![Dermatology Foundation logo]

2023 Diversity Research Supplement Award – Opportunity List as of September 22, 2022

The following individuals are	Institution	Project Description
Dekker Deacon, MD, PhD	University of Utah	Our lab seeks to characterize the genetic and transcriptomic basis for melanoma subtypes. We have developed technologies to ask questions such as: "what gene mutations and copy number changes lead to the development, invasion, and metastasis of melanoma", "which melanomas will respond to immune checkpoint inhibition", and "do certain melanomas behave differently based on cell of origin". Medical students will have the opportunity to review clinical information, collect DNA and RNA from patient tissue, and analyze this material using a variety of methods to answer the above questions and more.
Ben Kaffenberger M.D., M.S.	Ohio State University	My research is in hospital dermatology outcomes. We have specific interests in differentiating inflammation and infection, drug eruptions, wounds, and autoimmune disease in this setting. Defining the role, importance, and value of dermatology in this setting is our overarching goal. We have various projects that are available within this framework, and we can develop a question that is of interest to you.
Indermeet Kohli, Ph.D.	Henry Ford Health System	Visible light (VL) has been shown to induce biological effects on human skin; however, there is lack of products offering protection against VL, and standardized testing methods for VL photoprotection. This research project is to investigate the impact of spectral composition of VL on skin responses and evaluate the underlying mechanisms. Assessment methods will include clinical, spectroscopic, histologic and immunohistochemical techniques. Study findings will yield an important understanding of cutaneous responses in individuals of different skin phototypes to this part of sunlight and allow for potential development, and accurate guidelines for improved assessment of novel photoprotective agents.

2023 Diversity Research Supplement Award – Opportunity List (Cont.)

Faculty Member/DF Awardee	Institution	Project Description
Lucinda Kohn, M.D., M.H.S.	University of Colorado	Dermatology care is nearly non-existent for American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) youth. Limited treatment for skin disease may explain health disparities in prevalence and severity of skin disease among AIAN youth compared to the general United States (US) youth population. The consequences of such disparities are well-established. Skin disease has significant and long-term impacts on affected youth and their families. For example, untreated skin diseases among youth populations are associated with poorer quality of life, sleep disruptions, learning difficulties, mood disorders, and school absenteeism. In this project, we will leverage a unique source of data, PEDSnet— a national healthcare database comprised of nine US children's hospitals in metropolitan that include large rural catchment areas— to document the prevalence and types of skin diseases diagnosed by pediatric dermatologists in AIAN youth. We expect most prevalent types of skin diseases among AIAN youth may include infectious skin diseases, eczema, and acne.
Aaron Mangold, M.D.	Mayo Clinic, Arizona	Mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome in skin of color- this project will entail re-examination of the clinical, histological, management, and outcomes in individuals with mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome in skin of color. Over a 6-12 week period, data abstracted will be analyzed in depth to develop an understanding of the diagnostic and management differences between individuals with mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome with skin of color.
Jillian M. Richmond, Ph.D.	University of Massachusetts	Our laboratory studies autoimmune skin diseases and cancers. Opportunities for students include analysis of datasets as pertinent to their interests and our lab's needs. We have a variety of opportunities including mouse models, spontaneous canine models, and ex vivo human tissue studies.

Faculty Member/DF Awardee	Institution	Project Description
Cory L. Simpson, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Washington	My lab aims to understand how the epidermis continually forms a barrier tissue for the body and how this fundamental biological process is compromised in skin disease. Using high-resolution live microscopy, we focus on human keratinocytes (the main cells of the epidermis) at the level of single organelles. To replicate epidermis in the lab, we grow human keratinocytes in a skin model that permits us to directly visualize the development of this multi-layered tissue and test its ability to recover from damaging insults like ultraviolet radiation. Combining this organoid system with advanced methods in genetics, we can model human diseases in vitro and try to identify potential therapies for inherited disorders of epidermal function like Darier disease, ichthyosis, and atopic dermatitis.
Junko Takeshita, M.D., Ph.D., M.S.C.E.	University of Pennsylvania	My research program is focused on identifying, understanding, and eliminating health and healthcare disparities in dermatology. Ongoing research projects include quantitative studies using large databases to identify disparities in health outcomes, healthcare utilization for, and treatment of skin diseases and qualitative studies to understand patient, medical provider, and other relevant perspectives on the experience of and treatment of skin diseases. Our group is also building a diverse cohort of adults with atopic dermatitis using a community-based approach to identify and understand the social and environmental determinants of existing racial and ethnic disparities in atopic dermatitis outcomes. There are opportunities to work on any of these or other projects depending on a student's interests and skill set. Students with quantitative or qualitative research skills are preferred.
Joy Wan, M.D., M.S.C.E.	Johns Hopkins University	Our lab conducts patient-oriented and epidemiological research in atopic dermatitis, a chronic and burdensome skin disease that affects up to 20% of children. We have several projects focused on characterizing the psychosocial and life impacts of atopic dermatitis on children and their families. We also have ongoing studies aimed at optimizing treatments for children with atopic dermatitis. Opportunities to work with large databases and to participate in prospective data collections are available. Previous experience with statistical analysis is preferred but not required.