARKER** is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in general and cosmetic dermatology at Heritage Medical Associates in Brentwood, TN.

**DR. ERICA GRILLETTA** is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in general dermatology and Mohs Micrographic and Cutaneous Surgery at Heritage Medical Associates in Hermitage, Tennessee.



CLASS OF  
2021

# ALUMNI

CLASS OF  
2016



**DR. JASON ARNOLD** Since leaving Mohs Fellowship in 2016, we settled in Roswell, Georgia, and I've stayed busy with work and family since then. In 2020, I joined Atlanta North Dermatology in Woodstock, Georgia, and it's great. I'm doing Mohs three days a week and general dermatology two days a week.

My wife, Jennifer, is working at a school in Woodstock - teaching and counseling. Our 3 kids are doing great - one in middle school, one in high school, and my oldest is now a freshman at Emory.

My advice for residents/fellows would be to focus on learning all you can while in training, but always remember that you're treating a person...not a rash or a skin cancer. Treat everyone like they're family and everything else will take care of itself.



CLASS OF  
2016

**DR. ERIC TKACZYK**

Having fallen in love with Vanderbilt Dermatology, Dr. Tkaczyk simply could not move away. He remains on the faculty to this day, splitting general dermatology practice with leadership of the Vanderbilt Dermatology Translational Research Clinic (VDTRC.org). The VDTRC has enjoyed fruitful collaboration with engineers, oncologists, and dermatologists from many centers. This is the product of dedicated effort from the team's amazing postdocs, medical students and undergraduates. Dr. Tkaczyk is also grateful to many wonderful past and current mentors for the outstanding clinical training and encouragement. Outside of work, Dr. Tkaczyk enjoys spending time with his wife Kadri and three daughters.

**DR. RACHEL REDENIUS HOWALD** After graduation, I moved to Cleveland to complete a fellowship at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. I graduated in 2017 and joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of

Dermatology teaching dermatology, plastic surgery, and otolaryngology residents. I also served on our multidisciplinary tumor board. I completed several book chapters and publications.

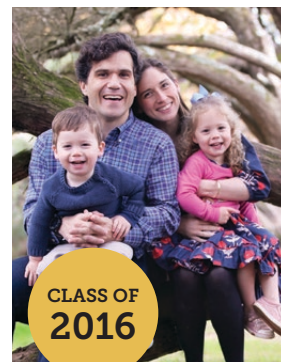


CLASS OF  
2016

I loved Cleveland, but Nashville was calling. In 2018, I got married and became a Mohs micrographic surgeon at Nashville Skin. I've remained there for two years and have enjoyed being back in the community.

Residents, you may find yourself treating a difficult patient, wishing you could be seeing them alongside your attending. Vanderbilt is blessed with diverse backgrounds and approaches. Rest assured, this training will serve you well.

**DR. ELIZABETH ERGEN** Since leaving Vanderbilt in 2016 I have settled in Knoxville, TN with my husband and our kids. We love it! I do the dermatology consults and have a dermatology clinic at UT Medical Center. I often call Vanderbilt



CLASS OF  
2016

for advice. Thanks Drs. Zic, Zwerner, Miller and Dewan! I am the incoming transitional year program director here - working with dermatology-bound residents. I have enrolled myself in a lifelong surgery fellowship under Dr. Stebbins. He is my biggest surgery hero. I think about Dr. Lloyd King, Dr. Fine and Dr. Boyd every day and hope to be so wise someday. If you are a dermatology resident reading this - it is a big world of opportunity out there - you will be needed and useful - call me if life brings you to Knoxville.

**DR. COURTNEY SCHADT** After graduating from dermatology residency in 2011, I moved to Louisville where I am an Associate Professor and Residency Program Director at the University of Louisville Division of Dermatology. I'm passionate about dermatology and education. I recently joined the ACGME Dermatology Residency Review Committee. I also serve on the board of directors for the Association of Professors of Dermatology and am a member of the University of Louisville Accreditation Committee.

I also serve as the Chief of Dermatology at the Louisville VAMC and am the Patient Page Editor for JAMA Dermatology. My husband and I have three children. My time at Vanderbilt was wonderful. I am grateful for the training and the camaraderie. The fond memories are numerous--among my favorite were the holiday parties and the piano and singing of Jeff Byers. Words of advice for dermatology residents: be grateful for the privilege of serving our patients, and be a sponge--it goes by too fast!



CLASS OF  
2011

VANDERBILT  
Dermatology

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# ALUMNI REUNION

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in person at the AAD meeting in Boston! To celebrate being together again, we hope you will join us for our reunion social on the evening of March 25th.

If you plan to join us, please email [dermatology@vumc.org](mailto:dermatology@vumc.org), so we can prepare enough refreshments for all. Please note that you do not have to commit to the whole time, so if you can only come for a portion of the reunion, we would love to have you!

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## VANDERBILT DERMATOLOGY ALUMNI REUNION

**Westin Boston Seaport**

**Commonwealth Ballroom Section B**

**Friday, March 25, 2022**

**5:00pm - 7:30pm**

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We hope to see you there!

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VANDERBILT  
Dermatology