Goal

The goal of the Residency Program is to develop future leaders in both research and clinical medicine. Flexibility within the program allows for the acquisition of fundamental working knowledge in all subspecialties of dermatology. All residents are taught a scholarly approach to patient care, aimed at integrating clinicopathologic observation with an understanding of the basic pathophysiologic processes of normal and abnormal skin.

Penn’s Residency Program consists of conferences, seminars, clinical rotations, research, and an opportunity to participate in the teaching of medical students. An extensive introduction into the department and the clinic/patient care service is given to first-year residents. A distinguished clinical faculty and research faculty, coupled with the clinical and laboratory facilities, provides residents with comprehensive training. An appreciation of and participation in the investigative process is an integral part of our residency.

Graduates frequently earn clinical or basic science fellowship appointments at universities across the country. Examples of these include: pediatric dermatology, dermatopathology, dermatologic surgery, dermatooepidemiology, postdoctoral and Clinical Educator fellowships. Additional post graduate training has occurred at the NIH and CDC. Over 80% of our graduates in the last 10 years are in academic medicine, on faculty at Harvard School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, University of Washington, Penn State Medical Center, Pittsburgh School of Medicine, University of Vermont, Johns Hopkins, University of Iowa, Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Washington University School of Medicine, University of South Carolina, University of Massachusetts, MD Anderson and the University of California San Francisco. Additionally, some enter private practice to become pillars of community medicine.

History

The first medical school in America, founded in 1765, was named the College of Philadelphia. After the American Revolution, the name was changed to The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. The founder of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Dr. John Morgan, and the early faculty earned their medical degrees at the University of Edinburgh. At the University of Edinburgh, medical lectures were supplemented with bedside teaching. Thus, using the Edinburgh concept, they founded a medical school within an institution of higher learning. Pennsylvania Hospital, founded by Benjamin Franklin, was used by The University of Pennsylvania Medical School making it the first teaching hospital in America. The University of Pennsylvania Medical School apprenticed physicians to be practitioners at the hospital and placed emphasis on clinical training.

The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine was a pioneer in educating physicians through bedside clinical training. The standards and procedures that these physicians established were the guiding force in medical education throughout most of the century. The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine was one of the earliest to develop training in medical specialties. It established lectures in the disciplines of neurosurgery, ophthalmology, radiology and dermatology. The first course in diseases of the skin was given at The Pennsylvania Hospital Medical School in 1868 by H. Lenox Hodge, M.D. In the 1870s, the University of Pennsylvania moved to its present location and established The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP). The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania was the first teaching hospital built and operated by a medical school in America.
Curriculum
Residency Training Program

Conferences

Duhring Conferences - The Duhring Conference, named for the first Chief of Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania, Louis A. Duhring, M.D., is held on Thursday mornings. The conference consists of two components. First, patients are presented for discussion of their diagnoses, histopathology, treatment and a review of pertinent medical literature. This conference is attended by not only the residents and faculty of the department but also by residents from other Philadelphia training programs, community physicians, and often other invited specialists. Second, the Duhring Lecture allows for presentation of the latest material by recognized experts in their field. This event provides an opportunity to interact with well-known figures in the world of dermatology. This conference provides an outstanding educational forum and is CME accredited.

Lectures

Didactic Lectures - Dermatopathology lectures are weekly sessions with “unknown” slides presented. A review of a major dermatopathology text is also accomplished. These are conducted by Drs. Rosalie Elenitsas, Emily Chu, Paul Haun, Carrie Kovarik, Adam Rubin, and John Seykora as well as their dermatopathology fellows. Clinical dermatology lectures are held weekly. Residents, fellows, and faculty participate in sessions focusing on clinical dermatology with a special emphasis on differential diagnosis of “unknown” slides and a review of a major clinical textbook.

Guest lectures given by faculty from other disciplines at Penn, by dermatologists from other institutions in Philadelphia, or invited guest speakers from the surrounding area are given regularly.

The Samitz Lecture in Cutaneous Medicine is held annually in November. This Lecture is named in memory of Morris H. Samitz, M.D., who was a preeminent professor in the Department of Dermatology. This is one of the highlights of the academic year with a featured lecturer of international reputation. The Morris H. Samitz Lectureship was endowed by Dr. Samitz’s students as a demonstration of their love and respect for him.

The Pillsbury Lecture, named in memory of former Chair, Dr. Donald M. Pillsbury, is held in honor of the graduating residents each spring. This lecture, which has attained a prestigious reputation, features an internationally known guest lecturer. This lecture, held in May, is preceded the night before by a festive graduation dinner.

The Kligman Lectureship - named in memory of Dr. Albert M. Kligman, who joined the faculty of the Dermatology Department at Penn and quickly rose to the rank of Professor in 1957. Dr. Kligman was an outstanding teacher, and extremely productive researcher and an inspirational figure in dermatology. He trained over 60 international fellows, many of whom went on to chair departments and have successful research careers. This lectureship centers on clinical and basic science research.

The Hohenberg Lectureship, named in memory of Bernard L. Hohenberg, honors and keeps alive the presence of a man whose zest for life galvanized all those who had the privilege of knowing him. This lectureship brings to Penn an expert in wound healing.
Clinic Rotations

Residents attend many special clinics throughout the year. The combined services offer opportunities that are among the most active in the nation. The average outpatient visit volume is 110,000 patients per year, including procedures.

Cutaneous Lymphoma Clinic

This group of dermatologists and dermatopathologists specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of cutaneous lymphomas with emphasis on cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. Multiple treatment modalities are utilized, including topical and systemic chemotherapy, ultraviolet and radiation therapy and extracorporeal photopheresis. Patients receiving extracorporeal photopheresis receive their treatments as inpatients in the dermatology service and are followed as outpatients by the cutaneous lymphoma group. (Directed by Drs. Alain Rook, Carmela Vittorio, Ellen Kim and Sara Samimi.)

Connective Tissue Disease Clinic

Patients with these disorders as well as internal medicine related diseases are cared for by the residents and Drs. Victoria Werth and Lisa Pappas-Taffer.

Contact Dermatitis Clinic

Residents spend time in this subspecialty clinic learning under the direction of Drs. Bruce Brod and Glen Crawford.

Bullous Disease Clinic

Referral patients with immunologically mediated bullous diseases are seen by a resident and Dr. Aimee Payne. Residents will also work with Dr. Victoria Werth in the care of bullous disease patients.

Pigmented Lesion Clinic

This multi-disciplinary group specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of congenital nevi, dysplastic nevi and malignant melanoma (Directed by Dr. Michael Ming).

Resident Continuity Clinic

The clinic of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) is the major area of the resident outpatient experience. The clinic is held Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, and Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Each resident maintains a clinic at HUP throughout their training to provide the opportunity for long-term continuing care of patients. Members of the faculty as well as volunteer attending faculty in private practice act as consultants. Problems of diagnosis and treatment are handled by the resident under their supervision.

Specialty Clinics

There are a variety of other medical specialty clinics such as those concentrating on the care of patients with atopic dermatitis, sarcoidosis, acne and rosacea, and graft vs. host disease, in which residents participate on a rotational basis. Most of these meet on a once weekly schedule.

Dermatologic Surgery Clinic

Advanced surgical procedures including Mohs surgery and laser surgery are utilized in the treatment of a variety of skin disorders, both benign and malignant. Dr. Christopher Miller- Director of Dermatologic Surgery, Dr. Joseph Sobanko- Director of Dermatologic Surgery Education, full time faculty, Mohs surgeons Dr. Thuzar Shin and Dr. Jeremy Etzkorn and a variety of Mohs-trained volunteers supervise the residents both in specialty clinics and resident surgery clinics.
Cosmetic Clinics

Drs. Cherie Ditre and Joseph Sobanko utilize the most current procedures in the care of patients requesting cosmetic enhancement. Residents rotate with these experts in their clinics.

Inpatient Clinical Consultative Service

This experience is in the management of patients requiring hospitalization in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. On the inpatient service the resident participates in the diagnosis and care of patients with a wide variety of dermatologic diseases. (Directed by Drs. Misha Rosenbach, Robert Micheletti and Katherine Steele). Additionally, inpatient consultation experience is gained at the other 4 teaching hospitals with a variety of attendings.

Dermatopathology Rotation

An average of one month each year is dedicated to acquiring one-on-one experience at the microscope with our six dermatopathologists and their two fellows. Dermatopathology specimens processed per year amount to over 80,000.

Teaching Rounds

Consult Rounds are held weekly. The senior faculty and residents review the current week’s consultations. Physical examination findings, differential diagnosis and patient management are stressed.

Society Meetings

Residents attend the meetings of the Philadelphia Dermatologic Society which are held during the academic year at each of the six teaching hospitals in the Philadelphia area. Other rewarding meetings take place at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and at other Philadelphia medical schools.

Residents attend the annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology in the spring.

Journal Club

Journal Clubs are an important part of resident education and are conducted by the faculty on a biweekly basis. JAMA Dermatology, the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology and a wide array of investigative and medical journals are focused on in these sessions. The discussions involve residents and faculty.

Psoriasis Clinic

The Psoriasis Outpatient Clinic is part of the comprehensive psoriasis treatment program at the University of Pennsylvania, which includes the phototherapy unit, psoriasis day care program, and psoriasis support group. (Directed by Dr. Joel Gelfand)

Research

The Penn Department of Dermatology leads the nation in both basic science and clinical investigation of skin biology. Our department is committed to training and mentoring residents so they may launch their successful careers as academic professors. We consistently rank in the top 3 in the nation for NIH funding.

We offer a research track for applicants interested in pursuing basic science, translational, and/or epidemiological research careers. Our research track aims to provide trainees an early start on their scientific training by replacing the majority of the PGY-4 year of clinical training with postdoctoral research. During the first two years of dermatology residency training (PGY-2, PGY-3), participants receive similar clinical training as their fellow residents. During PGY-4, participants will have 75% protected research time and will spend 25% effort on clinical dermatology. After completion of residency, participants will be promoted to Clinical Instructor and receive a competitive salary (as opposed to PGY-5 funding). The Department has a NIH T32-training grant, which may provide up to two years of postdoctoral fellowship funding support.

Our department has 13 research-focused faculty with internationally recognized expertise in a broad range of scientific disciplines, including epithelial biology, developmental biology, regenerative medicine and stem cell biology, microbiome, immunology,
autoimmunity, cell adhesion, carcinogenesis, epidemiology and biostatistics, clinical trials, and health outcomes and disparities research. This critical mass of investigators promotes innovation and unique collaborative research opportunities.

Research track trainees will receive formalized mentoring through a departmental committee, which includes senior faculty and at least one faculty member outside the Department of Dermatology, to provide both scientific and professional career advice. Individualized development plans help trainees to choose their postdoctoral fellowship training mentors, who can be either within or outside the Department of Dermatology, and also guide senior fellows in navigating their career path toward an academic faculty position. In addition to a traditional research-in-progress seminar series, our department supports twice monthly trainee seminars to foster peer mentoring networks. Additionally, trainees benefit from core services offered through Penn Dermatology’s NIH-funded Skin Biology and Diseases Resource-based Center, including primary skin cell procurement and genetic engineering, organotypic skin culture and xenografts, histology, laser capture microdissection, biostatistics, and bioinformatics. We also have a dedicated clinical studies unit that supports patient-oriented and clinical investigation.

Research Laboratory Resources

The basic research laboratories are housed within the 10th floor of the Biomedical Research Building (BRB10). A spacious and newly renovated conference room on BRB10 is used for laboratory meetings, faculty meetings, and collaborative discussions within the Department and with researchers from other departments, centers, and institutes. BRB is centrally situated on the PSOM campus, facilitating interactions with other Departments, Centers and Institutes. Consolidation of basic research labs on BRB10 has led to increased interactions and efficient use of space. The nearly 14,350 square feet of usable research space are dedicated to an integrated cutaneous biology initiative. The principal investigators are allocated office (1,319 sf PI office space total), administrative support (1,500 administrative space), laboratory space (total 7,440 sf), cell culture (1,200 sf), cold room (270 sf), microscopy core (220 sf), and shared equipment (2,500 sf) space. In addition, trainees and faculty have access to approximately 2,500 sf of common space (conference room, eating area) integrated with the lab and administrative space.
Residency Training Program

Global Health

A special experience in global medicine is available on average to two residents per year. In addition to global medicine course work, a four-week rotation at Princess Mariana Hospital and surrounding communities in Botswana is part of the program directed by Drs. Carrie Kovarik and Victoria Williams.

Teledermatology consultations from around the world also enhance the experience. An initiative by Dr. Rudolf Roth, who has built bridges with the residency program in Guatemala, also has led to opportunities for exchange visits with this program and humanitarian / teaching trips at least yearly.

Healthcare Leadership Quality

The HLQ Residency Track spans across many departments at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and provides structured didactics in the fundamentals of patient safety and systems analysis, principles of healthcare quality, outcomes measurement, introduction to Penn’s quality infrastructure, and leadership. Additionally, each resident completes a longitudinal quality project during the final 2 years of residency and receives personal mentorship by top level hospital administrators.

Volunteer Activities

Residents are involved with volunteer activities locally, nationally and internationally. Examples include: telemedicine support of the 13 public clinics in Philadelphia, in person clinics at the SID clinic and the Puentes de Salud clinic, participation in AAD sponsored programs like Camp Discovery, free skin cancer screening clinics, and the Native American clinical rotation, as well as the International Scholarship program in Botswana.

Elective Time

Several weeks a year are available for residents to design their own experiences which help them gain valuable knowledge and network opportunities for their future careers. Recent graduates have gone on rotations as far away as Singapore, India and Brazil, to closer destinations such as mentorships with experts in Boston, San Francisco and New York. Many have attended international society meetings as part of the American Academy of Dermatology’s scholarship program.

Stipend

A $1000 stipend is given to each resident yearly to help defray meeting costs, and to buy books or other needed equipment. All first year Dermatology residents are paid at the PGY-2 level; $60,340 (FY18). Stipends are increased each year depending upon level of training. Reappointments, which are made on an annual basis, are subject to satisfactory performance review at the end of each year. Four weeks of vacation are given during each 12 months of service, as permitted by the American Board of Dermatology. Malpractice insurance is provided by the Hospital as well as a complete benefits package including medical insurance, disability, vision and dental plans. Each first year resident is given an iPod touch, a secure thumb drive, a dermatoscope, and 2 textbooks.

Licensure

To participate in the Dermatology Residency Training program, a Pennsylvania Training program, a Pennsylvania medical training license must be obtained. This permits the resident to practice medicine under supervision only within the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania’s accredited hospitals. The Postgraduate Certificate must be renewed annually (for the number of years necessary to complete the residency training program only). The renewal fee is currently $15 (fifteen dollars).

Residency Training Schedule

Resident Rotations

The resident curriculum for each year is designed to provide exposure to a wide range of clinical dermatology. Below is a breakdown of the major rotations each year of Residency. During all rotations, each resident will maintain a continuity clinic at HUP once weekly and will attend didactic sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons.

First Year Locations:

Presby: Introduction to inpatient consults. In addition, participate in the Penn Presbyterian Wound Care specialty clinic. VA: Participate in patient care at the VA dermatology clinics three sessions per week as well as two to three sessions of Dermatologic Surgery at the VA. Dermatopathology: In addition to the weekly dermatopathology didactic sessions, each resident will spend up to one month per year participating in Dermatopathology Sign-Out as well as reviewing interesting cases with the fellows and doing independent review of teaching slides. Dermatologic Surgery: Surgical experiences are provided throughout the year during the VA rotations. In addition, surgical exposure to Mohs, lasers, and other techniques occurs with Drs. Miller, Sobanko, and Shin at HUP. CHOP: Pediatric dermatology experiences are provided at the CHOP pediatric dermatology outpatient clinic. Elective: Pursue a research elective, clinical project, or work with another service in the hospital (rheumatology, infectious disease, plastic surgery) or pursue an away elective at another institution.

Second & Third Year Locations:

In addition to the first year locations, senior residents will rotate through the following services: Pennsylvania Hospital: Cover the Pennsylvania Hospital Consult Service and participate in our patch testing specialty clinic. HUP Consult Resident: Provide dermatological consultation for HUP inpatients. In addition, participate in urgent care clinics and weekly clinical-pathologic correlation of inpatient biopsies. CHOP Consult Resident: Provide dermatological consultation for CHOP inpatients. VA Consult Resident: Provide dermatological consultation for VA inpatients, review all pathology weekly on Monday afternoons from the VA and follow-up on appropriate biopsies.

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The Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine (PCAM)

The Perelman Center is a state-of-the-art, 500,000 square foot outpatient facility located on the corner of 34th and Civic Center Boulevard, adjacent to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The facility is designed to create a focused outpatient care environment. The distinctive glass atrium atop the structure allows for sunlight to stream into all corners of the facility. In addition to providing outpatient care, the Perelman Center is designed to anticipate future trends in medicine and advances in medical technology. Dermatology occupies 16,200 square feet located on the first floor of PCAM, having 50 patient care related rooms.

The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)

CHOP is a two-hundred and sixty bed health care facility which is a physical part of the university complex. It serves as an excellent inpatient and outpatient teaching experience in pediatric dermatology. One resident is assigned to this hospital for a four-month rotational period over the course of their residency, and other residents attend two morning clinics per week on a rotational basis. CHOP is one of the outstanding pediatric hospitals in the country and it is a unique resource for training.

The Pennsylvania Hospital

One resident is assigned to this Center City four-hundred and twenty-five bed hospital for four months. Inpatient experience includes assisting in consultations as well as the supervised care of clinic patients. The outpatient clinic meets two afternoons per week and provides experience in diagnosis and management of a wide variety of dermatologic cases.
The Department of Dermatology's location at Penn Medicine University City (PMUC) includes increased space, resources to help streamline services, and improved patient access. General dermatology and Genetic disease dermatology services offer an enhanced overall patient experience. This state-of-the-art building houses nearly 110 exam rooms, six outpatient operating rooms, and an outpatient radiology center. PMUC also includes the multidisciplinary Penn Musculoskeletal Institute, the first of its kind in Philadelphia.

Residents are assigned to a four-month rotation at the Philadelphia Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (PVAMC) located one block from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Faculty dermatologists to assist the residents in all aspects of patient care. This is a five hundred bed hospital, and the dermatology residents assigned to this rotation handle all dermatology consultations referred from other services. There are six clinics each week. The two-thousand square foot Dermatology Suite includes examination rooms, procedure rooms, offices, and a Phototherapy Center.
Residency Training Tracks

Combined Medicine and Dermatology Track

A five-year training program leading to board certification in both Internal Medicine and Dermatology is available at Penn. Graduates of this program often care for our specialty’s sickest patients, providing inpatient consultative services or outpatient care of complex medical illnesses.

http://www.med.upenn.edu/dermres/combined_medicine_dermatology.html

Current Med/Derm Residents

- David Dunaway, M.D.
  Med/Derm Resident
  Second Year

- Amy Forrestel, M.D.
  Med/Derm Resident
  Fifth Year

- Sotonye Imadojemu, M.D.
  Faculty
  Brigham & Women’s Hospital

Former Med/Derm Residents

- Robert Micheletti, M.D
  Assistant Professor, Perelman School of Medicine at Univ of Penn

- Misha Rosenbach, M.D.
  Associate Professor, Perelman School of Medicine at Univ of Penn

Cutaneous Oncology (CTCL) and Dermatology Track

A four-year training program leading to a specialized expertise in lymphoma and melanoma is available at Penn. The first year is dedicated to working with experts in these diseases, while the final three years follows the typical three year residency track.

http://www.med.upenn.edu/dermres/oncology.html

Current CTCL Fellow

- Christina Del Guzzo, M.D.
  Fellow

- Sara (Farber) Berg, M.D.
  Resident
  First Year

- Filiberto Cedeno-Laurent, M.D.
  Private Practice

Former CTCL Fellows

- Christine Cornejo, M.D.
  Resident
  Second Year

- Natalie Spaccarelli, M.D.
  Chief Resident
  Third Year

- Sasha Stephen, M.D.
  Assistant Professor, Perelman School of Medicine at Univ of Penn

Research Track

Residents with an interest in pursuing a career in investigative dermatology may elect to shorten their clinical training in order to enter the laboratory in September of their third year. Physician-scientists are critical to the vitality of our specialty and many graduates are successful in this career path.

http://www.med.upenn.edu/dermres/combined_research_clinical_training.html

Current Research Track

- Cory Simpson, M.D., Ph.D.
  Clinical Instructor & Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Perelman School of Medicine at Univ of Penn

- Katrina Abuabara, M.D.
  Faculty at UCSF

Former Research Track

- Brian Capell, M.D., Ph.D.
  Assistant Professor, Perelman School of Medicine at Univ of Penn

- Brian Kim, M.D.
  Assistant Professor
  Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO

- Joy Wan, M.D.
  CHOP Pediatric Dermatology Fellow
Residency Training Tracks

Healthcare Leadership in Quality Residency

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http://www.med.upenn.edu/chips/Track1.shtml

Current HLQ Residents

Oyinade Aderibigbe, M.D.
Resident
Second Year

John Barbieri, M.D., M.B.A.
Chief Resident
Third Year

Lauren Orenstein, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Temple University

Former HLQ Resident

Global Health Track

A special experience in global medicine is available on average to two residents per year. In addition to global medicine course work, a four-week rotation at Princess Mariana Hospital and surrounding communities in Botswana is part of the program directed by Drs. Carrie Kovarik and Victoria Williams. Teledermatology consultations from around the world also enhance the experience. An initiative by Dr. Rudolf Roth, who has built bridges with the residency program in Guatemala, also has led to opportunities for exchange visits with this program and humanitarian/teaching trips at least yearly. Started in 2007, there have been 17 graduates in the last 8 years; most of whom are on academic faculty at various medical centers around the country.

Penn SOM Center for Global Health: http://www.med.upenn.edu/globalhealth/

Penn Global Health Equities Track: http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/internal-medicine-residency/our_program/tracks_global_health.html

AAD Resident International Grant: https://www.aad.org/members/volunteer/resident-international-grant

Current Global Health Residents

Amanda Derwae, M.D.
Resident
Second Year

Amy Forrestel, M.D.
Med/Derm Resident
Fifth Year

Elizabeth Heller, M.D.
Resident
Second Year

Ata Moshiri, M.D.
Chief Resident
Third Year

Caroline Nelson, M.D.
Chief Resident
Third Year
Application Requirements

Integrity, scholarship and enthusiasm, as evidenced during pre-residency medical training are important factors in the selection of candidates. Strong support letters of reference are essential.

Preference is given to individuals with excellent pre-residency training records and particularly to those with an orientation toward a career as a leader in the field of Dermatology.

A personal interview with members of the Department’s Residency Selection Committee is required. Interviews are by invitation only.

Individuals accepted to the dermatology residency are expected to complete a full three-year term.

The Department of Dermatology uses the ERAS online application process. All applicants must apply before October 1, 2017 (twenty months before the program start date) at the following website: http://www.aamc.org/eras. The usual number of residents in the residency training program is fifteen to sixteen. Early completion of the universal residency application form is recommended.

Under-represented minority candidates for admission are enthusiastically welcomed. Penn Dermatology is committed to diversity and inclusion in our department and our specialty.