

# Dermatology News

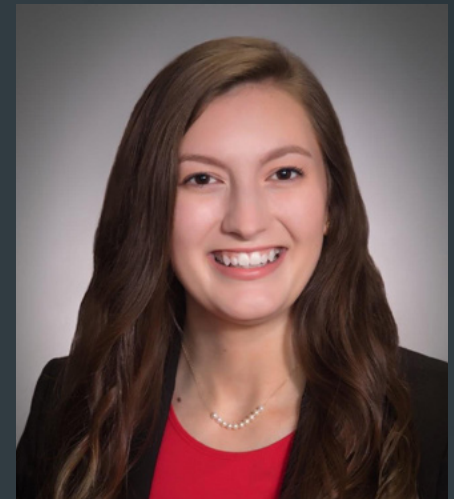
Spring 2022



Dr. Kayla Clark  
University of Illinois College  
of Medicine at Chicago



Dr. Madison Grinnell  
University of Nebraska  
Medical Center



Dr. Taylor Thieman  
University of Nebraska  
Medical Center

## It's a MATCH! New Residents Starting in July 2023

Jaida Carley, GME/UME  
Education Program Coordinator  
and Administrative Assistant

On March 18th, 2022, the UNMC Dermatology team announced our three new future resident physicians to our ACGME program: Kayla Clark, MD, Madison Grinnell, MD, and Taylor Thieman, MD, bringing our full resident compliment to nine.

The official announcement came on

March 18th, the annual "Match Day", when hopeful residency candidates await the life changing news of where they will be continuing their educational journey. The rapidly growing Department of Dermatology at UNMC has been working tirelessly to ensure matches with the best possible candidates. Collectively, the faculty reviewed over 500 applications before narrowing the search down to 36 candidates that were invited to a virtual interview in December and January.

Two out of the three residents that matched are our very own UNMC medical students Taylor Thieman and Madison Grinnell, and we are eager to welcome Kayla Clark to UNMC during summer 2023. The new members of the dermatology residency program were welcomed with excited video calls from the current faculty and residents along with a warm welcome from all of the dermatology faculty. We are excited to have matched with such a strong group of individuals and are eager to add them to our growing department.



# Chair's Corner

We are off to an outstanding start in 2022! I am extremely proud of the teamwork, and innovative practices developed to ensure continued dermatology access while supporting the larger healthcare system through the Omicron surge. We had another successful resident physician recruitment season reviewing excellent applications from around the country (and the globe!), hosting virtual interviews, and are extremely proud of our exceptional match result! We are honored to train two of our very own UNMC medical students, Madison Grinnell and Taylor Thieman, and welcome Kayla Clark from the University of Illinois! Huge congratulations and thank you to Residency Program Directors Dr. Jennifer Adams and Dr. Megan Arthur and our new Program Coordinator Jaida Carley! On July 1st, we will be up to our full resident complement of 9 resident physicians in dermatology.

We had a major national showing at our recent American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, held for the first time in the three years in March! Our dermatology faculty, resident physicians, research fellows, and medical students were on the podium and visibly representing Nebraska with outstanding abstracts, posters, and oral presentations! We also had our first "Friends & Alumni of UNMC Dermatology" event at the national meeting and it was extremely well attended with fun had by all. Read more about the experience through the eyes of Dr. Adams on page 3.

I'd also like to highlight the amazing work by Dr. Nicole Harter, Chief of Pediatric Dermatology, and our partners at Children's Hospital and Medical Center of Omaha in launching our first-ever pediatric dermatology program! Dr. Harter has been seeing patients since October 2021 in her beautiful new space and is making an immeasurable impact on our larger community. Please see page 6 to learn more about this program! In addition to Dr. Harter, our three other new faculty in 2021-2022 have been off to an outstanding start! Dr. Matthew Stephany has hit the ground running as the medical director of general dermatology, working closely with our Nebraska Medicine operational leaders to optimize our clinical program. He has also grown our multidisciplinary cutaneous T-cell lymphoma clinic at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (FPBCC). Dr. Melodi Whitley, director of transplant dermatology, has established busy general dermatology and transplant dermatology specialty clinics and has her research career rolling with the development of an amazing mentorship team at UNMC! She has already authored several senior author research papers and submitted several research grants in the first few months! Dr. Lauri Vargo has established her practice in West Omaha with outstanding patient reviews and has written a wonderful sun safety article on page 7 to get us all ready for summer!

Milestones and records continue to be broken by the Mohs & Dermatologic Surgery Program, led by Dr. Adam Sutton. He provides state-of-the-art, comprehensive skin cancer care for patients with melanoma, non-melanoma, and other rare skin cancers. Our state-of-the-art histology lab utilizes intraoperative immunohistochemical stains to ensure the highest cure rates for our skin cancer patients while minimizing the removal of normal tissues and optimizing cosmetic outcomes. Learn about the launch of our dermatologic surgery program through the latest episode #4 from our UNMC Dermatology Skin Deep Podcast. You can find our podcast on any major platform (Apple, Spotify, Google, Amazon Music, etc.). Dr. Ronald Sulewski, our director of laser & aesthetic dermatology, continues to expand services for our Nebraska Medicine and Veterans Affairs (VA) patients. We have also launched a retail dermatology program to allow patients to purchase our favorite over-the-counter cosmeceutical products in our Nebraska Medicine dermatology clinics! Dr. Corey Georgesen, double board-certified in dermatology and dermatopathology, has grown our dermatopathology service dramatically over the last year while maintaining a busy clinical practice in general dermatology, autoimmune bullous disease, and inpatient consultative dermatology!

We have much to be grateful for going into 2022 -- look out next academic year, here we come! Our major goals will focus on growing our academic, clinical, research, and support teams -- it's all about the PEOPLE! We are also excited to move into our new clinical space at Village Pointe in 2023 and plan for our long-term home on the UNMC main campus. Thank you to all of our friends, alumni, and supporters. We could not do it without you and can't wait to share all that is to come!

With gratitude,

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

## Dermatology Newsletter

April 2022

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

Editor: Paul Longuski  
Photographer: Paul Longuski

For additional printed copies, please contact:

UNMC Department of Dermatology  
985645 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5645

402.559.6128





“It was clear throughout the weekend that UNMC Dermatology has already started gaining an impressive national reputation through word of mouth...”

- Jennifer Adams, MD

## AAD

Jennifer Adams, MD,  
Assistant Professor and Residency Program Director

No one could have anticipated the cancellation of the March 2020 American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) annual meeting, but COVID adjusted life as we knew it from that point on. March 2022 marked the first in-person AAD annual meeting since the pandemic started, and to say that we dermatologists were eager to re-connect is an understatement. Set in the backdrop of the historical, beautiful Boston, Massachusetts, the UNMC Dermatology faculty and residents made the most of the opportunity.

After the opening of the meeting with fantastic lectures throughout Friday (including Dr. Ashley Wysong and MD/PhD student Marissa Lobl), the UNMC residents joined program director Dr. Jennifer Adams for a dinner under the stars on the pier. Many of the faculty ended the

evening celebrating at the Women's Dermatologic Society's 80's themed legacy dinner for Dr. Dianne Berson.

Saturday was again full of more incredible presentations from UNMC: medical students Liz Mata & Kim Nguyen along with Dr. Wysong's well-attended multi-subunit defect reconstruction lecture. The residents made a good effort in the Derspath bowl and scoured the exhibit hall for goodies. Saturday evening marked the inaugural UNMC Dermatology Alumni & Friends Event- we stayed much later than planned, enjoying the company of both those with a history with the school and those who will be joining us as residents in the years to come. The event was a blast, and many continued the evening in the "North End" (Italian neighborhood) of Boston for dinner followed by dessert at Mike's Pastries.

Sunday kicked off with Dr. Adams and Dr. Wei-Barrett lecturing in the Cost-Effective Care symposium followed by presentations by future UNMC Dermatology resident Taylor Thieman and Dr. Nicole Harter. Dr. Wysong and

vascular technician, Alesha Smith, led a four hour hands-on venous disease session on Monday to wrap up an incredibly successful UNMC Dermatology participation in the AAD Annual Meeting.

It was clear throughout the weekend that UNMC Dermatology has already started gaining an impressive national reputation through word of mouth, even with this being only the second in-person AAD since the department began. Pride for our department and what we have accomplished along with where we are going was noted by many throughout the long weekend. Many saw the weekend as a mile marker where we could reflect on the reputation and road that we have paved over the pandemic as an innovative center of excellence. Plus, it doesn't hurt to celebrate with seafood and Boston cream pies!



# And the Award Goes To...

Karle Olnes, MBA  
Department Administrative Business Associate

At the end of 2021, we held our inaugural award ceremony for UNMC and Nebraska Medicine Dermatology. There were 11 awards handed out among faculty, staff, and trainees, with dozens more nominated. We are thankful for all of the exceptional people who are part of our team, continuously going above and beyond.

## Awards & Recipients



**Teacher of the Year Award:**  
*Dr. Jennifer Adams, Assistant Professor and Residency Program Director*

"Criteria for this award include contributing to superior education of students, residents, fellows, and other trainees and a commitment to ongoing education. This individual encourages learner involvement in professional opportunities and provides exemplary academic and professional preparation."



**Department Administrative Employee of the Year:**  
*Karle Olnes, UNMC Administrative Business Associate*

"This award recognizes administrative excellence. Qualities include a passionate commitment to the department's mission, confidence, focus, proficiency, and a deep commitment to customer service both internally and externally."



**Clinic Employee of the Year:**  
*Kendall Nichols, Nebraska Medicine Nurse*

"This award celebrates the contributions of an individual who goes above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of a patient, visitor, or co-worker. This recipient demonstrates a high level of accountability and a positive attitude and approach to their work, as well as a commitment to safety and providing an extraordinary patient experience. The individual winner was chosen from the "Employee of the Month" awardees from the prior year."

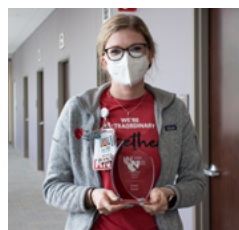


**Community Service Award:**  
*Mercedes Sanchez, Nebraska Medicine Scheduler*

"This award honors an individual who makes significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, and dedication.



They serve as a role model for compassion and service to make the world a better place. This individual possesses a passion for helping others in their community."



**ITEACH Award:**  
*Emily Belak, Nebraska Medicine Nurse*

"The recipient of this award demonstrates innovation, teamwork, excellence, accountability, courage, and healing on a consistent basis.

This individual embodies and supports a high-performing culture and lives the organizational values day to day in achieving individual, team, and organizational goals."



**Going the Extra Mile Award:**  
*Sushmita Adhikari, UNMC Research Project Associate*

"This award recognizes employees who go above and beyond their regular, assigned duties. The recipient volunteers to take on responsibilities

not specifically required and does so with a positive and willing spirit. This individual demonstrates leadership and an ability to motivate others in the pursuit of excellence."





**Skin Deep DEI in Dermatology Award:**  
*Dr. Kristie Hayes, Associate Professor and Director of Diversity*

"This award highlights a team member who has gone above and beyond to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within our

department, campus, and the larger community. Recipients serve as role models for DEI and help improve diversity within our department and the field of dermatology."



**Mentor of the Year Award:**  
*Dr. Ashley Wysong, Founding Chair, and William W. Bruce, MD, Distinguished Chair of Dermatology*

"This award recognizes and celebrates outstanding role models who have demonstrated a long-standing

commitment to mentorship with a lasting impact. Recipients display a positive impact on students, trainees, and junior faculty through their trusted advisement and their ability to grow and develop mentees both professionally and personally."



**UNMC Rookie of the Year Award:**  
*Gabrielle Jensen, UNMC Administrative Associate*

"This award celebrates an employee who started less than two years ago. Recipient of this award has already made a significant impact on the

team by seeking continuous improvement and demonstration of great potential to continue to excel and advance in their role."



**Nebraska Medicine Rookie of the Year Award:**  
*Teddi Settles, Nebraska Medicine Nurse*

"This award celebrates an employee who started less than two years ago. Recipient of this award has already made a significant impact on the

team by seeking continuous improvement and demonstration of great potential to continue to excel and advance in their role."



**Outstanding Trainee in Dermatology Award:**  
*Dr. Tyler Evans, UNMC PGY3 Resident*

"This award goes to the trainee in dermatology who consistently demonstrates our ITEACH values, goes the extra mile in providing exceptional

care to patients, strives for excellence in dermatologic knowledge and is always eager to help another student or colleague in need."



## New Face



## Jaida Carley, Resident Coordinator

I am from Norfolk, NE, where I spent 18 years of my life before moving to Omaha, NE, to attend UNO. Norfolk is a small town, so adjusting to Omaha was a process. I graduated from UNO in 2017 with a double B.S. in psychology and criminal justice in hopes of attending law school but being poor in college led me to work in a pain management clinic, and I fell in love with healthcare. I then began to pursue my master's degree to obtain an MBA with an emphasis in health care while working at Dermatology Specialist of Omaha, which led me to this new position. I love all things dermatology, and I look forward to being on the educational side of dermatology and further growing in my career.

I have a three-year-old daughter named Lyric. I spend most of my free time with Lyric, doing homework, going to random basketball games throughout the city of Omaha, watching football, traveling as much as I can, and being with my significant other & family.

“Our team has been commended on excellent patient-satisfaction scores, which we will continue to strive for in the future.”

Nicole Harter, MD

Dr. Harter examining a patient. Photo courtesy of Children's Hospital & Medical Center.



## Update on the Growth of the Pediatric Dermatology Division

Nicole Harter, MD

Associate Professor and Chief of Pediatric Dermatology

Our Division of Pediatric Dermatology at Children's Hospital & Medical Center just celebrated its six-month anniversary since opening last fall! We could not be more excited about the growth and progress the clinic has made in a short period of time.

Our clinics are full with highly varied types of patients — those with both common and complex dermatologic conditions, patients who are new to dermatology and many who are now establishing their care here in Omaha after waiting for pediatric dermatology to be present in our Children's community. We find ourselves serving the needs of patients in Omaha as well as many of the surrounding rural communities and bordering states.

Our clinical team has grown to include a Registered Nurse, Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant and Clinical Support Assistant, and we are actively working to recruit our second nurse. Our pediatric phototherapy unit has arrived and we began scheduling these patients in March of 2022. We are thrilled to have this treatment option available for our pediatric patients with severe skin disease, as it is a resource not readily available for pediatric dermatologic patients in the community.

We have been providing surgical and laser procedures for patients in the office, and in February 2022 we expanded our cases into the operating room at Children's pediatric surgical suites and Outpatient Surgery Center at West Village Pointe. This is such an important part of what we do in pediatric dermatology, as many of our patients cannot tolerate procedures in the office due to fear or anxiety.

Our team has been commended on excellent patient-satisfaction scores, which we will continue to strive for in the future. We look forward to these next few months with hope and enthusiasm for continuing to grow our division while optimizing patient care and patient experience.



# Be Ready for Summer with these Safety Tips

Lauri Vargo, MD  
Assistant Professor

Spring has officially sprung in the Department of Dermatology and with the prospect of warmer weather comes the need for sun safety. Why as dermatologists are we so obsessed with protecting your skin? It's not just because we're addicted to our sunscreen. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States, and it is estimated that one out of every five Americans will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. Even scarier is that the most serious form of skin cancer, melanoma, is projected to be the fifth most diagnosed cancer in 2021. So, how do we recommend you protect your skin and reduce your risk of developing skin cancer? Well, you've come to the right place. Read on, my friend.

The most frequent question I get asked in my clinic is, "what type of sunscreen is best?" And the answer to that question can be tricky because the best answer is really, "whatever sunscreen you will wear." Now there are a few stipulations to this statement. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends a sunscreen that is broad-spectrum, water-resistant and has an SPF of 30 or above. If your sunscreen meets those criteria, it is a good sunscreen. You can be sure that in the early years of our relationship, when my husband brought out that Banana Boat SPF 4, it ended up straight in the garbage!

Now when it comes to applying sunscreen, there is a right and wrong way. First, sunscreen should be applied 15-30 minutes before sun exposure. In addition, most people only apply 20-50%

of the amount of sunscreen that is needed. The average adult needs about 1 ounce, or enough to fill a shot glass, of sunscreen to cover their body. And quite possibly the most important point of all is reapplication. Sunscreen needs to be reapplied at least every 2 hours while outdoors and after swimming or sweating.

Some additional sun safety tips include:

- Avoid sun exposure during the peak hours of the day (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)
- Wear lightweight, protective clothing with built-in ultraviolet protection factor (UPF)
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with UV protection
- Use a lip balm with SPF
- Avoid tanning beds

With the summer quickly approaching, it is a good time to talk about sun safety, but remember, year-round protection is key. Daily sunscreen and sun protection is a necessity, regardless of the weather. And if I haven't convinced you yet, I would like to let you in on a little secret. As dermatologists, the best anti-aging cream we have is... drumroll please... yes, that's right, sunscreen!

## Listen to Our Skin Deep Podcast!

Wherever you listen to podcasts (Apple, Spotify, google, amazon music, etc.), search UNMC Dermatology and the Skin Deep Podcast, join host Paul Longuski as he uncovers what has made the Department of Dermatology at UNMC such a success! Listen to interviews from the Faculty, Residents, and Staff on the history of this great department and its exciting future.







**Tom Thompson,  
NU Foundation**



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# 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

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[www.unmc.edu/dermatology](http://www.unmc.edu/dermatology)

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