

Dermatology News

Winter 2023

Holiday Party 2023

Zagee Flores
Office Associate I

The holidays are in the air and the department of dermatology was able to gather together out of our scrubs and usual office attire for an evening of excitement, laughs and a cocktail or two amongst our friends and family. We had not only the pleasure of seeing our UNMC and Nebraska Medicine colleagues, but we also got the chance to see a few team members from Children's Nebraska and the VA Dermatology join the celebration!

After a time of mingling and some dinner, Dr. Wysong took to the mic for a moment of reflection of the department and our collective achievements; from the department's 5-year anniversary, getting our glorious Village Pointe clinic up and running and our growing roster with doctors Voss, Oudenhoven and Van Roy joining the derm family.

Then came the time for the coveted award ceremony with Lindsey Davis, Clinic Director/Administrator, and Dr. Sutton announcing this year's winners. This year we had a plethora of donated raffle prizes ranging from gift cards of varying food/coffee spots, wine from Italy, delectable treats, Stanley cups, gift baskets galore, hand-crafted bowls coated in a beautiful navy glaze that looked fresh out the kiln.. or as Dr. Stephany said, "really great bowls!".

Whether you were there all night or only had a chance to stop by, one thing was certain, everyone had a smile on their face, I cant wait for next year's holiday party.





2023 Annual Award Winners

- **ITEACH Award — Kendall Nichols**

 - *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 — Alesha Smith**

 - *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.*

- **Mentor of the Year Award — Suzie Weiss**

 - *This award recognizes and celebrates outstanding role models who have demonstrated a longstanding 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.*

- **Teacher of the Year Award — Dr. Megan Arthur**

 - *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.*

- **Administrative Employee of the Year — Zagee Flores**

 - *This award recognizes administrative excellence. Qualities include a passionate commitment to the departments mission, confidence, focus, proficiency, and a deep commitment to customer service both internally and externally.*

- **Clinic Employee of the Year — Mindy Wratchford**

 - *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 will be chosen from the "Employee of the Month" awardees from the prior year.*

- **Community Service Award — Chantalle Ferguson**

 - *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.*

- **Dr. Kristie Hayes Diversity in Dermatology Award — Leslie Lucas**

 - *This award highlights a team member who has gone above and beyond to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within our department, campus, and larger community. Recipients serve as role models for DEI and help improve diversity within our department and the field of dermatology.*

- **Outstanding Trainee Award — Dr. Jennifer Fernandez**

 - *This award goes to the trainee in dermatology who consistently demonstrates our ITEACH values, goes the extra mile in providing exceptional care of patients, strives for excellence in dermatologic knowledge, and is always eager to help another student or colleague in need.*

- **Rookie of the Year Award — Paige Weil**

 - *This award celebrates an employee who started less than 2 years ago. The 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.*





From the Chair

As we wrap up 2023, I can't help but have a sense of gratitude for all we have accomplished as a team this year:

- Graduation of our first class of resident physicians in dermatology
- Opening of our new comprehensive dermatology clinic at Village Pointe (increasing our clinical space 4-fold at Nebraska Medicine)
- Onboarding of three new physician faculty and two new physician assistants at Nebraska Medicine and Children's Nebraska
- Successfully launching our Clinical Trials Program, led by Dr. Erin Barrett
- Development of 4 new specialty and multidisciplinary clinics in dermatology
- Celebrating our 5 year anniversary as a department...*and so much more!*

It occurs to me that none of this would be possible without the people who make up UNMC Dermatology - it is each and every one of our faculty, students, staff and supporters that have made our continued success possible. I am proud of the inclusive culture we have built to ensure that each individual can bring their authentic self to work and be "at their best" each and every day. More than five years in, we continue to strive to *fearlessly innovate* and re-invent the way we approach challenges and continue to operate. This is what makes us so very special - we are always striving together to adapt and thrive!

This quarter, we celebrated 5 years of Mohs Surgery at UNMC/Nebraska Medicine led by Dr. Adam Sutton. This extraordinary program has dramatically expanded access and expertise for patients with skin cancer and complex cutaneous oncology within our region. Our team of three board-certified and fellowship-trained Mohs surgeons has built an outstanding regional and national reputation and has performed over 5,200 Mohs skin cancer surgeries since launching in October 2018 with record breaking patient experience scores.

Finally, please enjoying reading about and meeting our year-long research fellows and their areas of interest as they grow their research skills and work closely with our faculty, residents and research staff on research projects that will change the way we practice dermatology for many years to come! Looking forward to 2024 and all that it brings for UNMC Dermatology!

Ashley Wysong MD, MS

Founding Chair and Professor
Department of Dermatology
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Dermatology
Newsletter
Winter 2023**

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

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Year-Long Research Fellows

Megan Wackel,
Research Project Associate

The Year-Long Research Fellowship and the PGY-2 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship students started in our department on July 1st. Over the next year these people focus on high quality research typically in each person’s area of interest. We match each student with a faculty mentor to help them expand their skills on all aspects of research including grant and manuscript writing, study design, and learning new applications such as statistical software and national databases. We encourage the students to submit to multiple conferences aligning with their research project for both poster and oral presentations. With this, students also have the opportunity to present cases at the UNMC Dermatology grand rounds and other case presentation platforms across the university throughout the year. By the end of their year at UNMC, students will have increased their overall knowledge of the field of Dermatology, an opportunity to apply to present their work at national and international conferences, and hopefully become a published author in top Dermatologic journals.



Mitch Taylor

Creighton University

Fun fact: I have a twin brother!

Area of Interest: High-risk melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, LGBTQ+ dermatology, and complex medical dermatology.

Favorite part of UNMC: On top of the incredible research and clinical opportunities, I think the community has been such a highlight of my experience thus far. Everyone here promotes such a strong learning environment emphasizing mentorship and relationships with everyone in the department.



Bianca Ituarte

University of Missouri-KC

Fun fact: I have a side job at Voodoo Taco!

Area of Interest: Skin of Color, pediatric dermatology, infectious disease dermatology, social determinants of care delivery, and inter-specialty conditions.

Favorite part of UNMC: Everyone in the department is very welcoming and supportive of my project ideas-- as well as my growth as a learner and researcher.



Sierra Thomas

University of Utah

Fun fact: I skipped 4th grade.

Area of Interest: High risk non melanoma skin cancer, skin cancer prevention and education, tele dermatology, and increasing access and quality of dermatological care to rural populations.

Favorite part of UNMC: Getting to know the faculty and colleagues. The culture here is outstanding and I look forward to coming to work and developing those relationships. I have also enjoyed going to didactics with the residents and furthering my dermatology education.



Divya Sharma , MD

Northeast Ohio Medical University

Fun fact: I have an identical twin brother.

Area of Interest: Environmental Dermatology, Skin Cancer Prevention & Genetics

Favorite part of UNMC: The amazing culture. Everyone is so nice and welcoming, it makes coming into work everyday fun and a great experience.



Dr. Borucki published a fascinating case report on trichodysplasia spinulosa and all of our residents continue to be involved in multiple research and quality improvement projects. I am very excited to be selected as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) trainee liaison for the Section on Dermatology. We have enjoyed multiple hands-on workshops in clinic and the cadaver lab. The second years happily passed the on-call torch to the first years, and Dr. Clark, Dr. Theiman and Dr. Grinnell have all survived their first weeks of after-hours call.

Our residents have also led multiple exciting grand rounds this fall, including our in-person grand rounds in September and our first collaborative grand rounds with the psychiatry department at the annual Nebraska Dermatology Society meeting in October! We presented and discussed multiple interesting cases, including high risk cutaneous oncology cases and psychodermatology cases with our psychiatry resident partners.

Just as our first years are settling in, it is time to start preparing for our next class of residents. ERAS application season is underway, and our senior residents are busy reading personal statements along with our faculty trying to find the perfect Cinderellas to fill our four residency class slippers. Yes, you heard that right, we will now be matching four residents per class!

Outside of the hospital, we have had multiple one-year-old birthdays, welcoming our dermatology babies into their toddler era. We made the most of the extended warm weather and spent time together as a residency family at the zoo, various fall festivals, splash pads, parks, you name it! We also bonded at our resident retreat at the Craft Axe Throwing, learning about quite a few bone-chilling hidden talents. Everyone excelled, with a special shout out to Dr. Fernandez, who rocked the ninja star while Dr. Borucki threw bullseye after bullseye with the metal axe. We enjoyed pizza, chicken wings and giggles at Pitch Pizzeria. The residents also volunteered at the Pinnacle Bank Championship, handing out sunscreen and smiles to attendees. The weather may have hit a low, but our spirits remained high. Winter is coming, so let's grab some hot cocoa and cheers to what is to come!



Resident's Corner

Allison Lloyd-McLennan, MD, PGY-3

It is pumpkin season! The leaves are falling, the air is crisp and the residents are thriving.

Our 3rd year residents, Dr. Lee, Dr. Borucki and Dr. Siller, passed all of their dermatology core exams, which is a HUGE accomplishment. Hip Hip Hooray! The core exams consist of four modules based on dermatology's major clinical areas – medical, pediatric, surgical and dermatopathology. They are one step closer to becoming board certified dermatologists.

Another round of applause for multiple well deserved awards: Dr. Kwan received the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Resident Scholarship (ASDS) and is presenting an interesting case at the national ASDS conference; Dr. Lee received the Society for Pediatric Dermatology (SPD) Mentorship Award to rotate at the University of California, San Francisco; and, Dr. Fernandez received the Dermatology Interest Group Association Mentorship Award.

5 Years of Mohs



Dr. Adam Sutton
Associate Professor
Director of Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery

In October of this year we celebrated the five year anniversary of our Mohs Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology Program at Nebraska Medicine and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This program started with a vision to build a skin cancer program that is patient centered, serves our community and provides cutting edge treatment for both common and rare skin cancers. As we reflect on the progress to date, we have many individuals to thank and a lot for the entire surgical team to be proud of. We are grateful to our referring providers who have trusted us with the care of their patients.

This year we have opened a second Mohs surgical suite at Village Pointe. This state-of-the-art surgical suite is conveniently located right off Dodge Street and provides ready access to our patients both in West Omaha, Western Nebraska and beyond. We continue to see patients and operate at our Lauritzen Outpatient Center located near main campus. Expanding access at distinct locations allows for convenient options for patients to seek their surgical care.

In addition to a new surgical suite, we recruited Dr. Vanessa Voss to join our surgical team. Dr. Voss is a double board-certified dermatologist and Mohs surgeon. She is joining us from New Orleans and has been a wonderful addition to our surgical team. Dr. Voss sees patients at both Lauritzen Outpatient Center and Village Pointe. In addition to performing Mohs surgery, she directs our Transplant Dermatology Clinic for patients who are often at very high risk of skin cancer.

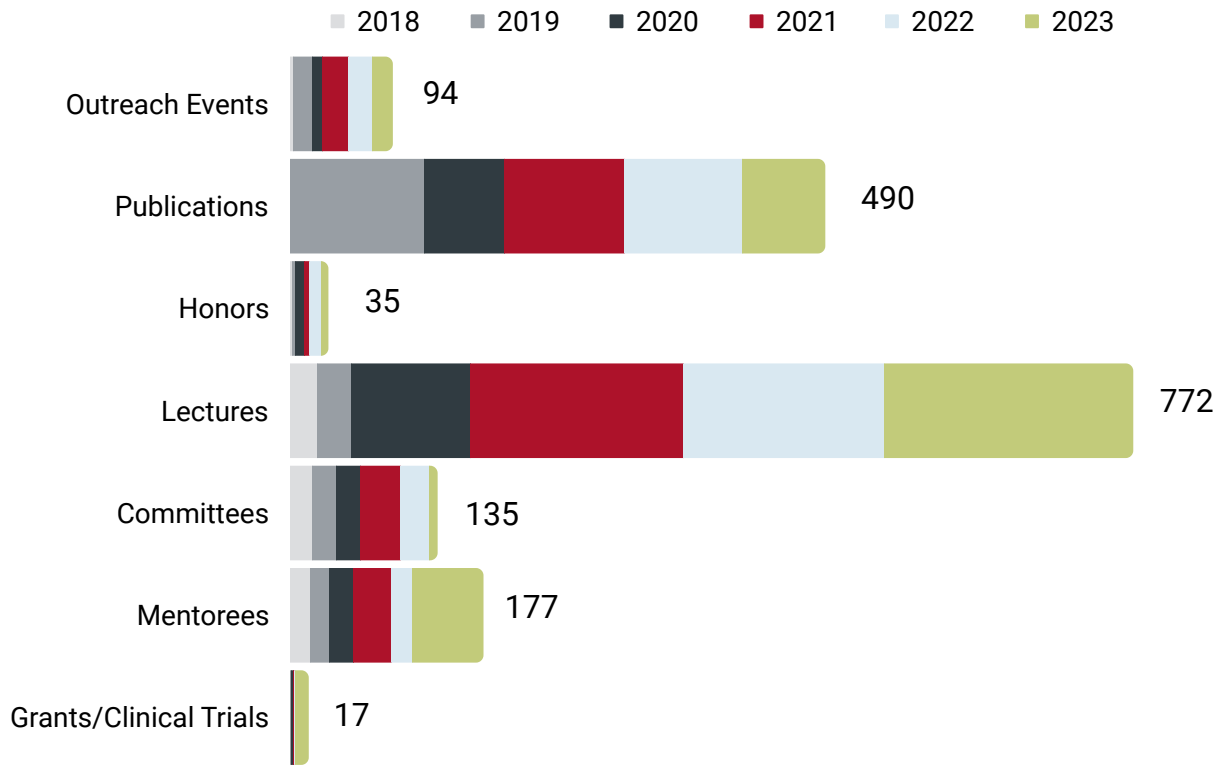
With the continued growth of our program, our entire team has shown a steadfast commitment to centering all aspects of care around our patients. As a part of this, we have a multi-disciplinary skin cancer team that allows us to treat some of the highest risk patients in a coordinated and team-based fashion. Our skin cancer team includes head and neck surgical oncology, facial plastics, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, oral maxillofacial surgery, medical oncology, and radiology. In our Mohs lab, we have developed the expertise to use additional stains (immunohistochemical stains) to more precisely identify melanoma cells and other types of high-risk tumors. These specialized stains have shown to improve cure rates for some of the more challenging tumors.

When I think about what defines our program, it is our team members and dedication to continued improvement. All aspects of our team, including leadership, scheduling, lab and clinical, is constantly working to ensure we offer the very highest level of care for our patients. At the end of the day, this is what we are most proud of, and this is what keeps us motivated, excited and thinking towards to future of excellence in skin cancer care.



5 Years of

Academic Excellence



5 Years of *Mohs* Metrics

- 5491 Mohs surgery cases
- 3 board-certified, fellowship trained Mohs surgeons
- 57% basal cell carcinomas, 40% squamous cell carcinomas, 2% rare/other tumors, 1% melanomas
- 2 Mohs surgery histology labs and locations in Omaha
- 5 Mohs histotechs



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:

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402-559-4503

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

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