Three New Resident Physicians Join Dermatology

Jennifer Fernandez, MD, RD, received her Nutrition and Food Studies undergraduate degree from New York University. She subsequently completed her dietetic internship at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Dr. Fernandez then returned to New York and worked as an inpatient Registered Dietitian (RD) for Mt. Sinai St. Luke's Hospital, specializing in critical care nutrition. She transitioned to medicine and attended medical school at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Tucson, where she completed a 1-year clinical research fellowship in dermatology. Jennifer completed her internship in internal medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix.

Dr. Fernandez is interested in international dermatology and is a board member of Equipping Africa. Other clinical interests include dermato-oncology, wound care, dermatologic manifestations of micronutrient deficiencies, data management and analysis, and improving efficiency in healthcare systems.

Kevin Kwan, MD, received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Kentucky, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. He simultaneously completed a year-long research fellowship at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, studying the therapeutic effects of Mindfulness-based practice on adolescents with ADHD. Following graduation, he attended medical school at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, receiving the Kirk School of Medicine Scholarship. In his third and fourth year of medical school, Dr. Kwan completed a year-long translational research fellowship studying diabetic wound healing and neuronal involvement in inflammatory skin disorders at Northwestern University, Feinberg Medical School, under Dr. Amy S. Paller. Dr. Kwan completed his transitional year internship at Kaweah Delta Medical Center.

Allison Lloyd-McLennan, MD, received her Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience with a minor in business at the University of Southern California, where she graduated with honors. She attended medical school at the University of California-Davis School of Medicine. Dr. Lloyd-McLennan completed her Pediatric Residency at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. There she received the Excellence in Residency Research Award. Dr. Lloyd-McLennan has practiced as a Pediatric Dermatology Hospitalist at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, and as a General Pediatrician at Noe Valley Pediatrics, San Francisco, CA.
From the Chair

July is an exciting month in academic health science centers. July 2022 has been an extra special time for Nebraska Dermatology as we welcomed three new resident physicians bringing us to our full resident complement of nine – please read about our three outstanding new residents on page 1. As I gave the welcome lecture covering the history of dermatology at UNMC, I gazed around the room full of trainees and couldn’t help but reminisce on how far we’ve come together as a team. Just four short years ago, we couldn’t have imagined a better vision than where we are today. I am grateful to each member of our faculty and staff for rolling up their sleeves and helping to build our clinical, educational, research, service/outreach, and other programs – a true dream come true!

As we look to the future, I am excited to welcome Drs. Barrett and Lonowski are joining our team in Nebraska, most recently from Harvard University. Dr. Barrett will be helping to launch new research studies as Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Trials and brings several years of experience as a bullous disease expert to our team. Dr. Lonowski is joining our faculty as Assistant Professor and Co-Director of our robust Derm-Rheum Program at UNMC/Nebraska Medicine. Dr. Lonowski will be joining Drs. Arthur and Medlin to expand our specialty clinics for autoimmune/connective tissue disease patients. She will also be starting a dedicated psoriasis clinic and eventually a multidisciplinary clinic for psoriasis-psoriatic arthritis patients. Read more about our new faculty starting this Fall on page 7.

Finally, this will be a year of growth as we expand into our new Village Pointe space in July 2023. In preparation, we have launched a nationwide search for additional dermatology faculty to join our growing team with formal search committees headed by Drs. Arthur, Georgesen, Harter and Sutton. We look forward to hosting recruits across the country and showing them all Omaha and our UNMC communities have to offer!

Ashley Wysong MD, MS
Founding Chair and Professor
Department of Dermatology
University of Nebraska Medical Center
As we close on another successful academic year and kick start another, it is a perfect time to pause and reflect on the highlights of this year!

The start of 2022 brought good tidings with the addition of our phenomenal program coordinator Jaida Carley. The residents cherish her dearly as she has been instrumental in our growth and goes above and beyond every day to ensure our training experience at UNMC is incredible!

For the first time since the pandemic’s start, the American Academy of Dermatology hosted its in-person conference in Boston, Massachusetts, where faculty and residents alike could learn from experts across the globe on the latest advancements in dermatologic care.

Still, perhaps equally important, the residents were able to capitalize on a treasure trove of skin-care samples. Still, residency is not all fun and games. When you don’t find us traveling the globe or influencing our followers on Instagram, you can often find us hitting the books, and boy has it been paying off. Chiefs Clarey, Evans, and Swali aced their first ever “Core” exam and are now one step closer to qualifying for their applied board certification exam. Additionally, our first years killed their basic exams, outscoring 90% of first-year dermatology residents across the country!

No success story is complete without acknowledging our fearless leader and program director – Dr. Adams. We are grateful for her tireless efforts, innovative spirit, and commitment to our education. She has expanded our dermatology curriculum with the AAD’s CARE Modules and has explored community partnerships with One World and UNMC’s Health Educators and Academic Leadership (HEAL) curriculum track. Dr. Adams, you are the best, and thanks for sharing your College World Series home plate tickets with us! Woo, Pig Sooie!

Finally, we welcome our incoming first-year dermatology residents, Dr. Jennifer Fernandez, Dr. Kevin Kwan, and Dr. Allison Lloyd-McLennan, to the beautiful culture our family here at UNMC Derm has cultivated!
“While technical and lab expertise is a critical part of our skin cancer program, we know that our patients are what matters, and we are constantly seeking ways to improve the patient experience.”

Adam Sutton, MD, MBA

Skin Cancer Awareness and the Skin Cancer Program

Adam Sutton, MD, MBA
Assistant Professor and Director of Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery

May was skin cancer awareness month. For many of us, this was a significant educational opportunity. As a healthcare community and department, we are constantly striving to increase awareness regarding the burden of skin cancer and the importance of surveillance, prevention, and early intervention. In the United States, approximately 20% of individuals will develop skin cancer over their lifetime. This number is humbling, and we know these incidences are only increasing.

At the University of Nebraska Medical Center, we aim to provide high-quality, patient-centered, and comprehensive skin cancer care. We have developed capabilities to perform Mohs with real-time intra-operative immunohistochemical (IHC) stains for melanomas and high-risk squamous cell carcinomas to achieve this goal. The use of IHC in head/neck/hand/feet/genitalia melanomas and high-risk SCCs leads to lower recurrence rates and often enables same-day Mohs and reconstruction for select patients. In addition, we host a multi-disciplinary skin cancer tumor board where specialists gather to discuss and develop treatment plans for complex and high-risk skin cancer cases.

While technical and lab expertise is a critical part of our skin cancer program, we know that our patients are what matters, and we are constantly seeking ways to improve the patient experience. In a recent study we published in the Dermatologic Surgery Journal, 97% of our surgical patients reported they would have no hesitation to undergo Mohs surgery in the future if their referring physicians recommended it. This is a number we are very proud of. We are thankful for our incredible patients and the opportunity to partner in the care of patients in our community.
Cattleman’s Ball and the College World Series

Jennifer Adams, MD
Assistant Professor and Residency Program Director

UNMC Derm teamed up with the Women's Dermatologic Society to serve in two incredibly successful “Play Safe in the Sun” volunteer events in June! We kicked things off at the annual Cattlemen's Ball fundraiser (for the Frank & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center) hosted in Weeping Water, Nebraska. There was a fantastic turnout from visitors to the booth and two shifts of volunteers from across the department (even Dr. Arthur’s toddler Graham helped hand out sunscreen)! Many attendees let us know that because of our presence at this event in prior years, they started seeing a dermatologist for skin checks. The sunscreen, UV patches, and bracelets are always popular, but a lot of visitors had fun seeing themselves in the UV revealer.

Later in June the team set up directly outside the NCAA College World Series for a planned two-day event, but it ended up being so successful, that over 1,500 packets of sunscreen were handed out in the first 2 hours! We learned our lesson and can’t wait to come back next year with exponentially more sunscreen.

The June volunteer events were an incredible opportunity to bond as a team and serve our community. We are proud of how active UNMC Derm has been serving others and look forward to a fall with many other planned events!

This Summer, UNMC Dermatology welcomed our first intern, Randy Smith, from the Step-Up Omaha Program. He is a senior at Omaha North and aspires to pursue a career in healthcare. Randy has been working alongside Paul Longuski, Marketing and Communications Specialist, to learn about photography, videography, and social media marketing and strategy. Randy says he enjoys working at UNMC because they believe continued education is essential in providing a truly unique cultural environment for all people. Randy has quickly become a favorite within the department and we have been honored to work with him.
Research Program Update

Melodi Javid Whitley, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor and Director of Transplant Dermatology

The UNMC Dermatology research suite is bustling with activity this summer. As part of the 2022 UNMC Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP), the Department of Dermatology has welcomed five dedicated medical student researchers for a 10 week fellowship. Each student is paired with a faculty member to work on a research project that is of interest to them. The individual projects represent the diverse areas of research that our department is developing year-round. This year’s projects range from exploring the genetic basis of skin cancer to the use of technology in dermatologic care, such as virtual reality and novel treatment devices.

In addition to completing clinical and translational research projects, the MSSRP students will complete a brand-new curriculum specifically designed to support their development as physicians and investigators. They will participate in weekly lab meetings and gain practice giving both informal and formal presentations. The students will gain exposure to the most cutting-edge progress in dermatology via faculty lead “Journal Clubs” and for an enjoyable break, they will spend lunches learning about the career paths of our distinguished dermatology faculty. Finally, they will receive a series of lectures from experts from across the UNMC campus on practical topics such as study design, statistical analysis, and presentation skills as well as important themes like responsible conduct and health equity in research.

Our department is excited to be working with such a promising group of future physician-investigators!

Dermatology – Expansion to Village Pointe!

Kara Tomlinson RN, MBA
Department Administrator

Aggressive planning continues as we create an ideal and optimal space for our growing dermatology program in West Omaha! The new dermatology clinic will be in a brand-new outpatient specialty center (a three-story facility once complete) and will be located on the east side of the Village Pointe Health Center, adjacent to the building located at 111 N. 175th Street. We are excited to continue to expand access to patients to board certified Dermatologists in West Omaha and surrounding areas.

The dermatology clinic leadership team has been meeting bi-monthly with architects and colleagues in facilities to ensure we are on target for a grand opening in July of 2023. The dermatology clinical space will include 6 procedure suites and 19 exam rooms. The floor plan will allow for team-based care and collaboration between multiple professional disciplines. It will create an opportunity to engage with learners in a comfortable, spacious setting that will support overall growth and education of residents, medical students, and observers.
New Faculty October 2022

Sarah Lonowski, MD, MBA
Dr. Sarah Lonowski is thrilled to be joining the UNMC Dermatology team as Co-Director of the Multidisciplinary Autoimmune Skin Disease/Derm-Rheum Program and Director of the Psoriasis-Psoriatic Arthritis clinic. She completed her dermatology residency at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she served as Chief Resident in her final year. She then completed a highly specialized dermatology-rheumatology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical school. She is board-certified in Dermatology.

A Colorado native, Dr. Lonowski completed her undergraduate degree and her Master’s in Business Administration at the University of Denver. She attended medical school at UCLA, where she was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and was awarded the American Medical Women’s Association Certificate of Commendation. She completed her internship in internal medicine at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.

Dr. Lonowski maintains a passionate interest in dermatology-rheumatology/autoimmune connective tissue disease and other skin autoimmune diseases. She is excited to bring these passions to UNMC. She looks forward to training the next generation of dermatologists through teaching and clinical research. Outside of dermatology, Dr. Lonowski spends as much time with her family, including her husband and young daughter. She enjoys traveling, reading, singing, and staying active outdoors.

Erin Barrett, MD
Dr. Erin Wei Barrett is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she majored in chemistry with a minor in biology. She received her MD from Harvard Medical School, graduating with honors. While at Harvard Medical school, Dr. Barrett was the recipient of the competitive Doris Duke Fellowship for Clinical Research. She completed her residency and served as chief resident at the University of Miami Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery/Jackson Memorial Hospital. During residency, she was the 1st place recipient of the Celia & Samuel Resnik Research Award for her work on the risk factors on nodular melanoma in the VA population.

From 2016 to 2022, she served as faculty at Brigham and Women’s Hospital- Harvard Medical School, where she directed the Brigham and Women’s Health Care Center at Westwood and served as the Director of the Bullous Disease Clinic, a growing referral base for autoimmune bullous disease patients in the East Coast and nationally. She is the recipient of the 2017-2018 Research Grant from the International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation. For her excellence in patient care, she received the Brigham Way recognition and BWH Certificate of Excellence for Patient Satisfaction.

She will join the University of Nebraska Medical Center in October, 2022, as Associate Professor and the Director of Clinical Trials and co-Director of the Bullous Disease Clinic. Additionally, she currently serves as an associate editor at Visualdx. She regularly serves as a reviewer for top-tier journals in dermatology.
In this issue

1 Three New Residents Join UNMC Dermatology
2 A Message from the Chair, Dr. Wysong
3 Resident’s Corner
4 Skin Cancer Awareness and the Skin Cancer Program
5 Research Program Update Expansion to Village Pointe
6 New Faculty Coming

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 Fellowships
- Patient Care and Clinical Support Fund
- Endowed Faculty Sponsorship

For more information please contact:

Department of Dermatology,
402-559-6128

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

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

The University of Nebraska Foundation is the designated fundraising organization for Nebraska Medicine. If you wish to no longer be contacted by the University of Nebraska Foundation on behalf of Nebraska Medicine, please call 402.502.4095 or email nebraskamedicineoptout@nufoundation.org.