

# VANDERBILT Dermatology 2024

LEADING THE FUTURE IN SKIN HEALTH



## COVER STORY

MICHEL McDONALD:  
REFLECTING ON MY CAREER  
IN MOHS AT VANDERBILT



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# WELCOME

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January 2024

Hello from Nashville! We hope you are all doing well and that you have had a wonderful 2023.

The Department – now almost 6 years old – is thriving, and we are happy to share some updates with you in this annual newsletter. This year, we are spotlighting our Division of Mohs Surgery and Procedural Dermatology, who have had a stellar history of clinical excellence; please read on about how it is continuing to grow and develop as the Department expands.

An important milestone for us this year has been the institution of the **Lloyd E. King, Jr. Directorship in Dermatology Research**. The funds to support this Directorship are a legacy directly from our Department, and we are thrilled that the Dean has approved the appointment of Dr. Nicole Ward as the first recipient of this Directorship. This is an exceptional honor that was strenuously reviewed by senior VUMC research faculty, and as an international leader in inflammatory skin disease research and Vice-Chair of our Department, Nicole is a perfect recipient for this award. These endowed Directorships are enduring honors that are revered assets of the Medical Center; this one celebrates the legacy of our esteemed leader, Lloyd E. King, Jr, MD, PhD, and I know Lloyd would have been elated by this news, too.

Please reach out to me directly if you are in the Nashville area and would like to visit; meanwhile, we all look forward to seeing you at our Vanderbilt Reunion at the AAD on March 8, 2024!

Best regards,

Meg Chren



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



*Vanderbilt Dermatology Faculty and House Staff*

# REFLECTING ON MY CAREER IN MOHS

Cover Story

by Dr. Michel McDonald

Vanderbilt Dermatology has changed a great deal since my residency in the mid-1990s. There were a total of eight residents during my tenure, and we carried three pagers on call. Those of you reading this who trained at that time will remember the brown recluse spider pager with either nostalgic fondness or dread. I officially joined the Department in 1998 when Dermatology was a Division of the Department of Medicine. We were a much smaller group of nine full-time faculty and two part-time faculty led by the consummate physician-scientist Dr.

Lloyd E King Jr. His sayings resonated in the exam room and in life. For example, “busy hands are happy hands” is applicable to your pruritic patient and to your bored four year old child. I still miss his smile in the hallway and am forever grateful for his support.

I joined Dr. Thomas Stasko as the second Mohs surgeon on the faculty. We worked out of four rooms and used a paper planner to lay out the week’s surgeries long before the words Epic, templates, and smartphrases were a part of our vocabulary. Dr. Stasko’s mentorship was invaluable in shaping my career. He was not only the type of surgeon but also the type of person that I wanted to emulate. I thank him for both his training in the operating room and his encouragement to pursue leadership opportunities in dermatology. He encouraged me to become the American College of Mohs Surgery delegate to the American Medical Association. This brought me great fulfillment as the delegation worked to impact organized medicine, and it also provided me with incredible friendships with colleagues across the country. During my time working with the American Medical Association, the Dermatology delegation addressed issues affecting patients and physicians including implementation of the Affordable Care Act, lessening the burden of prior authorizations, protecting the physician-patient relationship, and many others.



My participation in the AMA delegation opened the door for my advocacy work within the American Academy of Dermatology as chair of the Grassroots Advocacy Task Force. One of my major roles in this position was spearheading the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., where dermatologists interact with Congressional members and advocate on behalf of their peers and their patients. Looking out over a room of three hundred dermatologists who gave up two working days to advocate for policy changes that allow better patient care is a highlight of my career.

It is also ironic as I am the daughter of two politicians and insisted that I would be in an apolitical career. Never say never is a lesson I have learned. If you do, you may miss out on wonderful opportunities.

In 2002, Dr. George Stricklin became the new Chair of Dermatology, and I received the same unwavering support of my career from him. He always demonstrated a calm demeanor and a thoughtful approach to problems. I have tried to incorporate this style in my administrative roles. I hope I have been half as efficacious as he was. During this time, I often hosted the end of year resident party where he presided over the festivities. As the residency grew, so did the gatherings. By the time of his retirement in 2018, there were twelve residents and nineteen full-time faculty members.

As I transitioned to more administrative duties with the departure of Dr. Stasko in 2013, I was able to work with amazingly talented surgeons. Dr. Anna Clayton will always be the fellowship director that trains you well, feeds you well, and makes you feel like one of her own. Dr. Allison Hanlon can do multiple jobs at once, keeping up with each one and doing them all to perfection. Dr. William Stebbins has an incredible ability to teach and technical finesse that is unparalleled. Dr. Will Lumbang showed dedication to the transplant population and handled difficult cases

# AT VANDERBILT DERMATOLOGY



*Vanderbilt Dermatology Mohs team across the years, gathering at Pinewood Social, Department Holiday Party, and Arrington Vineyard*

daily. The opportunity to work with them and learn from them was a gift. In 2018, Dermatology became its own Department under the leadership of Dr. Meg Chren. I admire her strong commitment to successfully transitioning us to a department combined with her incredible compassion. She enthusiastically supported my continued work with organized medicine. I have served as the Board Chair for both the Nashville Academy of Medicine and the Tennessee Medical Association. I am most proud of the Nashville Academy of Medicine's Project Access program which provides coordinated specialty care for uninsured patients. It remains one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career.



*Vanderbilt Mohs Faculty Team, 2012*

As I transition to my next chapter, I am grateful for the opportunities I didn't shy away from pursuing, the mentors that encouraged me to pursue them, the colleagues who stood by my side during the journey, and the residents and fellows I watched evolve along the way. I spent twenty-eight years at Vanderbilt Dermatology, and I am thankful for every one of them.

## **THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO OUR FELLOWSHIP IN THE LAST YEAR.**

After leading us as Chief of Procedural Dermatology since January 2013, Dr. Michel McDonald has retired. We miss her wisdom, grace, diplomacy, and superior surgical skills. We wish her all the best and are overjoyed that she is able to spend quality time with her lovely family.

Dr. Allison Hanlon and I have kept the home fires burning and have done our best to carry on without her. This October, we were very happy to welcome Dr. Stacy McMurray as our new Mohs surgeon colleague. She is a Tennessee native and no stranger to Vanderbilt as she completed her fellowship with us in 2020. She has spent the last three years as a member of the Mohs staff at the University of Pennsylvania. We are very lucky that she chose to join us in Tennessee. Welcome back, Dr. McMurray!

In the last five years, the Mohs team has been very active in clinical research, having completed an IRB approved study (started by Dr. McMurray when she was a fellow!) spanning several years and culminating in publication of results in peer reviewed journals. Thanks to the efforts of our fellows and residents, another original Vanderbilt IRB approved longitudinal clinical study is currently underway. Dr. Hanlon continues her very active participation on committees in the Mohs college and ASDS. Her involvement in these organizations keeps Vanderbilt Mohs at the forefront of education. We are also very excited that Dr. McMurray will now be representing us in the greater surgical community. She has presented at multiple national and international conferences, and we look forward to her future endeavors.

*– Dr. Tina Clayton*

# DERMATOLOGY AWARDS & LECTURESHIPS



Pictured at the Dr. Lloyd E. King Dermatology Faculty Scholar Lecture are Dr. John Zic, Dr. Meg Chren, family members Wanda King and Courtney King-Merrell, and Dr. and Mrs. Morgan Magid.

The second annual Jeffrey D. Byers, MD Lectureship in Dermatology was held April 20, 2023. The purpose of this endowed yearly lecture is to honor and remember our friend and colleague, Dr. Jeff Byers. The visiting professor was **DR. CANDRICE HEATH**, Assistant Professor and pediatric dermatologist at Temple University. She is an expert in skin of color and hair and gave a wonderful lecture entitled *From Compassion to Curiosity: Escaping the cycle of scarring alopecia in those with tightly coiled hair*. One focus of the talk was examining textured hair with cultural competence and humility. The audience came away with many practical pearls for treating tightly coiled hair. As humanitarian care was always a goal for Dr. Byers, this was a wonderful way to honor him.



Above, Drs. Sharon Albers, Candrice Heath, and Ravi Chari

**DR. JOHN ZIC** was named the Lloyd E. King Scholar for 2023. He gave an excellent talk on the history of Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma (CTCL) and the role Dr. King played in it, especially in expanding treatment options for CTCL here in Nashville. Dr. King and Dr. Zic have been key researchers in CTCL for the last 30 years and have been part of many advances helping patients live longer and better.

## KING TEACHING AWARDS 2023

Lloyd E. King Jr., MD, Excellence in Teaching Awards are an annual tradition in the Department of Dermatology.

The **RESIDENT TEACHING AWARD** is given to one third year resident for being an exceptional educator to residents and medical students. This year's recipient is **LAURA J. GARDNER, MD, MS**.

The **FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD** is given to the faculty member who has demonstrated excellence as an educator to the residents for the academic year. This year's recipient is **JASON M. MEYER, MD, PHD**.



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# NEW PRACTITIONERS

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**TRENDA KLINSKY, DNP, CPNP** joins the Department of Dermatology from the Department of Pediatrics, where she continues work in the Acute Care Clinic. Originally from the Chicagoland area, she received her BSN from Vanderbilt University and



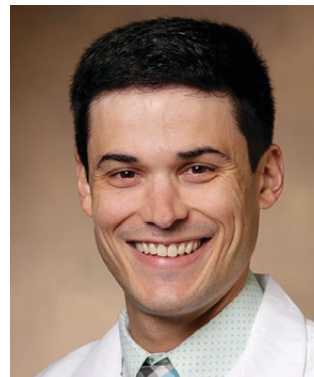
began her career at Northwestern University's Childrens Memorial Hospital in the Pediatric ICU. She then attended Rush University where she received her Doctor of Nursing Practice in 1995. She began working at Monroe Carell Jr. Hospital at Vanderbilt in the Acute Care Clinic in 2003, and, in 2009, she added dermatology to her skillset while working with Dr. Michael Smith. We are thrilled to officially have her on board in Dermatology!

medical training from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) and completed a fellowship in Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Prior to returning to Vanderbilt, Dr. McMurray was an Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania where she focused on research, education, and clinical care. She now serves as the Associate Program Director for the MSDO Fellowship at VUMC, and her interests include cutaneous oncology, Mohs micrographic surgery and advanced reconstruction, and medical education.



**STEPHEN MALACHOWSKI, M.D.** completed medical school at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine and residency in Dermatology at Virginia Commonwealth University where he served as a co-chief resident during his final year. With both

a bachelors and masters in finance, he has cultivated his interests in cost-effective medical care, resident and medical student education, and statistical literacy in medicine. His clinical interests include atopic dermatitis, cutaneous lymphoma, psoriasis, melanoma, squamous cell skin cancer, and basal cell skin cancer. He currently serves on the JAAD Editorial Board.



A native Texan, after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, **DUSTIN TAYLOR, M.D.** earned his medical degree and completed his internship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He completed his residency training at

the University of Vermont Medical Center, serving as chief resident in his final year. He then pursued a fellowship in rheumatologic dermatology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Taylor's now joins Vanderbilt Dermatology with special interest in autoimmune conditions of the skin, particularly connective tissue disease.

**STACY McMURRAY, M.D.** joined Vanderbilt Dermatology in October of 2023. She received her



## **DR. JASON MEYER**

was promoted to Assistant Professor of Dermatology earlier this year. In his first two years with Vanderbilt Dermatology, his significant clinical and research efforts have been a great contribution to the Department. Congratulations, Dr. Meyer!



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# DEPARTMENT RESEARCH

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## DEPARTMENT RESEARCH UPDATE



*Faculty Researchers  
Drs. Meyer, Saknite, Chren,  
Tkaczyk, Wheless, and  
Mukherjee*

Over this past year, our individual researchers have had many personal successes. **DR. MUKHERJEE** was awarded a 2023 Dermatology Foundation Dermatologist Investigator Research Fellowship and is pursuing a Dermatology Foundation Career Development Award. With the support of his VA Career Development Award, **DR. WHELESS** will be transitioning fully to the VA. In this appointment, he is also serving as the liaison between the Million Veteran Program and international consortia on Melanoma and Hidradenitis suppurativa. **DR. TKACZYK** will continue work on GVHD with the support of a VA Merit Award. We are grateful for connections between VUMC and

the VA and the opportunities this collaboration provides. **DR. WARD** has received the honor of appointment as the first Lloyd E. King, Jr. Directorship in Dermatology Research and the Distinguished Senior Investigator Award from the National Psoriasis Foundation. We are thrilled to watch and support our researchers! To amplify our individual researchers' successes through collaboration and community, we have established a standing monthly meeting. Here our researchers can strategize on the future of Dermatology research and discuss scientific problems and wins. We look forward to another year of collaboration and growth.



### Dr. Lee Wheless Receives Highly Sought-After VA Career Development Award

**A**ssistant Professor in Dermatology, Dr. Lee Wheless, MD, PhD, has been awarded a 5-year, \$1.8 million VA Career Development Award to continue his research examining patterns of skin cancer risk amongst high-risk patients. Using AI and big data, this award will allow Dr. Wheless to continue to focus his efforts on clinical research, support his lab, and continue to help him create a niche within this unique area of cancer research through 2028. This funding will enable him to continue to develop and deploy tools to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with skin cancers in organ transplant recipients and ultimately for all Veterans with skin cancer.



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## DR. WARD'S LAB IS BUSY AND GROWING

by Dr. Nicole Ward

The Ward Lab has been steadily working on five projects during the past year. Through these projects, we have had the pleasure of collaborating with The Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, and The University of Michigan. In addition to these established projects, Dr. Nicole Ward has been traveling to meetings with other skin researchers. In September of 2023, Nicole attended the invite only International Psoriasis Council Think Tank in the Faroe Islands. The collaborative nature of skin science has us looking forward to the years ahead. We are also focused on finding and hiring skilled candidates, and we will continue our search for a Basic Scientist and Postdoc. In the past year, we said farewell to Sara Matthews, as she is off to Medical School. Thank you, Sara, for your work during your time at VUMC, and we wish you success in this new chapter. To accompany our lab manager Christa Gaskill, we said hello to two new research assistants. Please join us in welcoming Emily Huddleston and Christian Sorensen to the Ward lab and Department of Dermatology.



*Dr. Nicole Ward  
Vice Chair for Basic Research*



*far left, Sara Matthews' going away dinner*

*left, IPC Think Tank in Faroe Islands*

## Dr. Ward received Distinguished Senior Investigator Award from the National Psoriasis Foundation

Dr. Meg Chren, chairwoman for the Department of Dermatology, nominated Dr. Nicole Ward for the National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) Distinguished Senior Investigator Award. This award recognizes an established investigator who has made significant research contributions to psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, or related comorbidities. On October 6th, in Washington DC, during the 2023 Future of Psoriatic Disease: A Cure for all research symposium, Dr. Ward was awarded with this honor. These NPF Research Symposium Awards recognize researchers and clinician researchers who have made a significant impact in research, clinical, or health equity to improve the lives of the 125 million affected by psoriatic disease. Congratulations Dr. Ward; we are delighted by your accomplishments and being recognized by the national scientific community of psoriasis physicians and scientists!



# VDTRC VANDERBILT DERMATOLOGY TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CLINIC

below, **HAYDEN SMITH**, current VDTRC member and Vanderbilt medical student, presented at the 8th annual Southern Dermatology Consortium Resident Research Day at the University of Mississippi. Pictured below holding the Myoton device with Robert Brodell, MD, FAAD.



We are proud that 2023 has marked the launch of the North American Therapeutics in Epidermal Necrolysis Syndrome (NATIENS) double-blinded, multicenter, randomized placebo-controlled trial of etanercept and cyclosporine in SJS/TEN. To standardize and test the scoring of the primary skin assessments, VDTRC team members created, and validated mock lesion kits for the >20 participating centers. The “lesion cutting party” is pictured above.



right, **DR. ERIC R. TKACZYK** with Meredith A. Cowden before his talk about AI for skin measurement at the 10th annual graft-versus-host disease symposium in Cleveland, Ohio, organized by the Meredith A. Cowden Foundation.

below, **DR. ERIC TKACZYK** and **DR. SHRAMANA GHOSH** from Vanderbilt Dermatology with Dr. James West at the Vanderbilt Edge for Scholars Retreat at Camp Widjiwagan in August 2023.



above, **HAYDEN SMITH** with Dr. Sancy Leachman, Dermatology Chair at Oregon Health and Science University at The Montagna Symposium in October 2023



In May 2023, **DR. INGA SAKNITE** travelled to the remote village of Kole in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Kole is one of two locations of the PALM007 randomized placebo-controlled clinical trial that was launched in October 2022 to test the efficacy of tecovirimat against mpox. The Vanderbilt team has been supporting the PALM007 study by providing advice and training on mpox lesion counting and total body photography of study participants to document lesion appearance and disease course. The Vanderbilt team, led by Dr. Eric R. Tkaczyk, includes Dr. Benoit Dawant, Dr. Inga Saknite, Dr. Andrew J. McNeil, Bohan Jiang, and Tyra Silaphet. The PALM007 study is supported by the Institut National de la Recherche Biomédicale in the DRC and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.



*Dr. Inga Saknite with the PALM007 photography team in Kole, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*



*The Kole photography studio.*

Dr. Inga Saknite together with dermatologist Dr. Sylva Kasereka and photographers Roger Djese and Alonga Marcel in front of the photography studio in Kole before observing total body photography session of a PALM007 participant. *From left to right: Roger Djese, Dr. Sylva Kasereka, Dr. Inga Saknite, and Alonga Marcel.*

# RESIDENCY UPDATES

By Dr. Anna Dewan,  
Residency Program Director

The residency program continues to grow and thrive. Our residents are incredibly busy with academic and research-oriented pursuits. We have added unique specialty days to our curriculum including practicing the “art of observation” at the Frist Museum, Business in Medicine Day led by Dr. Eva Parker, and Confocal Microscopy Day led by Dr. Eric Tkaczyk. Our basic science curriculum has become incredibly strong with focus from our MD/PhD faculty, including but not limited to Dr. Jason Meyer, Dr. Nicole Ward, and Dr. Eric Mukherjee. With the addition of Dr. Eman Bahrani to faculty, the residents now have the opportunity to sit around a multi-headed microscope and review complex dermatopathology slides at the VA. Finally, we have started a dermatology clinic at Nashville General Hospital (NGH), which focuses on caring for patients that either have TennCare or are uninsured. The residents rotate through this clinic when on outpatient medical dermatology rotations during their 2nd and 3rd years of residency. The NGH clinic is staffed by our medical dermatology attendings, including Dr. Jami Miller, Dr. Eva Parker, and Dr. Annie Dewan.

In a big change to the structure of the resident leadership roles, two Chief Residents are now elected by the faculty and residents each year. The other senior residents divide different opportunities including taking ownership of



Resident Wellness, Medical Journal Club, and Cosmetic Nights. As part of resident wellness in the past few months, our residents have held an ice cream social at Dr. Miller’s house, eaten tacos with Dr. Allison Hanlon and Dr. Darrel Ellis after finishing a great block at the VA, escaped the Escape Room, and gathered to make (perhaps not airborne contact dermatitis-friendly) candles.

We are very proud of our program and our residents. We take great pride in training the future leaders of Dermatology.

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

| RECRUITMENT STATISTICS FOR 2022-2023    | NUMBERS |
|---|---------|
| Total residency applicants that applied | 732     |
| Residency applicants interviewed        | 56      |
| Residency applicants matched            | 5       |

The upcoming interview season will remain virtual via Zoom. Our hard-working Residency Selection Committee is reviewing applications and will be involved in the virtual interview process. Applicants had 28 “signals” to give out to dermatology residency programs this year (25 silver and 3 gold) in order to express particular interest as part of their application in ERAS. We are hopeful that this change helps reduce the number of individual programs that applicants apply to and allows us to focus holistic review on applicants with particular interest in training at Vanderbilt Dermatology.



Confocal Microscopy Day led by Dr. Eric Tkaczyk

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# RESIDENCY HIGHLIGHTS

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## MARY DICK, MD, CHIEF RESIDENT, THIRD YEAR

RESIDENT was selected by her peers and faculty to serve as one of two Chief Residents this year. She published two book chapters on photodynamic therapy with laser expert Dr. Jill Waibel. Dr. Dick presented an oral abstract at the national American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery meeting on: Low Fluence Single Treatment With A Novel Ablative Fractional 2,910 nm Fiber Laser for Photoaging in Skin of Color and has an associated publication in submission with laser expert Dr. Paul Friedman. She presented a video abstract at the National American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) entitled Granulomatous Dermal Inflammation After Radiofrequency Microneedling. Dr. Dick became a resident board member of the Association of Academic Cosmetic Dermatology (AACD) and hosted an online journal club reviewing recent cosmetic and surgical publications.



## AMANDA ONALAJA-UNDERWOOD, MD, THIRD YEAR

RESIDENT has accepted a dermatopathology fellowship position at The Ohio State University in 2025. She presented a poster at the most recent American Society of Dermatopathology conference in Chicago. She had two papers accepted for publication by the American Journal of Dermatopathology recently from her collaboration with colleagues at Mayo Clinic. She presented an oral presentation at the Tennessee Dermatology Society meeting in Chattanooga.



## KELSEY PARKS, MD, SECOND YEAR RESIDENT



Tokyo, Japan for the inaugural International Societies for Investigative Dermatology (ISID) meeting for a poster presentation evaluating the performance of non-experts delineating chronic graft-versus-host disease affected skin.



## J. RANDALL PATRINELY, JR., MD, SECOND YEAR

RESIDENT - Over the past year, Dr. Patrinely has published multiple papers on immunotherapy for advanced melanoma and the use of ChatGPT in healthcare. He is currently working on a project assessing the impact of post-operative bandaging

on scarring after Mohs surgery under the direction of Dr. Clayton and Dr. Hanlon. Dr. Patrinely serves as a mentor to medical students interested in dermatology at Vanderbilt and Meharry. He has applied for a resident leadership position within the AAD.



## KATIE O'CONNELL, MD, FIRST YEAR RESIDENT

recently published manuscripts in The Journal of Urology showing Total Margin Control is Superior to Traditional Margin Assessment for Treatment of Low-Stage Penile Squamous Cell Carcinoma; PMID 37788015 and the Journal of

American Academy of Dermatology reporting Cost of Skin Cancer-related Dermatological Care is Higher in Transplant Recipients Compared with Non-immunosuppressed Patients; PMID 37666426. Additionally, she was selected to serve as the Southern Regional Director for the Dermatology Trainee Advocacy Group. In this role, she will oversee southern states as they plan for Dermatology Trainee Advocacy Day, an initiative designed to introduce dermatology trainees to relevant themes and rising concerns regarding advocacy engagement and health policy work. She also serves on the Editorial Board for the Vanderbilt Med-Peds Curriculum.

# RESIDENCY & FELLOWSHIP GRADUATES



*Drs. Annie Dewan (Program Director), Karen Arnaud, Ashli Fitzpatrick, Laura Gardner, Laura Madden, Meredith Steuer, Rachel Champion (Associate Program Director), and Meg Chren (Department Chair)*

**KAREN ARNAUD, MD** is a board-certified dermatologist, and the current Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology Fellow in our department. We are thrilled to still have her at Vanderbilt Dermatology! After fellowship, Dr. Arnaud will specialize in Mohs Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology at Murfreesboro Medical Center in Murfreesboro, TN.

**LAURA MADDEN, MD** (formerly known as Dr. Dellalana) is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in medical dermatology at Dermatology Physicians of Connecticut in Hamden, CT.

**ASHLI FITZPATRICK, MD** is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in medical dermatology at Heritage Medical Associates in Mt. Juliet, TN.

**LAURA GARDNER, MD** is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in medical and surgical dermatology. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dermatology at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. She serves on the department's DEI and QI committees and precepts for both medical students and residents.

**MEREDITH STEUER, MD** is a board-certified dermatologist, and a current Pediatric Dermatology Fellow at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL.



**JUSTIN McLAWHORN, MD** is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in Mohs micrographic surgery and cutaneous oncology. He practices medical and surgical dermatology at Little Rock Dermatology Clinic in Little Rock, AR. He is an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Dermatology at The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**JOSHUA PORTER, MD** After completion of residency in 2013, my wife and I moved to the Charlotte, NC area where I work at Piedmont Plastic Surgery and Dermatology. Since that time, we have been blessed as parents of three wonderful and insanely energetic children, all of whom like going to Disney, as evidenced by the photo. The practice I joined is somewhat unique, in that it is a fully physician owned, physician led group comprised of dermatologists, Mohs surgeons, and plastic surgeons. My clinical areas of interest are general dermatology and the treatment of skin cancer. I also greatly enjoy the administrative and entrepreneurial aspects of helping to run a large private practice.

Looking back to residency, it was a lot of work, but I can honestly say that my three years at Vanderbilt were some of the most formative and rewarding years of my life. I am profoundly appreciative of the faculty's efforts to train us



to become competent and successful clinicians, and for believing in us! To the residents, pay attention to the rare entities that you think you might never see, because you will be surprised that they do occasionally show up in your clinic. Strengthen relationships with your co-residents and attendings, as they will serve you well in the future. Rest assured, you will leave Vanderbilt well trained and positioned to succeed in your career. If you are ever in Charlotte, please stop by and say hello!

**JEREMY FENTON, MD** Since residency, I have been working at Schweiger Dermatology Group, where I also serve as the Medical Director of the New York City region. I am also on faculty at Mount Sinai in NYC where I enjoy teaching the residents. My inspiration to teach residents comes in part from the great experience that I had at Vanderbilt from a long list of attendings who are also great mentors. I recently gave up on city life and now live on the beach in Long Island. I split my time seeing patients in Manhattan and Long Beach, NY.



**CHARLIE DARRAGH, MD, Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Surgery Fellowship** Charlie Darragh, MD, is a Mohs surgeon at Prisma Health – Carolina Dermatology, affiliated with the USC COM-Greenville campus where he has worked since completing fellowship. He says he owes his career to the great dermatologists and Mohs surgeons he trained with at VUMC. He will forever be thankful for the time they spent training him, as they helped shape him into the confident and well-trained dermatologist and Mohs surgeon he is today. Dr. Darragh lives in South Carolina with his wife, Callie, and their two children, Davis and Collins.

**DAN CHRISTIANSEN, MD, Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Surgery Fellowship** I can't believe it has already been 10 years since fellowship! Time sure flies. I was so fortunate to be selected as a resident and then a Mohs fellow at Vanderbilt. The fantastic attendings, residents, and fellows I had the opportunity to train with in Nashville have all left an indelible mark on my career. Dr. Stasko took a chance selecting me as his final Vanderbilt fellow and Dr. Clayton adopted me as her first. I can't thank them enough for making my dream come true. I still rely on Drs. McDonald, Lumbang, and Stebbins's expertise and teachings to this day.



After completing the fellowship, my wife, Kripa Christiansen, and I were recruited to Wichita Falls, Texas by a local hospital system. She joined the hospital staff as an anesthesiologist, and I opened a solo practice with their support. We thoroughly enjoyed practicing in the lone star state for three years but decided to move back to the Midwest after having our first little girl. Kripa decided to take some time off when we were blessed with twin girls, and I briefly worked for a private equity group in Kansas City. I then decided to start my own practice and currently have two clinics, with four providers. It has been an exciting 10 years and I can't wait to see what comes next!



# UNDERREPRESENTED IN MEDICINE AWARD

This year, we welcomed Alana Ferreira from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and Julian Melchor from Florida State University College of Medicine as recipients of the Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) Stipend Award! 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 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. 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. If you have an URiM medical student you would like to nominate for the award please reach out to Mrs. Kristina Maynard at [kristina.maynard@vumc.org](mailto:kristina.maynard@vumc.org)*

## JULIAN MELCHOR

FSU College of Medicine,  
Class of 2024

My experience rotating at the Vanderbilt University Dermatology Program was more than I could have wished for. I encountered patients from all walks of life. Not only were they inspiring but also a testament to the reputation of Vanderbilt, with individuals traveling from various states seeking exceptional dermatological care. Translators for multiple



languages, some even present on campus, were readily available and eager to help. The residents and staff exhibited a remarkable blend of expertise and personality, fostering an excellent learning environment. The city's vibrant culture, music scene, sunset views, and diverse culinary offerings made the entire experience even more memorable. I cannot thank Vanderbilt Dermatology enough for their commitment to diversity and inclusion!

## ALANA LUNA FERREIRA

Perelman School of Medicine,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Class of 2024

Growing up in the South as a Latina immigrant, it has been incredibly inspiring to witness the efforts being made for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity (DI&E) in this region, especially in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling against affirmative action. Being awarded the URiM Stipend to pursue an away rotation in dermatology at



Vanderbilt has been an empowering experience. Not only have I received exceptional clinical training and exposure to various aspects of dermatology, but I have also witnessed firsthand the commitment of Vanderbilt's faculty to fostering cultural competence and inclusivity. These experiences have not only solidified my passion for dermatology but have also reinforced the importance of promoting diversity and inclusion within the field.



# MARY JANE AND ALBERT WERTHAN LECTURE SERIES

## VISITING PROFESSORS IN DERMATOLOGY

### CHESAHNA KINDRED, MD, MBA, FAAD

*Board-certified  
dermatologist at*

*Kindred Hair & Skin  
Center — the first dermatology office with a  
full-service salon specializing in hair loss.*

Hair diseases are a very commonly seen problem within Dermatology, and the diagnosis and treatment of hair diseases in patients of color can be particularly challenging. Dr. Kindred is an expert in this subject and gave several lectures on the diagnosis, treatment, and general care for all hair types with an emphasis on black hair. Highlights of her presentation included discussions of scarring hair disorders particularly in patients who process or style their hair in ways that can exacerbate this and of hair care in patients of color.



testing for certain professions, as well as new, commonly found chemicals that can cause contact dermatitis.

### TRAVIS BLALOCK, MD

*Associate Professor and  
Director, Dermatologic  
Surgery, Mohs  
Micrographic Surgery  
and Cutaneous Oncology, Emory University*

As a leader in the field of Mohs surgery, Dr. Blalock gave a talk on “clear margins” on a surgical specimen and the importance of having standardized definitions for a variety of concepts. He led a fascinating discussion on how people define terms used daily but can have a variety of meanings and introduced thoughts on how to come to a consensus to characterize those terms. He also shared his expertise on concepts of closing surgical wounds and gave a case-based discussion on wound closures.



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.

### CORY A. DUNNICK, MD

*Professor of  
Dermatology, Director  
Dermatitis and Contact  
Allergy*

*Clinic, Colorado Skin Surgery  
& Dermatology, Rocky  
Mountain Regional VAMC*

Dr. Dunnick is an expert in contact dermatitis, giving lectures on diagnosing and treating skin disorders caused by contact allergy. This is especially important, as we do not currently have a dermatologist here who focuses on contact dermatitis. Highlights of her presentation included patch



*Dr. Dunnick with some Vanderbilt Dermatology faculty and housestaff*

# 2023 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



*Orientation 2023*



*Resident Wellness Day at The Escape Room*



*Dr. Zic, Dr. Bahrani, and Dr. Clemetson at the Shade Tree Benefit Concert*



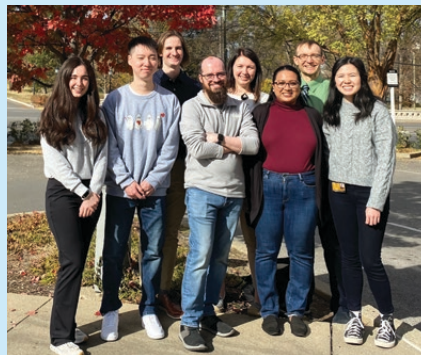
*Dr. Champion, Dr. Dewan, and Kristina Maynard at the Residency and Fellowship Graduation Celebration*



*Resident Class of 2024*



*Ice Cream Social hosted by Dr. Miller*



*Vanderbilt Dermatology Translational Research Clinic Team*



*VDTRC surprise bridal shower for our dermatology post-doc Shramana Ghosh, organized by Dr. Tracy Frech from VUMC Rheumatology*



*Dermatology Family Picnic at the Nashville Zoo*

VANDERBILT  
Dermatology

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## ALUMNI REUNION

Please join us for our Annual Alumni Reunion at the AAD meeting in San Diego!

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 need to commit to the whole time frame, so if you can only come for a portion of the reunion, we would love to have you!

VANDERBILT DERMATOLOGY ALUMNI REUNION  
Marriott Marquis San Diego - HQ | Pacific Ballroom 16  
Friday, March 8, 2024 | 5:00pm - 7:00 pm

We hope to see you there!

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