

Dermatology News



“We cannot wait to bring the highest quality care to our pediatric patients, and to see them in such a bright and happy clinic space only adds joy to what we do.”

- Dr. Harter

UNMC Dermatology Launches Pediatric Dermatology Clinic at Children’s Omaha

Dr. Nicole Harter, Chief of Pediatric Dermatology

It was a beautiful sunny day on Monday, October 25th, 2021, as Dr. Nicole Harter cut the red ribbon symbolizing the grand opening of the Children’s Pediatric Dermatology Clinic. This marks a milestone achievement for the partnership between UNMC and Children’s Omaha. This new clinic brings together mentor and mentee once again as Dr. Ashley Wysong had mentored Dr. Nicole Harter during their time in California. This mentorship will create the foundation for an amazing pediatric clinic right here in Omaha.

“Our pediatric dermatology team could

not be more excited about the beginning of this new division. We cannot wait to bring the highest quality care to our pediatric patients, and to see them in such a bright and happy clinic space only adds joy to what we do. We look forward to our continued growth and partnerships,” says Dr. Harter.

The new pediatric dermatology clinic will provide general dermatology services to our youngest of patients. The clinic is fully equipped with a brand-new office space.

The new Children’s Pediatric Dermatology Clinic is open at 8534 Cass St in Omaha, Nebraska.





Chair's Corner

2021 has been a whirlwind of a year! As a team we have worked together to provide exceptional care for our dermatology patients, to expand our educational and research programs, and to invest in our shared culture of which we are all very proud. I am pleased to welcome the four newest faculty members, our latest resident physicians, as well as dozens of additional clinical, administrative, and research team members to the UNMC dermatology family. As our missions continue to expand, it is clear that it is the PEOPLE that matter most for our continued success.

Our team completed an updated 2022-2027 strategic plan and the future is bright! A few key things I'd like to highlight about our priorities and what is to come:

- **Clinical Excellence:** We will continue recruiting and retaining "top talent" with clinical expertise in all areas of dermatology. We have identified several key sub-specialty areas of dermatology for faculty recruitment and aim to develop programs in hair/nail, contact dermatitis, pigmented lesions, genital/GYN derm, supportive oncology, psychocutaneous dermatology, and more. We will work with our clinical partners of Nebraska Medicine, Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Omaha VA, and others to expand our services over time providing extraordinary experience for our patients.
- **Education:** As we round out our resident compliment to 9 beginning in July 2022, our education team will continue to innovate through the development of innovative and individualized curricula in dermatology with integration of technology to enhance education and career long learning. We also aim to expand our sub-specialty education through the planned creation of ACGME fellowships in Micrographic Surgery & Cutaneous Oncology, Pediatric Dermatology and Dermatopathology as well as the ASDS-accredited laser & aesthetic dermatology fellowship. We will continue to develop and recruit faculty and staff dedicated to teaching and will expand our participation in larger UNMC educational programs.
- **Research:** With the ultimate aim to "do that which only we can do" at UNMC dermatology, we will expand our foundational research infrastructure and program development in dermatology through continued recruitment, collaboration across UN campus and beyond, and successful extramural and philanthropic funding. From a leadership perspective, we are actively recruiting for a Director/Vice Chair of Research and Director of Clinical Trials to lead these efforts. In addition, we will stand up a Dermatology Research Advisory Group made up of faculty, researchers, and engaged community members to help guide research priorities within the department.
- **Outreach & Service:** We will continue to expand our public-private partnerships to promote statewide dermatologic health, participate in legislative and advocacy efforts, and expand services to underserved Nebraska populations in dermatology. I am proud of our service-oriented mindset at UNMC dermatology and we will continue to expand our local, regional and national partnerships to provide community services. Finally, we will participate in national and global efforts in Health Security and Biocontainment as dermatologists are often on the frontlines of emerging infectious diseases.
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):** Our very active departmental DEI committee will remain involved in campus-wide DEI initiatives and will develop policies, programs, metrics and an environment to ensure DEI in dermatology. We will be active in creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all learners, faculty, staff, and patients. We will increase recruitment, selection and retention of a diverse team. We will expand our pipeline programs for underrepresented in medicine trainees through local, regional, and national partnerships.
- **Economic Development & Philanthropy:** We will continue to diversify UNMC dermatology revenues and ensure a strong financial future for our department. We look forward to partnering with you!
- **Culture:** We aim to be a leader in the "Culture of One" unifying UNMC with Nebraska Medicine and our other key clinical partners with aligned goals, transparency, open communication, and developing win-win opportunities. We will actively engage in creating the preferred working and learning environment by investing in recognition, wellness, a comfortable atmosphere and welcoming environment, clear accountabilities, and ongoing personalized development.
- **Leadership:** UNMC dermatology supports individual development, a growth mindset, ongoing learning, and individual team members reaching their full potential. We have several key initiatives to expand mentoring, leadership recruitment/development, networking, and succession planning within the department.

Together, we have accomplished so much in just over 3 years and I could not be more excited about what is to come! We look forward to partnering with many of you to solidify dermatology at UNMC and in our larger community for many years to come!

Ashley Wysong, MD, MS
Chair
Department of Dermatology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Dermatology Newsletter

December 2021

This Newsletter is produced by the Department of Dermatology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

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Nebraska Medicine Clinics

Matthew Stephany, MD

Assistant Professor and Medical Director for General Dermatology

It has been a remarkably busy time for Nebraska Medicine Dermatology! I am excited to be writing to you as the new medical director for general dermatology for Nebraska Medicine Dermatology after recently finishing training in Oklahoma City. Bringing on one new dermatologist can be a substantial increase for a department, but in dermatology we are getting used to things changing quickly; we have brought on four new dermatologists, including myself, since August. We were fortunate enough to recruit a pediatric dermatologist in Dr. Nicole Harter, who joined us from Southern California. Children's Hospital will be her primary point of care and our little patients will benefit from her expertise!

We have also recruited Dr. Lauri Vargo from Michigan by way of Kansas, which is a homecoming for her. She will be primarily at our Chalco and Elkhorn Clinics as we continue to grow and is already becoming reacquainted to Omaha. Along with Drs. Harter and Vargo, Dr. Melodi Whitley joined the department after finishing her training

at Duke University. She brings both her extensive knowledge of transplant dermatology as well as a scientific background in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma from her combined MD/PhD.

With our new faculty comes the opportunity to expand our impact in specialty clinics. Dr. Whitley will be heading up the transplant dermatology clinic, a vital addition to the dermatologic care for patients who have received both solid organ and bone marrow transplants, as the medications that they take to help prevent rejection of their transplanted organs also puts them at significantly higher risk of cutaneous malignancies. Along with these specialty clinics we have ramped up our presence in the cutaneous lymphoma multi-disciplinary clinic with our fantastic oncologists at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to take over patient care at this clinic from Dr. Wysong, whose shoes will be exceedingly difficult to fill, though she will continue to provide valuable insight and guidance.

The above clinics are in addition

to our existing specialty clinics within dermatology, including:

- Rheumatology/Dermatology Clinic with Dr. Arthur and Dr. Medlin
- Bullous Dermatology Clinic with Dr. Georgesen
- Cosmetic Dermatology Clinic with Dr. Sulewski
- Venolymphatic Clinic with Drs. Wysong and Sutton
- Infectious Dermatology Clinic with Dr. Adams
- Skin of Color Clinic with Dr. Hayes
- Mohs Micrographic Surgery with Dr. Wysong and Sutton

- Dr. Matthew Stephany
Nebraska Medicine Medical Director
for General Dermatology

2021 Dermatology: Year in Review

Kara Tomlinson, RN, MBA

What a year it has been! 2021 proved to be a year for perseverance and resilience! A large focus of this year was saying “thanks”, giving praise, and showing appreciation. This year, we give thanks as we reflect on the outstanding accomplishments of our entire UNMC and Nebraska Medicine dermatology team.

A few highlights:

Clinical: We have fearlessly innovated in the time of COVID-19. Led by Dr. Jennifer Adams, Director of Teledermatology, the 18-month build of our teledermatology program was rapidly accelerated and we now host a robust platform to include synchronous “real time” video visits, eConsult (MD or provider-to-dermatologist), eVisit (patient-to-dermatologist), and telephone visits. Utilizing teledermatology technology, we were able to maintain well over 90% patient visit volume throughout the toughest times of the pandemic. In addition, our clinicians have kept in-person dermatology visits for urgent and emergent dermatology, skin cancer patients and Nebraska Medicine inpatients throughout this challenging time.

In addition we have:

- Welcomed 4 new physicians (Drs. Harter, Stephany, Vargo, and Whitley)
- Added 8 Dermatology subspecialty and multidisciplinary clinics (MDCs)
- Recruited 19 clinical team members
- Began expansion plans for a new Village Pointe and main campus dermatology spaces
- Implemented the EPIC Dermatology Module, a new dermatology-specific electronic health record
- Launched Bellevue Inpatient eConsults
- Established a partnership with the VA, with the first official dermatology clinic held in January 2021
- Formally partnered with Children’s Hospital and Medical Center (CHMC) to launch a new pediatric dermatology clinic on October 26th, 2021

Education: Our education team comprised of Residency Program Director Dr. Jennifer Adams; Associate Program Director, Dr. Megan Arthur; Immediate-Past PD Dr. Ashley Wysong; and our



Education Coordinator, Tammy O’Donnell have been hard at work! Our ACGME residency program in dermatology officially launched on July 1, 2020 and we welcome 3 new residents on July 1, 2021 to increase our resident compliment to 6. The year went off with a bang with the development of new clinical rotations, didactic lectures, workshops, journal club, and so much more! In addition, our education team has reviewed over 500 applications from around the country to fill our 3 residency positions in the NRMP Match program this coming March.

Staffing changes include:

- Promoted Dr. Jennifer Adams to Residency Program Director
- Welcomed 3 new residents to our growing department (Drs. Borucki, Lee, and Siller), with 3 more starting July 1, 2022 (Drs. Fernandez, Kwan, and Lloyd-McLennan)!

Research: We are extremely excited to announce the addition of Dr. Melodi Whitley MD, PhD, a translational scientist with a PhD in cancer biology and postdoctoral fellowship in tumor immunology who will be working with Dr. Wysong on high-risk squamous cell carcinoma and focusing primarily on immunosuppressed patient populations.

More research highlights include:

- Welcomed Dr. Elliot Blue, our Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
- Welcomed Liz Mata as our Dermatology year-long Predoctoral Research Fellow
- Provided seven summer research students the opportunity to perform research in the field of dermatology through our Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP)
- Participated in Cattleman’s Ball of Nebraska which raises funds for cancer research and invests funds back to the community for health and wellness programs
- Created several active and upcoming studies and clinical trials

Administrative

- Recruited 3 new administrative team members (Gabby Jensen, Paul Longuski, and Savannah Schamp)
- Established an Annual Awards Committee

Service & Outreach

- Participated in several opportunities to give back to the community (food and toiletry drive donated to the University of Nebraska Omaha's Maverick Food Pantry, Adopt-A-Family, Bridge to Care, several DIGA/ SPOTS events across campus and the community, High School Alliance, Pride parade, Back to School BBQ)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- Participated in several DEI events (Cultural Humility Series, Creating Inclusion at Work, Celebrating Juneteenth and the History of the Emancipation Proclamation, Implicit Bias)
- Continued our monthly DEI Happy Hours!
- Created and printed Pronoun buttons
- Toured and learned the history of the Wigton Heritage Center

- Kara Tomlinson RN, MBA
Department Administrator

The UNMC Dermatology Family Grows!



Britney Vinston
Naomi Vinston 01/29/21



Sarah Hurtz
Leo Hurtz 04/13/21



Dr. Arthur
Ivy James Arthur 09/07/21



Dr. Vargo
Madelyn Vargo 10/28/21

New Faces



Paul Longuski - Marketing and Communications Specialist



Savannah Schamp - Office Associate



Dr. Melodi Whitley - Assistant Professor and Director of Transplant Dermatology



Dr. Nicole Harter - Chief of Pediatric Dermatology

“UNMC DIGA students to be paired with an underrepresented minority (URM) students in the HSA interested in pursuing a career in dermatology/medicine.”

Marissa Lobl



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Karle Olnes and Marissa Lobl

The UNMC Dermatology Interest Group (DIGA) has started a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) mentorship program in partnership with the UNMC High School Alliance (HSA). The purpose of this initiative is for UNMC DIGA students to be paired with underrepresented minority (URM) students in the HSA interested in pursuing a career in dermatology/medicine.

The inaugural year has a total of 30 participants (15 pairs of mentors and mentees). The program kicked off this month with a virtual welcome picnic, featuring a panel of faculty and UNMC medical students involved in diversity discussing the importance of diversity in medicine.

The mentors and mentees had a chance to meet one-on-one in breakout rooms and introduce each other to the program. The mentors and mentees will continue to meet throughout the year and discuss a new topic each month. We are very excited about this new program!

The UNMC Department of Dermatology is also excited to announce two new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives sponsored by the department. **The Dr. Kristie Hayes Visiting URiM Medical Student Externship in Dermatology** is an available, visiting externship that will be awarded to rising 4th-year Underrepresented Minority Students in Medicine (URiMs) interested in dermatology which allows them to receive funding for travel, lodging, and board for a 1-month sub-I clinical rotation at UNMC Dermatology.

The Karle Cordova Olnes UNMC Dermatology URiM Summer Medical Student Research Fellowship is an award available to Underrepresented Minority Students in Medicine (URiMs) interested in dermatology which allows them to perform basic, translational, clinical or outcomes research during the summer between their M1 and M2 years in medical school.

For more information about these two opportunities and how to apply, please visit our website:

<https://www.unmc.edu/dermatology/diversity/index.html>

- Karle Olnes, MBA
Department Administrative Business Associate



Residents Corner

Alfredo Siller, MD
PGY-2 Dermatology Resident

This last quarter has been an exciting time for our dermatology residency program as we move forward into the new 2021-2022 academic year. Our department continues to be blessed with growth from all sides. New and bright faces line the walls of our department with a collective expertise to rival any dermatology program across the country!

Here are a few highlights from our last quarter!

- 06/30/2021 The University of Nebraska Medical Center welcomed its second class of dermatology residents Dr. Robert Borucki Jr., Dr. Erica Lee, and Dr. Alfredo Siller Jr.
- 09/17/2021 Our residents honed their team building skills during their resident wellness retreat at TreeRush Adventures in the Fontanelle Forest.
- Dr. Tyler Evans PGY-3 and Dr. Erica Lee PGY-2 submitted manuscripts respectively titled "Patient Discomfort During Mohs Surgery Compared To Other Common Medical

Procedures" and "Patient Reported Outcome Measures in Patients Undergoing Mohs Surgery: Timing Matters" which were accepted for publication in the JAAD.

- Dr. Robert Borucki PGY-2 had two articles titled "Preliminary definition of flare in cutaneous lupus erythematosus using the Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus Disease Area and Severity Index" and "A prospective cohort study comparing the performance of interferon gamma release assays in autoimmune skin diseases" published in the JAAD!
- Dr. Alfredo Siller Jr. PGY-2 joins the resident/fellow editorial board for SKIN *The Journal of Cutaneous Medicine*.
- UNMC Dermatology welcomes its first ever away-rotating medical students M4 Varun Ranpariya from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and M4 Jack DeMoss from Sanford School of Medicine.
- 10/01/2021 Thanks to the hard work of our very own Dr. Megan Arthur, the dermatology residents were able to practice reconstructive surgical techniques during a hands-on cadaver lab course led by Dr. Wysong and Dr. Sutton.
- 10/11/2021 The new "Skin Exam" Dermatology platform for EPIC goes live. This platform was pioneered by our very own residency program director Dr. Jennifer Adams!
- 10/22/2021 Our dermatology residents volunteer at the House Officer Association Halloween Trick or Treat.
- 10/29/2021 Dr. Sulewski puts on his famous Cosmetic Educational Workshop where our residents practice injecting Botox and Filler on volunteer models!
- 11/9/2021 Nebraska Dermatology Society hosts its first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic!

The future looks bright for dermatology education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. With each passing month our residents continue to surpass new milestones and gain expertise from our growing list of superb faculty. In less than a year, we will have a full complement of dermatology residents and are looking forward to expanding our services to new partners in the community. We are thankful for the love and support from our colleagues in other departments who go out of their way to consult us on interesting and challenging cases. We can't wait to put UNMC Dermatology on the map for exceptional dermatology training!

- Alfredo Siller Jr., MD
PGY-2 Resident Physician



**Tom Thompson,
NU Foundation**



Scan to
Give!



Ways to Support our Department

Developing new clinical programs, innovative education strategies, and cutting-edge research protocols depends on support from our philanthropic partners. UNMC alumni, grateful patients, and community partners have expressed an interest in learning more about our program, opportunities to enhance the impact we have at UNMC and across Nebraska, and our vision to become a national leader in treatment, physician training, and outreach. If you would like to learn more about private gifts and partnerships in these or other areas, or about volunteering for our programs, we welcome the chance to share them with you. We are grateful for every gift, as well as each person who would like to be a part of the team serving our dermatologic community.

**We have immediate needs
in the following areas:**

- Dermatology Excellence Fund
- Education Funding -- Resident Education Fund, Medical Student Research Scholarships, Endowed Research Fellowship
- Patient Care and Clinical Support
- Endowed Faculty Sponsorship

For more information please contact:

Department of Dermatology,
402-559-4503

University of Nebraska Foundation,
Tom Thompson, 402-502-4116

Visit us on the web at
www.unmc.edu/dermatology

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