



UNC-CH Department of Dermatology

Skin Healers

Spring 2006, Vol. 1, #1 A Newsletter for Alumni, Colleagues and Friends of the Department



From the Chair

Greetings from Chapel Hill! We are delighted to have this opportunity to catch you up on what is happening with your Department of

Dermatology and share some of your news with our alumni community.

As Chair, it is my honor to work with outstanding faculty, residents, and staff in our Department as well as alumni from our Department. We have been growing, improving, exploring, and changing over this past year. I would like to touch on the highlights of a few items – more details are in the newsletter.

We are especially pleased to have had the support of the alumni in establishing the Irene T. and Robert Alan Briggaman Distinguished Professorship. As well, this year we received a gift from the Louis Skinner estate and are pleased to be establishing a third endowed chair in his name. Of special note is Dr. Clayton E. Wheeler's receipt of the UNC Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement. Dr. Wheeler holds a special place in all our hearts and we were glad to see him at picture time this year.

Our Department has grown in leaps and bounds in the clinical arena. In the past year, five dermatologists and one dermatopathologist joined our Department. With this contingency, we have been able to expand our services to new sites at Southern Village in Chapel Hill and in Burlington, NC. As well, we will be able to come fully in line with RCC requirements for cosmetic dermatology training for our residents

under the leadership of Daniel Parsons, MD.

Residency education is a central focus for our Department. We were pleased to have an outstanding match this year (4 out of our top 6 choices). Dr. Dean Morrell continues to work with me in this exciting program. Dr. Parsons is now leading the medical student education initiative in close collaboration with Dr. Morrell.

Since our last newsletter, we have recruited two new research faculty: Ye Qian, PhD and Kevin McGowan, PhD. We are delighted to have them working with our team. Two important areas of research comprise the strengths of the UNC Dermatology team: a) epidermal cell biology and human autoimmunity and b) melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

Beginning in 2006, I was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology. Let me hear from you about any issues you would like addressed at the Academy. My email address is luis_diaz@med.unc.edu.

I am certain that our UNC-CH Department of Dermatology will continue to grow and we shall be recognized in academic circles for our excellence in research, patient care, and medical education.

Please let us hear from you about what's going on with you and your practice. As well, let us know if there is anything you would like for us to feature in our next newsletter. Send these items to the attention of Cherie Ezuka at cherie_ezuka@med.unc.edu.

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Residents' Corner

Farewell

On June 30, 2006, Drs. Patricia Matheis, Elisabeth Nagaraj, Nadia Wang, and Aaron Wever will complete their dermatology residency training. All four physicians will be honored at the Senior Resident Graduation Dinner in June 2006.

We wish them all much joy and success in their future endeavors.



Patricia Matheis, MD

After residency, Dr. Matheis will be taking some time off before joining a dermatology practice.

Elisabeth Nagaraj, MD

Dr. Nagaraj will be joining the staff at Blue Ridge Dermatology in Raleigh.

Nadia Wang, MD

Dr. Wang will be taking some time off following residency, and will be a dermatopathology fellow at NYU, starting July 1, 2007.

Aaron Wever, MD

Upon graduation, Dr. Wever will be joining Dermatology Group of the Carolinas in Concord, NC.

Welcome

On July 1, 2006 we welcome five new residents as they begin their dermatology training: Drs. David Dasher, Michael Fastenberg, Brian Green, Bradley Merritt, and Gabriele Poindexter.



David Dasher, MD

Dr. Dasher completed his undergraduate work and earned his medical degree at UNC at Chapel Hill. He also completed one year of internship in Internal Medicine at UNC-CH. He currently is working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Dr. Diaz's research laboratory.

Michael Fastenberg, MD

Dr. Fastenberg completed his undergraduate degree at Duke University. He received his medical degree from the State University of New York in Stony Brook, NY. He is currently finishing his Preliminary Intern year at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY.



Brian Green, DO, MS

Dr. Green earned his undergraduate degree from York College of Pennsylvania. His Master of Science and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees were awarded from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is currently completing his internship at Walter Reed Army

Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. Green is one of two individuals in military medical training offered an opportunity to train in a civilian dermatology program.

Bradley Merritt, MD

Dr. Merritt completed his undergraduate and premed degrees at UNC at Wilmington. He earned his medical degree from UNC at Chapel Hill. He is currently completing his internship in Internal Medicine at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, NC.



Gabriele Poindexter, MD

Dr. Poindexter received her undergraduate degree from Brown University in Providence, RI. She earned her medical degree from Emory University in Atlanta, GA, where she is currently completing her transitional year.

2006-2007 Chief Resident Named

Dr. Tara Byer-Parsons has been named Chief Resident for the 2006-2007 academic year. Dr. Byer-Parsons earned her medical degree from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed an internship year at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC in Internal Medicine. Dr. Byer-Parsons is scheduled to complete her residency training on June 30, 2007.

2006 Match Results

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2006 Match. The following individuals will be joining our residency program on July 1, 2007:

Donna Culton	UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine
Stephanie Diamantis	Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
Arin Isenstein	University of CA-San Francisco School of Medicine
Maren Shaw	UNC-CH School of Medicine

After finishing the fellowship in June of this year, Lisa and I plan to put down roots and raise our family in beautiful Denver, Colorado. I have joined a practice, Advanced Dermatology, in south Denver and will be the dermatopathologist for the group while also practicing general dermatology part time.

We have enjoyed the warm winter weather and the Dallas area very much this past academic year. The twins are growing quickly and are healthy, happy, and active eleven-month old boys. We miss everyone in the Department of Dermatology and think of you often. When you come out to Colorado to hit the slopes, stop by our home for a visit! We hope to see you all again soon.



Sean with his wife, Lisa, and their twin boys, Michael and Alexander

Where are They Now?

Sean Amsbaugh ('05): Greetings from the Amsbaughs from Dallas, Texas! After finishing my dermatology residency at the University of North Carolina in July of 2005, my wife, Lisa, and I, along with our twin sons, Michael and Alexander, moved to Dallas. I began my fellowship training in dermatopathology at the University of Texas Southwestern with Dr. Clay J. Cockerell. At the dermatopathology lab we read over 150,000 cases a year. This opportunity has provided me with an incredible educational experience. I have also been able to moonlight a few hours a week at a general dermatology practice in Plano, a few minutes north of Dallas.

Medical Students

The Dermatology/Musculoskeletal Course was voted best basic science course by the second year medical school class for the 2004-2005 academic calendar.

Our senior elective received visiting students from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Medical University of South Carolina, Mt. Sinai, University of California at San Francisco, and University of Florida.

Our dermatology resident exchange program has received several visitors from Brazil and Peru.

Faculty, Alumni, and Staff News

Awards



Luis Diaz, Chairman and Professor, UNC Dermatology, has been selected as one of the *Best Doctors in North Carolina*. The “Best Doctors” listing will be included in the July issue of *Business North Carolina*.

Luis Diaz has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology, effective from March 2006 – March 2010.

Steve Feldman ('90), Professor of Dermatology, Pathology, and Public Health Sciences at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center School of Medicine, delivered the Clarence S. Livingood Lectureship at the American Academy of Dermatology’s 64th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California in March, 2006. The title was “Looking Beyond the Borders of Our Own Specialties,” addressing the importance of perception and its impact on the physician-patient relationship. Dr. Feldman donated the honorarium to the National Psoriasis Foundation in recognition of its patient education activities and support of dermatology.

Lowell Goldsmith, Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Epidemiology at UNC, received the Martin Carter Mentorship Award. This is awarded annually by the American Skin Association. This award was presented to Dr. Goldsmith during the Society for Investigative Dermatology meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in May 2006.

Daniel Parsons ('05), Assistant Professor of Dermatology at UNC, has been appointed to the N.C. Board of Electrolysis Examiners. The board ensures minimum standards of competency, protects the public from misrepresentation of status of persons who hold themselves out to be “certified electrologists,” and provides the public with safe care by the mandatory licensing of electrologists. The board has five members, each serving a three-year term. The governor appoints three members.

David Rubenstein ('97), Associate Professor of Dermatology at UNC, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society of Investigative Dermatology, effective 2006-2011.

John Steinbaugh ('85) was named “Outstanding Volunteer Physician for 2005” by the Denver Health and Hospitals for Dermatology Residency Teaching. He has been volunteering weekly, and now every other week, since 1989. Dr. Steinbaugh is currently with Boulder Dermatology and served as a resident with UNC Dermatology from 1982-1985.

Clayton Wheeler, Professor Emeritus at UNC, received the 2005 University Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement. This award was recognized along with other University Teaching Awards during the half-time ceremony at the UNC-State men’s basketball game on February 3, 2005. As described, “this award, created in 1997, acknowledges a lifetime of contributions to a broad range of teaching and learning, particularly mentoring beyond the classroom. It rewards those who help students to develop and attain their full potential in important ways during and after their departure from campus. Dean Smith, long-time coach of the men’s basketball team, was the first winner of the award and exemplifies the qualities that this award honors.” Dr. Wheeler is an important contributor to the field of dermatology and academia in general.

Research

Ning Li, Associate Professor in Dermatology at UNC, has been awarded a research grant, “Role of Apoptosis in Pemphigus” by the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

David Rubenstein ('97), Associate Professor of Dermatology at UNC, and his lab had their work presented in a talk, “p38MAPK inhibition blocks disease in pemphigus vulgaris mice” at the Plenary Session of the 2006 Society of Investigative Dermatology Annual Meeting. Building on ongoing investigations into the regulation of cell-cell adhesion, the lab is working to translate these observations into novel and specific treatments for autoimmune blistering diseases. Two recent publications that more fully describe this work include **Berkowitz, P., Hu, P., Liu, Z., Diaz, L.A.,**

Enghild, J.J., Chua, M.P., and **Rubenstein, D.S.** (2005) Desmosome signaling: inhibition of p38MAPK prevents pemphigus vulgaris IgG induced cytoskeleton reorganization. *J. Biol. Chem.*, 280:23778-23784 and **Hu, P., Berkowitz, P., Madden, V.J., and Rubenstein, D.S.** (2006) Stabilization of plakoglobin and enhanced keratinocyte cell-cell adhesion by intracellular O-glycosylation. *J. Biol. Chem.*, 281:12786-12791.

Janiel Shields, Research Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Dermatology, was awarded a melanoma grant from the Harry J. Lloyd Charitable Trust. The project is titled “EGFR and Rnd3: Therapeutic Targets in Melanoma.”

Nancy Thomas, Associate Professor of Dermatology at UNC, has received an R01 grant from the National Cancer Institute to study “Melanoma RAS/BRAF Mutation: Heterogeneity-Risk-Prognosis.” UNC co-investigators are Kathleen Conway, Robert Millikan, and **Pamela Groben**. Other co-investigators are from the Universities of New Mexico and Michigan, UNC-Irvine, the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research and the University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Publications

Burkhart CG, **Burkhart CN**. Asphyxiation of lice with topical agents, not a reality...yet. *Journal American Academy Dermatology* 2006 April; 54(4):721-722.

Byerly FL, **Nelson KC**, Granko RP, **Morrell DS**, Cairns BA. Valdecoxib-associated acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis. *Burns* 2005; 31:383-387.

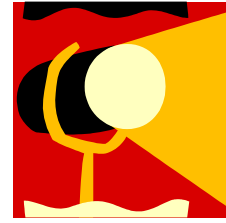
Goldsmith, LA. How Big is the Universe? *J Invest Dermatol.* 126:235,2006.

Haliasos E, Soder B, **Rubenstein DS**, Henderson W, **Morrell DS**. Pediatric Sweet Syndrome and Immunodeficiency Successfully Treated with Intravenous Immunoglobulin. *Pediatric Dermatology* 2005;22:530-535.

Liu Z, Zhao M, Li N, Diaz LA, and Mayadas TN. Differential roles of $\beta 2$ integrins in experimental autoimmune bullous pemphigoid. *Blood.* 107:1063-1069, 2006.

Liu Z, Li N, and Diaz LA. Inhibition of pemphigus vulgaris by targeting of the CD40-CD154 co-stimulatory pathway: A step toward antigen-specific therapy? *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 126:11, 2006.

Spotlight



In November 2005, the UNC School of Medicine announced the six winners of its annual Nursing Recognition Awards. The awards are given to nurses in each of the following categories: Outpatient Clinic, Inpatient Services, Nurse Management and Advance Practice/Special Services. The awards are valued at \$1,000 each and may be used over a three-year period to cover expenses associated with professional development.

Youlonda Monroe, LPN, was presented one of the awards in the outpatient category. Having worked in Dermatology as charge nurse for nearly five years, she was acknowledged for her dedication to patients and positive influence on Dermatology clinic operations. Youlonda's nomination was supported by the Dermatology faculty, residents, and nursing staff: each of these groups sent a letter of nomination to the award committee.

“We are excited and pleased that Youlonda is being commended for her outstanding work in the Dermatology clinic,” said Pam Fogleman, clinic manager. “We have known for years that we have a treasure—now the rest of the Health Care System knows, too!”



Here, Youlonda is flanked by her family, Dr. Luis Diaz, Chairman, UNC Dermatology and Dr. Nate Wilkin, Assistant Professor, UNC Dermatology.

New Clinics and Services

UNC Dermatology Center at Burlington



The UNC Department of Dermatology is delighted to be working in collaboration with Dr. Richard Henderson ('68) at Burlington Dermatology. Beginning in January, 2006, the Department established the UNC Dermatology Center at Burlington. We are offering UNC HCS services on-site at Burlington Dermatology providing general dermatology and pediatric dermatology. We are excited to be serving the population in Alamance county and surrounding areas. Appointments can be made through our UNC Dermatology appointment line: 919-966-2485. This new center is located at 1522 Vaughn Road in Burlington, N.C.

Multidisciplinary Transplant Clinic

In June, 2006, the Department will join the new multidisciplinary transplant clinic. It is well known that transplant patients develop more skin cancers, especially squamous cell carcinoma, than the general population. These cancers are often more aggressive than usual and have a tendency to metastasize. Death from metastatic cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma is a significant problem in the transplant population. Additionally, because they are immunosuppressed, routine skin diseases (infections, etc.) may cause severe problems in transplant patients.

We will conduct a dermatology clinic at the new transplant clinic site in the hospital once a week. This will enable us to follow these high risk patients more closely and deliver better care. We will become a part of the transplant team and will participate in and direct studies that pertain to skin problems unique to transplant patients. There are over 700 kidney transplant patients, 300 liver transplant patients and a lesser number of heart, lung, and other transplant patients, who will be followed in this clinic. Patients currently waiting for a transplant will also be seen and counseled by us.

This new clinic will be conducted by Dr. Nancy Thomas and Dr. David Grekin, and is a direct extension of the cutaneous oncology clinic, which includes melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer as well as cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. Please call 919-966-0785 with any questions for Dr. Grekin, and 919-966-2485 to refer patients.

UNC Dermatology Center at Southern Village

The Department of Dermatology is pleased to announce the opening of our new dermatology center in the Southern Village neighborhood of Chapel Hill. Our first day of business was in February, 2006, although the project started over a year ago with a search for a location to allow us to expand our clinical services. The 4,800 square foot clinic is located in a beautiful new building on the center square of Southern Village. There are seven spacious regular examination rooms and three large rooms designed for dermatologic surgery and procedures. Each room has new state-of-the-art equipment.

Our expansion into this new clinical site serves many goals of the department. First, it provides much needed clinical space for our expanded faculty. This, in turn, has allowed us to decrease waiting time for appointments and in many cases provide same day appointments when needed. Second, the clinic is the site of our new cosmetic endeavors under the leadership of Dr. Daniel J. Parsons. Our services include: Botox™ for facial wrinkles and hyperhidrosis, chemical peels, soft tissue fillers, sclerotherapy, and IPL photorejuvenation and hair removal.

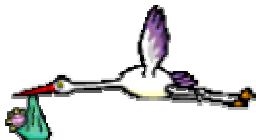
The UNC Dermatology Center at Southern Village is located at 410 Market Street in Suite #362. We are on the ground floor from Market Street level and there are two levels of covered parking below the offices. The location is easy to access and there is plenty of convenient free parking.



New Additions

Elisabeth ('06) and Sharat Nagaraj welcomed a son, **Ryan**, into their family on August 21, 2005.

Sarah was welcomed by her proud parents, J. Ellen Koo ('03) and Paul Kim on October 6, 2005.



Nadia Wang ('06) and Michael Kwong celebrated the birth of a daughter, **Jasmine**, on November 11, 2005.

Katherine was welcomed by her proud parents, Marie ('04) and Stuart Hardy on January 9, 2006.

Amy Stein Drumheller ('04) and Gary Drumheller welcomed a son, **Jake**, on January 27, 2006.

On February 1, 2006, a daughter, **Lucy**, was born to the proud parents, Emily Schwarz ('07) and David Damsker.

Engagements/Weddings

Dan Parsons ('05) and **Tara Byer ('07)** were married October 1, 2005.

David Dasher ('09) is engaged to be married June 24, 2006.

Laura (Crow) Lomax ('89) is engaged to be married on October 21, 2006.

David Pascoe ('08) is engaged to be married in April, 2007.



Calendar of Events

July 4: **Holiday – Fourth of July**

September 4: **Holiday – Labor Day**

October 13-15: Southeastern Education Consortium
Wake Forest, NC

UNC-Duke Conferences

Date	UNC	Duke
May 11		X
May 25	X	
June 8		X
September 28	X	

* All meetings are 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Save These Dates:

February 2-6, 2007: Annual AAD Meeting
Washington, DC

Skin Healers is the newsletter of the Department of Dermatology, School of Medicine of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina Hospitals

Department Chair:

Luis A. Diaz, M.D.
luis_diaz@med.unc.edu

Department Administrator:

Emma Beckham
emma_beckham@med.unc.edu

Editor:

Cherie L. Ezuka
cherie_ezuka@med.unc.edu

Published by the Department of Dermatology, School of Medicine, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, CB#7287, 3100 Thurston-Bowles Building, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7287

Phone:

(919) 966-0785

Website:

<http://www.med.unc.edu/wrkunits/2depts/derm/>



3100 Thurston-Bowles Building
CB#7287
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7287
(919) 966-0785

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