



Stanford
M E D I C I N E

Department of
Dermatology

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER



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The Department of Dermatology is committed to the highest level of patient care, as well as the discovery and development of better treatments for dermatologic diseases.

Our mission is sustained leadership in patient care, in research, and in training leaders of our specialty in an environment that fosters creativity, diversity, inclusiveness and synergy.

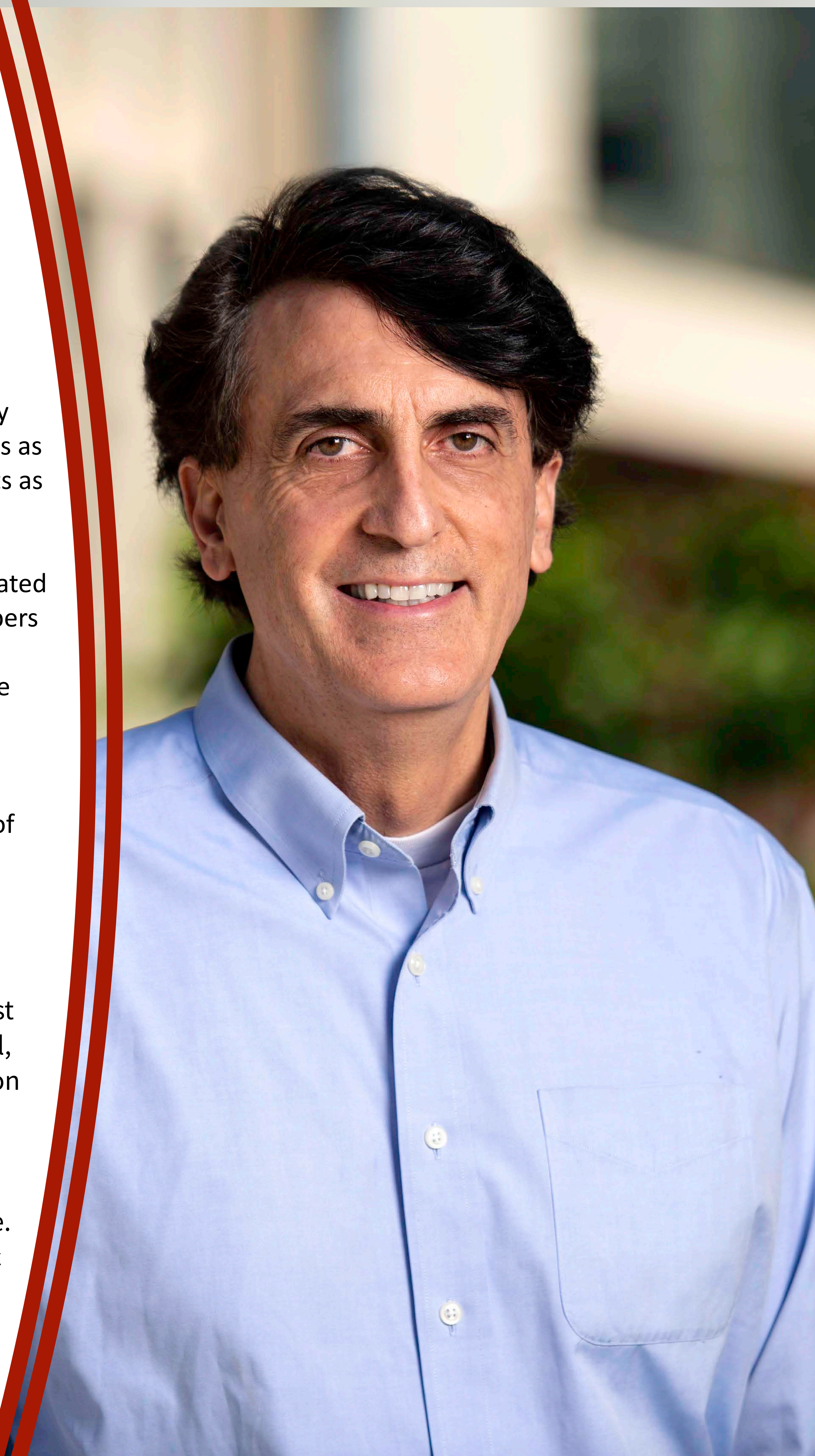


Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Department of Dermatology, I am pleased to convey our very best wishes for the winter holiday season. 2020 has been a year with challenges unlike any other and it is no exaggeration to say the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of Stanford Dermatology's 3 major mission areas of Education, Research, and Patient Care. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our faculty, staff, and trainees, however, great progress has been made in each area, in spite of the new challenges.

In Education, our Residency Program, led by our Residency Director **Dr. Kristin Nord**, continues to thrive as one of the very largest in the country. 2020 saw major shifts to virtual didactics as well as tremendous adaptability and resilience by our residents as they shifted to hybrid models of virtual-in person patient care. Substantial numbers of Stanford medical students continue to choose Dermatology, reflecting the outstanding work of dedicated faculty mentors and advisors in the Department. Record numbers of Ph.D. students, postdoctoral scientists and clinical fellows continue to train in the Department. The success of these large cohorts of extraordinarily dedicated and talented young colleagues are helping reach our Department's goal to have a positive long-term impact on our field by training the next generation of leaders. In this regard, we are extremely proud of Stanford Dermatology Resident **Dr. Leandra Barnes**, who was elected this fall to the Board of Directors of the Society for Investigative Dermatology.

In research, the Department has continued to lead the field. Our translational programs, which had received a major boost last year by moving into brand new facilities at Discovery Hall, continue to thrive. Faculty in the new Stanford Skin Innovation and Interventional Research Group (**SIIRG**), led by **Dr. Albert Chiou and Dr. Justin Ko**, continue to gain momentum in innovative translational studies designed to bring the latest advances in science and technology to improved patient care. Faculty research productivity across the spectrum from basic science to clinical trials has continued to lead our field, with numerous faculty awards as well as leadership in funding from the National Institutes of Health reflecting this. Multiple clinical trials based on scientific discoveries made in the Department continue to show positive impacts in transforming care of a large spectrum of skin disorders. Of particular note this year was the election of **Dr. Howard Chang** to the National Academy of Sciences this year, a spectacular honor reflecting exceptional research contributions that has only been achieved by only two dermatologists in history.



Paul Khavari, MD, PhD
Carl J. Herzog Professor and Chair



Patient care efforts have included continued successful expansion of multiple subspecialty programs designed to serve patients with an array of challenging skin disorders throughout the Bay Area and globally. **Dr. Sumaira Aasi**, in her role as Director of Dermatologic Surgery, continues to lead the most highly awarded outpatient program throughout Stanford Healthcare. This year, **Dr. Nour Kibbi**, a new Dermatologist-Surgeon who arrived here from Yale joined Dr. Aasi's Team. **Dr. Kerri Rieger**, our Director of Dermatopathology, and **Dr. Roberto Novoa** have continued to enhance Dermatopathology services. **Dr. Susan Swetter**, Director of Stanford's Cutaneous Oncology efforts, has continued to lead cancer services, including Stanford's efforts in Melanoma and just this year launched a major statewide public health initiative called [Wipe Out Melanoma – California](#). **Dr. Youn Kim**, Director of Stanford's Multidisciplinary Cutaneous and T-Cell Lymphoma Program, also continues to lead an innovative therapeutic and research effort that touches patients around the world. **Dr. Joyce Teng**'s leadership of Stanford Pediatric Dermatology has continued to bring leading care and research in our field to the youngest of our patients. Finally, under the outstanding leadership of **Dr. Justin Ko**, further efforts are also underway to innovate new models of care and to make Stanford Dermatology accessible to our community throughout the Bay Area. With respect to the latter, Dr. Ko is leading a transformation of clinical practice models to engineer optimal models of hybrid care.

In additional positive developments, the 11th Annual Faculty Retreat was held virtually in September, 2020. Faculty came together digitally to work on issues important to the Department's continued success, with an emphasis on enhancing our Education, Research, and Patient Care missions. The Retreat was the culmination of months of advanced work by Task Forces led by **Dr. Maria Aleshin**, **Dr. Eleni Linos**, and **Dr. Aurna Venkatesen**. These Task Forces helped chart the path forward for this year's plans for Department growth and improvement, with a number of additional initiatives now either underway or already completed. Plans are already in place for next year's retreat in September 2021.

2020 has also seen outstanding new faculty join the Department. In addition to Dr. Kibbi, noted above, **Dr. Gordon Bae**, **Dr. Roxana Daneshjou**, **Dr. Hayley Leatham**, **Dr. Chelsea Ma**, and **Dr. Jennifer Wang**, joined our faculty this fall. This extraordinarily capable group of young faculty sustain the Department's continued growth and are adding tremendous new subspecialty breadth and depth.

Looking to the future, the mission of the Department will remain focused, as it has been for past decades, on leadership in discovery, in patient care and in training leaders of our specialty in an environment that fosters creativity, excellence and synergy. We are looking forward to our next reunion at the American Academy of Dermatology meeting when in-person meetings become possible.

The support of our entire community of faculty, alumni, patients, and friends is instrumental in providing the creativity and resources needed in this effort to support trainees, young faculty, patient care advances and innovative research. I welcome your support and suggestions to enhance these endeavors and thank you for your efforts as part of the Stanford Dermatology community.

With best wishes for a happy holiday season and New Year,

Paul Khavari, MD, PhD
Carl J. Herzog Professor and Chairperson



Diversity is a core value for the Stanford University Department of Dermatology, and our goal is to create a medical community that is reflective of the community and the world that we serve. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment supportive of all individuals.

[Learn More](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

2020 is a year we will remember for many reasons. Sadly, these reasons include the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. These deaths shocked the world, and as a department led us to take a visible stand against the long-standing racism and injustice that has devastated our country and with those demanding racial justice. The Stanford Dermatology community stood together to reaffirm the importance of diversity, racial equity, justice and our commitment to making a better world for all and state that Black Lives Matter in this [Statement Denouncing Racism June 2020](#).

These words matter- but are not enough. Therefore, as a department, led by our Diversity Committee, here are some specific actions we took in 2020 to support diversity and reduce the impact of systemic racism. We started by listening, hosting several town hall meetings dedicated to diversity discussions to learn from our community and prioritize our actions. We heard that education and residency program changes were paramount. All department members were given a copy of [How to Be an Antiracist Book](#) by Ibram X. Kendi and offered membership to the [Skin of Color Society](#) and offered membership to the Skin of Color Society, with 7 new faculty members joined already. In May 2020, we invited Dr. Jenna Lester, director of the UCSF Skin of Color clinic to give our annual lecture focused on diversity, inclusion and cultural competence. Her talk titled “Cognitive Bias and Misdiagnosis: considerations for dermatology” highlighted inequities in representation of skin of color images in dermatology textbooks as well as in the COVID literature, and outlined how this ultimately leads to inadequate care for our patients. **Dr. Amit Pandya’s** lecture in October 2020 focused on the importance of diversity in our specialty. This year, our residency committee reevaluated recruitment process and made substantial changes to the recruitment process, building on prior years’ efforts and guided by the unwavering goal to recruit and train the most outstanding future leaders of our specialty.

This year, we also explicitly stated our department’s long-standing support of our LGBTQ+ community through our [Statement Supporting LGBTQ Community June 2020](#) and identified specific actions we can make in our clinical spaces to make all patients feel included. Led by **Dr. Justin Gordon**, Stanford Dermatology is now actively accepting referrals to LGBTQ+ Dermatology. Dr. Gordon is currently seeing LGBTQ+ referrals at the Gender Clinic's main location of Los Altos, as well as at Redwood City and Emeryville.

We recognize that a lot more needs to be done, and as a department, we are committed to continuing these efforts to support diversity, equity and inclusion long term.

Director of Diversity: Dr. Eleni Linos

Diversity Committee Members: Dr. Paul Khavari, Dr. Joanna Badger, Dr. Elizabeth Bailey, Dr. Roxana Daneshjou, Dr. Justin Gordon, Dr. Matt Marinkovich, Dr. Kristin Nord, Dr. Roberto Novoa, Dr. Silvina Pugliese, Dr. Zakia Rahman, Dr. Eon Rios, Dr. Kavita Sarin, Dr. Aruna Venkatesan, Dr. John Yost, Dr. Lisa Zaba, Dr. Leandra Barnes (Resident), Dr. Sierra Centkowski (Resident), Dr. Joanna Hsou-Wei Tu (Resident), Melissa Jenkins (Clinical Research Manager)



61

FACULTY MEMBERS

26

RESIDENTS

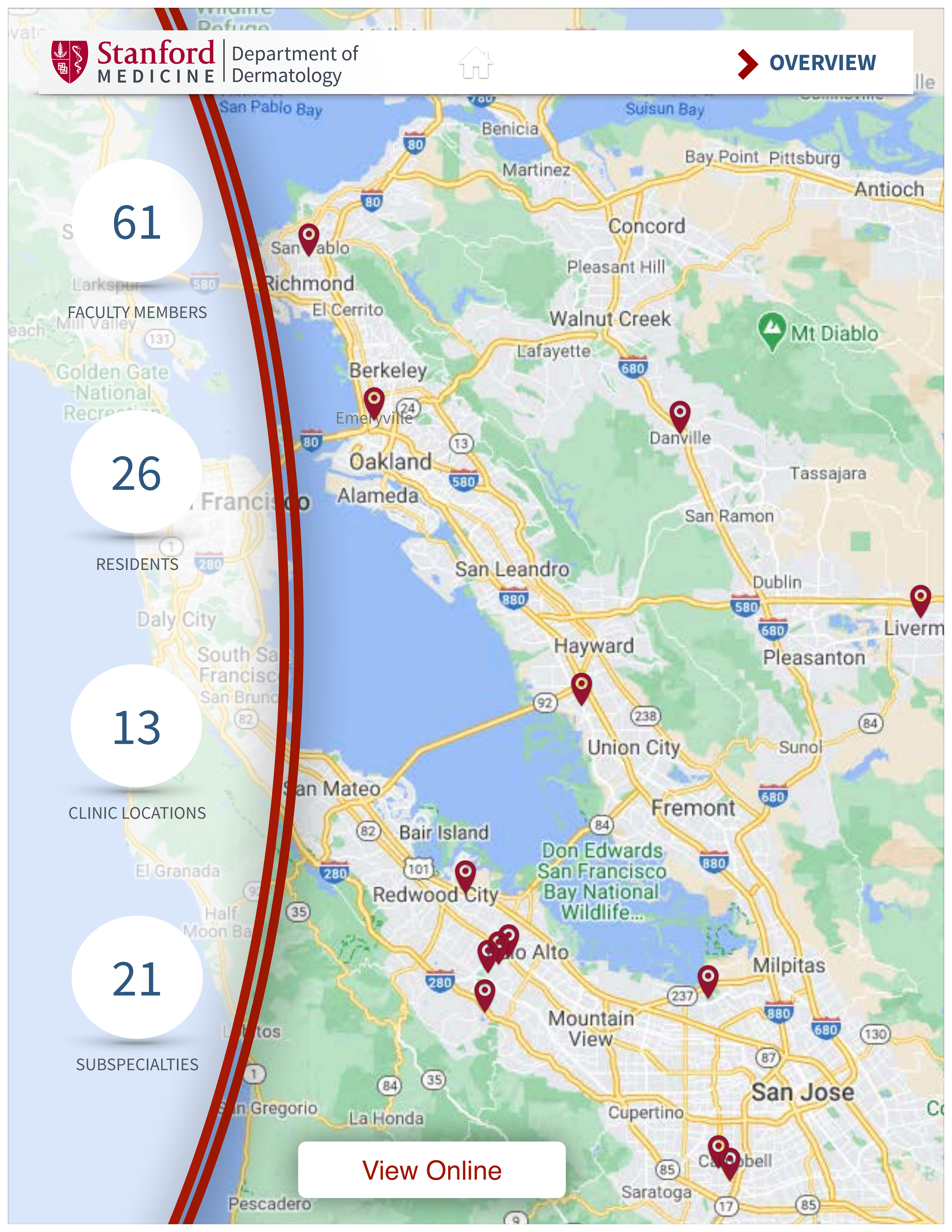
13

CLINIC LOCATIONS

21

SUBSPECIALTIES

[View Online](#)





Stanford
MEDICINE

Department of
Dermatology



SUBSPECIALTIES

Clinical Preeminence

Acne
Advanced BCC
Aesthetics
Bullous Disorders
Contact Dermatitis
Dermatitis
Genital Derm
Global Health
Hair Disorders
Hidradenitis
High Risk NMSCC
Laser
LGBTQ Health
Lymphoma
Melanoma
Mohs Surgery
Nail Disorders
Precision Health
Psoriasis
Rheum Derm
SDO
TeleHealth
Vascular

Dr. Elizabeth Bailey
Clinical Associate professor of
Dermatology



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Dermatology

Exceptional Care



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FEATURED PROGRAMS

Pediatric Dermatology

The Pediatric Dermatology Program is dedicated to providing the highest quality, multidisciplinary care for children with a variety of skin conditions.



[Learn More](#)

Joyce Teng, MD, PhD

Professor of Dermatology
Director of Pediatric Dermatology



Stanford
MEDICINE

Department of
Dermatology



FEATURED PROGRAMS

Supportive Dermato-Oncology Program

SDO provides
care for patients
who develop
skin conditions
while
undergoing
cancer
treatment.

Bernice Kwong, MD

Clinical Professor of Dermatology

[Learn More](#)



Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery Clinic

The Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery Clinic at Stanford is a nationally recognized leader in skin cancer management, Mohs micrographic surgery and other dermatologic procedures.

Some of the conditions we treat are quite common – they affect virtually all of us at some point in our lives. Others are far more unusual, far more complex, and treatable in only a handful of centers in the world.

[Learn More](#)



Sumaira Aasi, MD

Clinical Professor of Dermatology
Director of Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery



Stanford
MEDICINE

Department of
Dermatology



FEATURED CLINICS

Skin Allergies and Contact Dermatitis Clinic

The Stanford Contact Dermatitis Clinic offers a full spectrum of patch testing in order to determine what contactants our patients are allergic to. The Clinic is able to specialize the patch testing based on individual hobbies, occupations and practices, and we have the capability to test patients to their own products.

Jennifer Chen, MD

Clinical Associate Professor of
Dermatology

[Learn More](#)



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FEATURED LABS

The Wang Lab

The Wang lab focuses on fundamental questions in epigenetics and human gene regulation in stem cells, development, and cancer, through the development and application of cutting-edge high-throughput genome-scale technologies. Ultimately, insights gained from research in the lab will be directly applicable to the design of improved therapies for patients with inflammatory diseases and cancer.

[Learn More](#)

Kevin Wang, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Dermatology



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Dermatology



FEATURED LABS

The Lee Lab

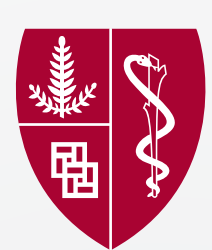
The Lee lab is interested in discovering and functionally characterizing new oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes in skin cancer. By using genomics and proteomics-based approaches combined with animal and human skin tissue models, the lab seeks to understand how these novel genes maintain homeostasis in epithelial tissues in general as well as the skin in particular. The ultimate goal of the lab's research is to improve current treatment paradigms and identify actionable therapeutic targets.



[Learn More](#)

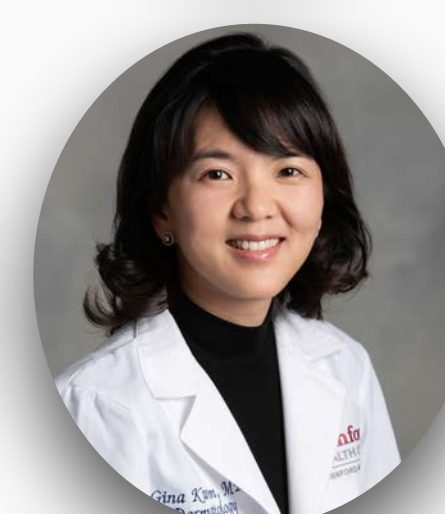
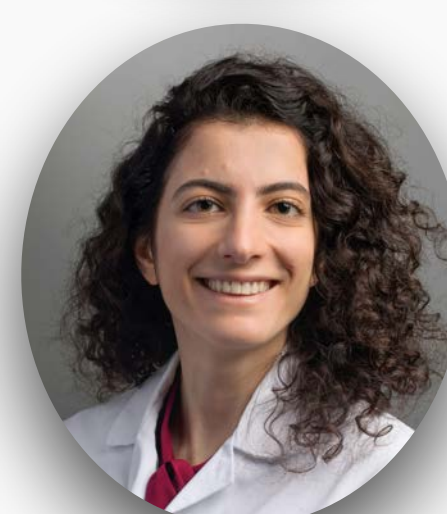
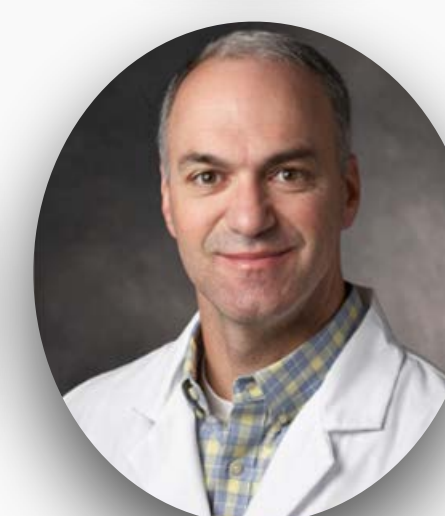
Carolyn Lee, MD, PhD

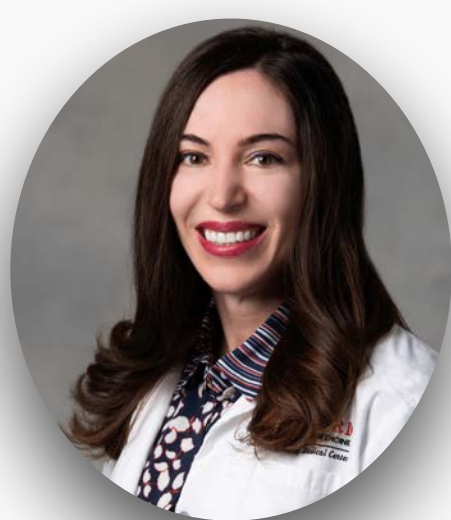
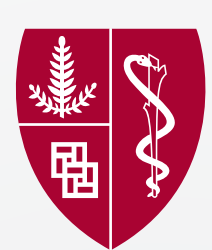
Assistant Professor of Dermatology



Dedicated to Excellence

Dr. Paul Khavari, Chair
Dr. Sumaira Aasi
Dr. Shehla Admani
Dr. Maria Aleshin
Dr. Mina Ally
Dr. Amrita Arora
Dr. Joanna Badger
Dr. Gordon Bae
Dr. Elizabeth Bailey
Dr. Ryanne Brown
Dr. Annelynn Chang
Dr. Howard Chang
Dr. Jennifer Chen
Dr. Richard Chen
Dr. Albert Chiou
Dr. Derek Chu
Dr. Lorinda Chung
Dr. Roxana Daneshjou
Dr. Meghan Dickman
Dr. David Fiorentino
Dr. Justin Gordon
Dr. Golara Honari
Dr. Andrew Ji
Dr. Vista Khosravi
Dr. Michael Khodadoust
Dr. Phuong Khuu
Dr. Nour Kibbi
Dr. Youn-Hee Kim
Dr. Justin Ko
Dr. Gina Kwon
Dr. Bernice Kwong





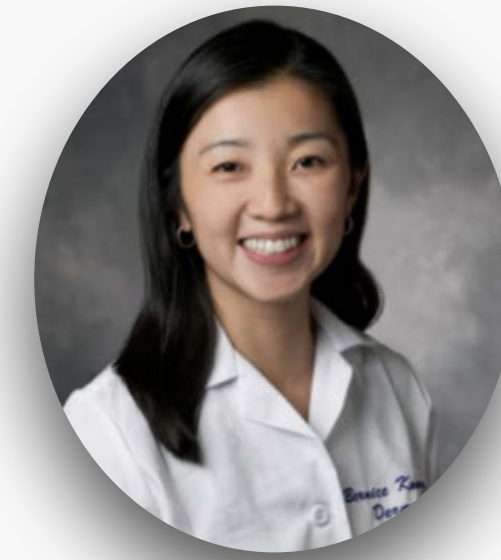
Dr. Hayley Leatham
Dr. Carolyn Lee
Dr. Matthew Lewis
Dr. Eleni Linos
Dr. Chelsea Ma
Dr. Matt Marinkovich
Dr. Ann Marqueling
Dr. Kristin Nord
Dr. Roberto Novoa
Dr. Anthony Oro
Dr. Darci Phillips
Dr. Marlyanne Pol-Rodriguez
Dr. Silvina Pugliese
Dr. Zakia Rahman
Dr. Kerri Rieger
Dr. Eon Rios
Dr. Kavita Sarin
Dr. John Sunwoo
Dr. Susan Swetter
Dr. Jean Tang
Dr. Joyce Teng
Dr. Martin Vazquez
Dr. Aruna Venkatesan
Dr. Chen Wang
Dr. Jennifer Wang
Dr. Kevin Wang
Dr. Wen-Kai Weng
Dr. David Wong
Dr. John Yost
Dr. Lisa Zaba



Stanford
Dermatology
Faculty are
regionally
and
nationally
recognized
for their
clinical
expertise
and
teaching.



Sumaira Aasi, MD
Clinical Professor of Dermatology
ACMS Distinguished Service Award



Bernice Kwong, MD
Clinical Professor of Dermatology
2020 Arthur L. Bloomfield Award in Recognition
of Excellence in the Teaching of Clinical
Medicine, Stanford University



Howard Chang, MD, PhD
Professor of Dermatology
Elected member, National Academy of Sciences
Elected member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Marlyanne Pol-Rodriguez, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology
Outstanding COMET Program Mentor Award in June 2020.



Zakia Rahman, MD
Clinical Professor Dermatology
Elected Chair of the School of Medicine Faculty Senate



Gordon Bae, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

Gordon Bae, MD, is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Stanford University. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed his residency in dermatology at Stanford University, where he served as the chief resident. His clinical focus is on both general medical dermatology and dermatologic surgery. Learn more about Dr. Bae at <https://profiles.stanford.edu/183949>.



Roxana Daneshjou, MD, PhD - Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Daneshjou is a Clinical Scholar in Dermatology and a postdoc in Biomedical Data Science. Dr. Daneshjou completed her M.D./Ph.D. and dermatology residency at Stanford. Her research interests include addressing bias in biomedical data and algorithms, machine learning in dermatology, and precision medicine.



Nour Kibbi, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

Nour Kibbi, MD, is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Stanford University specializing in Mohs micrographic surgery and cosmetic dermatology. She received her medical degree from Yale University, where she also completed residency and dermatologic surgery fellowship. Learn more about Dr. Kibbi at <https://profiles.stanford.edu/nour-kibbi>.



Hayley Leatham, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Leatham is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Stanford University practicing general medical dermatology. She received her medical degree from Stanford University, where she also completed residency and served as Chief Resident. Learn more about Dr. Leatham at <https://profiles.stanford.edu/hayley-wheeler>.



Chelsea Ma, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

Chelsea Ma, MD is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Stanford University. She received her undergraduate degree from Stanford, and completed medical school and residency at UC Davis. Learn more about Dr. Ma at <https://profiles.stanford.edu/chelsea-ma>.



Jennifer Wang, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Jennifer Wang is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology. Dr. Wang completed her medical degree, dermatology residency, and dermatopathology fellowship at Stanford. She has clinical and academic interests in cutaneous oncology. Learn more about Dr. Wang at <https://profiles.stanford.edu/jennifer-wang>



Richard Chen, MD, MS, is a Clinical Instructor of Dermatology. His interests include general dermatology, cancer genomics, precision medicine, genetics, bioinformatics and technology innovation for improved health care delivery and therapy.

Justin Ko, MD, MBA, is a Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology and serves as Director and Chief of Medical Dermatology for Stanford Health Care (SHC). He also spearheads the dermatology department's efforts around network development, digital health, quality/safety/performance improvement, and value-based care.

Richard Chen, MD
Dermatology

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Stanford Medical Center

Justin M. Ko, MD, MBA
Dermatology

Kristin Kennedy, NP, is an APP II in medical dermatology. Her interests include general dermatology, erosive lichen planus and atopic dermatitis.



2020 Residency Retreat

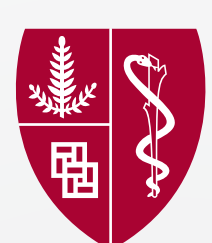
**Stanford
Dermatology
ranks #1 in the
nation for NIH
funding, and as a
training program
provides several
unique
opportunities
for residents
interested in
pursuing
academic
careers.**

Learn More

In July, our residency program welcomed six exceptional new first year residents: Dr. Leandra Barnes (Stanford University School of Medicine), Dr. Jack Li (Harvard Medical School), Dr. Naomi So (University of Los Angeles School of Medicine), Dr. Paige Wolstencroft (Stanford University School of Medicine), Dr. Christine Wong (University of Washington School of Medicine) and Dr. Natasha Cowan Zacher (University of California San Diego School of Medicine). In addition, we are delighted to announce that Dr. Derek Chu joined our residency program leadership team as Assistant Program Director, and will be leading our resident wellness and evaluation committees.

With the onset of the pandemic in March, we made a quick transition to telehealth across all of our clinical sites, and the program faced new challenges to maintain a safe learning environment and robust clinical education for our trainees. The ensuing months brought opportunity for residents to be immersed in the practice of synchronous and asynchronous teledermatology, and participate in quality improvement processes as we addressed the challenges raised by these patient care models. Our site directors have done a tremendous job to safely incorporate residents into each iteration of clinical workflow during these unprecedented times. Furthermore, we are incredibly proud of our residents, who have demonstrated extraordinary flexibility, resilience and fortitude as rotation schedules and elective plans have been changed, certifying exams have been postponed and hands-on experiences have been reduced.

However, during this year of uncertainty brought upon by a massive public health crisis, horrific social injustice, and threatening natural disasters, we have remained strong as a community, and have found ways to grow and stretch as an educational program. Adopting a fully virtual platform for our didactics and grand rounds has allowed for more guest speakers, new learning opportunities such as weekly virtual inpatient rounds and pediatric journal club, and attendance by alumni and local colleagues who have enriched the discussion at grand rounds. In an effort to improve transparency and access to information for medical students, our program hosted a new webinar event for applicants in October, made many updates to our program's [website](#), and expanded our social media presence with a new Instagram account (@stanforddermatology) started by two of our second year residents, Drs. Lucy Liu and Elizabeth Wang.



This year, in accordance with the AAMC recommendations, we will be conducting interviews over Zoom in January, which will have the benefit of mitigating the opportunity gap created by the financial burden of travel. Furthermore, our faculty have worked to increase skin of color and sexual and gender minority content in our didactic curriculum over the last year, and Drs. Eleni Linos, Betsy Bailey and Kristin Nord led a department-wide effort to identify and address sources of implicit bias and promote anti-racist policies and procedures in our residency selection process this fall. Finally, with the fantastic leadership of our chief residents (Drs. Peter Barnes, Jasmine Rana and Caely Hambro Yanikoglu), teamwork and collegiality has been at an all-time high this year as our residents have supported each other through this stressful time. This is beautifully illustrated in our program's first ever music video: "We're all in this together," directed by Dr. Bernice Kwong (this video can be found on our website, and on Instagram).

With social distancing measures in place, we have also been forced to pivot on many of our traditional social gatherings, but have found new and creative ways to foster connectedness. Our "End of the Year Celebration" was virtual, but more inclusive than ever, making it possible for over 200 family members and friends to join the celebration with our 7 wonderful graduating residents: Dr. Gordon Bae (Stanford Dermatology, Clinical Assistant Professor), Roxana Daneshjou (Stanford Dermatology, Clinical Instructor and Postdoctoral Research Fellow), Prajakta Jaju (Kaiser San Jose Medical Center), Dr. Julien Lanoue (University of Vermont, Mohs Fellow), Hayley Leatham (Stanford Dermatology, Clinical Assistant Professor), Katie Ransohoff (Palo Alto Medical Foundation – Palo Alto Medical Group & Sutter Medical Network), and Alex Zhu (PeaceHealth Washington). Our welcome picnic this year morphed into an incredibly fun (and humbling) trivia night hosted by Dr. Marlyanne Pol-Rodriguez. Finally, this year's Training Leaders Task Force, led by Dr. Aruna Venkatesan, initiated a new program for "Mentorship Families." As our department continues to grow, these small groups bring together residents and attendings from different clinical sites and specialties, creating additional opportunities for mentorship, support and friendship.

In closing, we will look back on 2020 not only for the storm of challenges it brought, but also for the changes we have navigated and silver linings we have discovered in its wake. We are very appreciative of the generous support provided by our Stanford Dermatology family, which allows us to continue to provide opportunities and resources to foster the education and well-being of the next generation of Stanford Dermatology residents.

Program Director



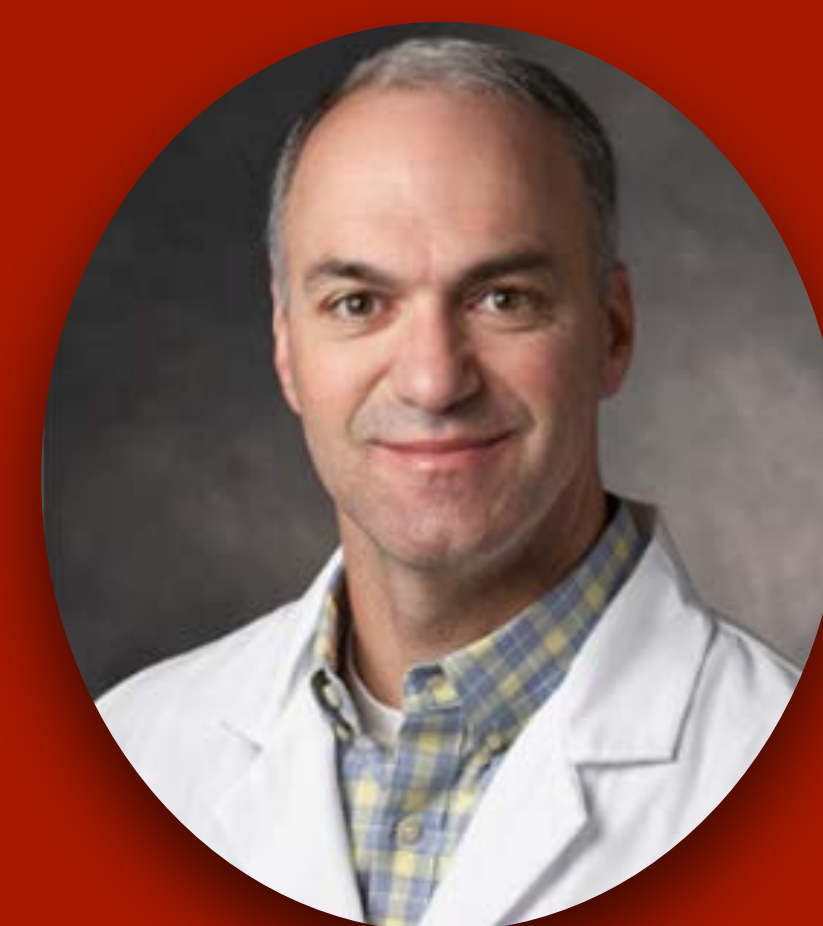
Kristin Nord, MD

Clinical Professor of Dermatology

Associate Program Directors



Bernice Kwong, MD
Clinical Prof. of Derm.



David Fiorentino, MD, PhD
Clinical Prof. of Derm.



Elizabeth Bailey, MD

Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology

Assistant Program Directors



Derek Chu, MD

Clinical Assistant Prof. of Derm.



Congratulations!

The Department of Dermatology is proud to announce the election of Dr. Leandra Barnes, PGY-2 resident, to the Board of Directors of the Society for Investigative Dermatology! In this key role, Dr. Barnes will contribute to the advancement of the sciences relevant to skin health and disease through education, advocacy, and scholarly exchange of scientific information.



Leandra Barnes, MD
PGY-2 Stanford Dermatology



Program Director



Susan Swetter, MD
Professor of Dermatology

The Skin Cancer Program is a leading innovator in the research and treatment of skin cancer, including melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell skin cancer, Merkel cell carcinoma, and cutaneous lymphoma.

[Learn More](#)

Cutaneous Oncology

The Cutaneous Oncology Program at the Stanford Cancer Institute, led by Professor of Dermatology and Director of the Pigmented Lesion and Melanoma Program **Dr. Susan Swetter**, promotes research and state-of-the-art treatment for all skin cancer types, including melanoma and atypical melanocytic neoplasms (both adult and pediatric), high-risk and solid organ transplant-associated squamous cell carcinoma, advanced basal cell carcinoma, Merkel cell carcinoma and other solid-tumor cutaneous malignancies. Cutaneous Oncology skin cancer and Supportive Dermato-Oncology clinics are held in the Stanford Cancer Center in Palo Alto (CCPA), located at 900 Blake Wilbur Drive, 3rd floor (BW-3) and the Cancer Center South Bay (CCSB) in San Jose. We look forward to continued expansion of the Cutaneous Oncology Program in the East Bay (Emeryville and Livermore/Pleasanton sites), where cutaneous and surgical oncology services are now available.

Growth of Cutaneous Oncology Program at Cancer Center South Bay

Under the direction of **Dr. Lisa Zaba** (Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology) and with the addition of new faculty member **Dr. Jennifer Wang** (Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology), the Cutaneous Oncology Program is in full swing at the CCSB location, offering comprehensive care on a daily basis. Dr. Wang is both a dermatologist and a board-certified dermatopathologist and has a clinical interest in cutaneous lymphoma and melanoma.

Dr. Zaba and Dr. Wang work with **Dr. Kim Stone** (Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery/Surgical Oncology), **Dr. Fred Baik** (Assistant Professor, OHNS/Head and Neck Surgery), and CCSB medical and radiation oncologists to provide comprehensive cutaneous, surgical, and medical oncology care for patient with newly-diagnosed melanoma, advanced basal cell carcinoma, high risk cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, and Merkel cell carcinoma – in conjunction with colleagues at the Cancer Center Palo Alto. The expanded services at CCSB provide ease of access for patients living in the San Jose, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Salinas, and San Luis Obispo regions. **New patient coordinators for referrals to both CCSB and CCPA can be reached at 650-498-6000.**

Ongoing Program Development

Our daily **Supportive Dermato-Oncology (SDO)** clinics take place at BW-3 and CCSB. This unique service was initiated in 2012 by Clinical Associate Professor **Dr. Bernice Kwong** to provide urgent, on-site dermatology evaluation of cutaneous complications related to cancer diagnosis and treatment, allowing for improved patient quality of life and outcomes. The SDO clinics are run by Dr. Kwong, **Dr. Silvina Pugliese** (Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology), and **Dr. Zaba**. Dr. Zaba continues to explore the intersection between cancer and immunity as it pertains to cancer surveillance and various immunotherapy regimens. **Dr. Pugliese** will also be opening an SDO clinic at the Redwood City location.



Dr. Zaba recently started a dedicated Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) clinic at CCPA, working in a multi-disciplinary fashion with Dr. **Sunil Reddy** (Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine/Oncology) and **Dr. Michael Gensheimer** (Clinical Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology). MCC is a rare and rapidly progressive type of skin cancer that frequently requires surgical excision, sentinel lymph node biopsy, adjuvant radiation, and if locally advanced or metastatic, immune-checkpoint blockade therapy. There are multiple MCC clinical trials ongoing currently lead by Drs. Reddy and Zaba.

Dr. Kavita Sarin (Associate Professor of Dermatology) directs the Skin Cancer Genetics Clinic in the Stanford Cancer Center which is focused on the diagnosis and management of individuals with inherited skin cancer susceptibility.

Professor of Dermatology **Dr. Anne Chang** specializes in the evaluation and treatment of complex, aggressive, recurrent or advanced keratinocyte carcinomas (basal cell carcinoma [BCC] and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma [cSCC]) at the Stanford Medicine Outpatient Center (SMOC) in Redwood City, in collaboration with colleagues at the Stanford Cancer Center and Dermatologic Surgery. She has spearheaded several targeted therapies and immunotherapies for locally advanced and metastatic tumors which are now considered standard of care, and she continues to work with Stanford researchers to improve therapeutic options that optimize patient outcomes.

Clinical and Translational Research Highlights

Under the direction of Clinical Research Group leader **Dr. Reddy**, Stanford has a robust clinical trials portfolio in place for solid tumor cutaneous malignancies, with multiple trials open at present across the disease spectrum, including novel neoadjuvant approaches to shrink bulky tumors prior to surgery. For melanoma, this will be the National Clinical Trials Network (S1801) phase II trial assessing the use of pembrolizumab before and after surgery in patients with stage III-IV high-risk melanoma (see: cancer.stanford.edu/trials).

Dr. Chang was instrumental in conducting research that led to the approval of the first anti-PD1 agent cemiplimab for patients with metastatic cSCC or locally advanced cSCC who are not candidates for curative surgery or radiation [*New England Journal of Medicine*]. Her work with Stanford basic scientists Katie Yost, PhD, Ansu Satpathy, MD PhD, Dr. Sarin, and **Dr. Howard Chang** (Professor of Dermatology) has led to a better understanding of why some non-melanoma skin cancers respond to immunotherapy while others do not [*Nature Medicine*]. Future studies will focus on improving treatments for keratinocytic cancers, understanding predictors of treatment response, and assessing the effects of SARS COVID-19 on skin cancer patients treated with immune checkpoint blockade.

Additional clinical treatment and research highlights are noted below.

• Unraveling the role of genetics in skin cancer

By studying the DNA from individuals with who develop skin cancer, **Dr. Sarin** is identifying genetic mutations that contribute to increased skin cancer susceptibility. She has conducted some of the largest genome-wide association studies to date, finding over 20 novel genetic variants that contribute to BCC, cSCC, and melanoma [*Nature Communications*]. In partnership with the SF Bay Area Melanoma Registry, **Drs. Sarin, Swetter, and Justin Ko** (Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology) have recruited a large cohort of patients with multiple primary melanomas to understand the genetics that contribute to melanoma and are now actively analyzing this data, with funding in part through a Stanford Cancer Innovation Grant. These studies will allow us to identify the highest risk individuals to enhance early screening and skin cancer prevention efforts.



• **Innovative bedside technologies to improve Mohs micrographic surgery cancer detection and treatment**

Dr. Sumaria Aasi (Clinical Professor of Dermatology) continues her work with **Dr. Albert Chiou** (Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology) and Stanford Chemistry Dept. scientists to explore ways to reduce the time needed for tissue-sparing Mohs micrographic surgery. In a prior study, they used desorption electrospray ionization mass spectrometry imaging (DESI-MSI), to rapidly distinguish cancerous tissue from normal surrounding skin with accuracy, considerably speeding up the surgical [*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*].

Dr. Aasi is also working with **Dr. Vasu Divi** (Associate Professor Head/Neck Surgery) and Stanford medical and radiation oncology colleagues in a new trial studying the use of neoadjuvant cemiplimab for stage III/IV cSCC. As noted, Dr. **Nour Kibbi** (Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology) recently joined the section of Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery and will be studying various skin cancer prevention therapies with departmental colleagues as part of her clinical and academic focus.

• **Novel imaging technologies for total body mole mapping and assessment of other dermatologic conditions**

We are pleased to announce the availability of **state-of-art total body imaging** (for nevus surveillance and other dermatologic conditions) with the **Canfield Intellistudio DermaGraphix** body mapping system, in conjunction with the novel use of **reflectance confocal microscopy** for early melanoma/skin cancer detection. These platforms will be available at both Stanford Dermatology in Redwood City and CCPA (BW-3). Details regarding scheduling of imaging services will be forthcoming.

• **Wipe Out Melanoma - California: Targeting High Risk Populations through Community Engagement**

Dr. **Swetter**, Dr. **Eleni Linos** (Professor of Dermatology), and colleagues in the **Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences and Cedars Sinai Medical Center** have launched a state-wide community outreach initiative to improve prevention and early detection strategies in high-risk individuals. Wipe Out Melanoma - California (WOM-CA) collaborates with Oregon Health & Science University's War on Melanoma™ public health campaign to reduce melanoma incidence through community-based education activism, and research. The California-based registry (Melanoma Community Registry of California, [website](#)) will involve academic centers throughout the state to serve the population in both a clinical and supportive capacity. For more information, please see this [webpage](#).

• **Research in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Outreach Efforts**

Building upon the seminal work by **Dr. Roberto Novoa** (Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology), Dr. Ko, and Dr. Swetter which demonstrated that artificial intelligence (AI) can achieve diagnostic accuracy approaching that of dermatologists for classification of skin cancers in specific scenarios [*Nature*], the Stanford team was recently awarded a prestigious 3-year Team Science Award from the Melanoma Research Alliance to investigate the potential impact of AI-assisted triage of concerning lesions in a clinical setting. This multi-site study is led by Dr. Novoa, with Dr. Albert Chiou joining the team as Young Investigator. It is one of the first studies worldwide to explore potential clinical applications of AI-driven triage approaches in a “real-world setting” to try to improve early diagnosis of melanoma and other skin cancers.

Senior-friendly technology for better dermatologic care

Covid-19 has accentuated gaps and revealed a broken system in the way we provide care for older adults. Dr. Eleni Linos, along with collaborators Drs. Tang, Ko and Novoa, we are working on a new senior-friendly digital connection between older adults and their care teams in order to provide timely and effective dermatologic care at home. Motivated by the rapid adoption of teledermatology, and the urgent need to create lasting solutions for seniors in a post-Covid world, we are partnering with experienced design and technology firms in the bay area. These multidisciplinary collaborations are focused on creating a new, user-friendly way to deliver dermatologic care that can be safely implemented at home by older patients or their caregivers using mobile technology.



A Note of Gratitude

As we wind up 2020, I'd like to give a heartfelt thanks to my patients who gave so generously of their time, effort, and finances during this uncertain year to support our skin cancer genetics research program and help reduce the toll of skin cancer.

I'm thankful to Tom Loverro, who chose to celebrate his 10th year anniversary from uveal melanoma, by joining with his friends and family to provide support for our melanoma genetics research.

I'm grateful to Kim and Leah Swig who partnered with me all year and provided the financial backing for us to accrue the largest genetic biobank of individuals with multiple melanoma.

I'm thankful to Bob McIntyre, Lida Zaffaroni, and Ting Pun who generously gave unexpected and unannounced gifts to my research program.

This past year brought heartbreaking news of the passing of Don Wunsch. Don and Renate Wunsch are two of the kindest, optimistic, and most loving people I have ever met. I was so honored and touched by Renate's gift to honor Don's legacy through supporting our cancer efforts.

I am so thankful for the unexpected gift from Sally Glaser, a retired epidemiologist who volunteered her time and intellect to provide rigorous feedback on my grants and publications and to connect me with groups that could support the aims of my research.

As we approach the holidays, I'd ask everyone to consider an alternative to the chocolates or champagne. Consider instead stepping alongside us and supporting our life work and passion. As physicians and scientists, we have dedicated our lives, energy, and intellect to improve the health of those around us. It is our life calling, and when we get to pursue it together with our patients, friends, and family, it becomes all the more meaningful.

Wishing all of you the best for 2021,

Kavita



Kavita Sarin, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Dermatology



Stanford
MEDICINE

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Dermatology



GIVING

Your gift can help advance scientific investigations into dermatologic diseases. It can also help prepare future leaders in dermatology through support of our dermatology trainees. Gifts to the Department of Dermatology can be set up to support research in a variety of ways. Your gift can be established to support immediate research needs or to provide long-term support through the establishment of an endowment.

Learn More

Photography by Max Aguilera-Hellweg



The butterfly effect

Skin too fragile to touch

[View Article](#)

Make a Difference

In March of 2020, the CARES Act was passed to offer widespread economic assistance. In addition to COVID-19 relief, the CARES Act offers unique incentives for charitable giving designed to aid the non-profit sector during the crisis. Specifically, the Act removes the adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations on charitable income tax deductions for cash gifts by individuals made in 2020 such that taxpayers may now claim a deduction of up to 100% of AGI for cash gifts. The implications are outlined at a high-level on Stanford's giving [web page](#). As you're evaluating your year-end tax strategy, the one-time increase in charitable deduction allowances may significantly reduce your tax liability. For a personal conversation about how philanthropy can make a difference, please contact Katharyn Israel at 541.961.7826 or katharynisrael@stanford.edu.

For More Information or to Discuss your Options, Please Contact Development:



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