Updates from the Chair
July, 2010

Rhoda M. Alani, MD
Herbert Mescon Professor and Chair

Dear Colleagues:
As you will note from this latest addition of our departmental newsletter, July has been a very busy month for BU Dermatology with the promotion of our colleague, Lynne Goldberg, to Professor of Dermatology, the addition of several new faculty, and the publication of a large number of significant research articles by members of the department. This month we also initiate a new section in our newsletter dedicated to our departmental staff members. I hope you enjoy getting to know these individuals better. We have also included information on our upcoming Boston University Dermatology Alumni Association reception to take place on September 21st. Please save the date and tell your fellow alumni about this exciting opportunity to catch up with old friends and learn about what’s new at BU Dermatology. A detailed invitation will be sent to all alumni in the coming weeks. Finally, I am hoping you will also save the date for an upcoming Celebration of Life Ceremony to honor the memory of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Marie-France Demierre. This celebration will coincide with the First Annual Howard Koh Visiting Professor Lectureship and I am hoping that many of you will be able to attend both of these very special events.

The Children’s Melanoma Prevention Foundation is hosting a benefit concert dedicated to Dr. Marie-France Demierre on Saturday, September 25. Please see the full announcement at the end of this newsletter.

Dermatopathology Section Update
Deon Wolpowitz, MD, PhD & Jag Bhawan, MD
New diagnostic tool for patient care and research

Cutaneous innervation plays a pathophysiologic role in disease states of the skin as well as being targeted in diseases involving other organ systems. In this regard, Skin Path Lab now offers the ability to generate intraepidermal nerve fiber counts using conventional two-dimensional analysis in vertically-oriented skin sections (see Figure 1, A), such as is currently used in the detection of small fiber neuropathies. Moreover, we have developed a new technique to visualize nerve fibers in horizontal sections, affording three-dimensional assessment of nerve fiber quantity and distribution in skin biopsies. Depending on the antibody used, we can visualize all nerves in the skin (PGP9.5, see Figure 1, B), as well as specific subsets, including p75 NGFRe-positive nerves in the dermis, autonomic (tyrosine hydroxylase—see Figure 1,C; vasoactive intestinal peptide) and sensory nerves (CGRP and substance P receptor). This newer technique preserves the architecture of the nerves in relation to the surrounding epidermal and dermal structures including at the dermal-epidermal junction, overcomes sampling bias inherent to the traditional 2D method that can lead to false negative or positive test results, and will be used to understand and diagnose non-skin and skin diseases.

Figures. (A) Two dimensional intradermal nerve fiber staining using PGP9.5 antibody, 400x. Black bars delineate the epidermis (Epi) from the overlying stratum corneum (Sco) and underlying papillary dermis (Pd). Slender intraepidermal nerve branches (white arrows) can be seen arising from the immediately subjacent subepidermal nerve plexus (black arrowheads). (B,C) Three dimensional imaging, in a 200 micron thick transverse skin section. (B) Detection of intraepidermal and papillary dermal nerve fibers using PGP9.5 antibody, 100x. (C) Autonomic adrenergic innervation of sweat glands (tyrosine hydroxylase, green), 200x.
Incoming Department Members

Ron Yaar, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Yaar graduated from Boston University School of Medicine with a combined M.D., Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry in 2005. He subsequently completed a residency in Anatomic Pathology at Emory University in 2008 earning the Award for Excellence in Anatomic Pathology. Dr. Yaar is a recipient of the 2008 Stowell-Orbison award from the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology for work on determining prognostic factors in sentinel lymph node biopsies for melanoma. In 2010, Dr. Yaar completed a two-year fellowship in Dermatopathology at Boston Medical Center under the auspices of Dr. Jag Bhawan and will be joining the department as a dermatopathologist. He is also currently responsible for dermatopathology training for residents and international students.

Emmy Graber, M.D.

Dr. Graber received her BS in Biology at The Pennsylvania State University where she also completed her medical training and graduated with membership in Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. She subsequently pursued an internship in Internal Medicine and Dermatology residency training at The Pennsylvania State University/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Dr. Graber went on to fellowship training in Laser and Cosmetic Surgery at SkinCare Physicians of Chestnut Hill (2007-2008) and has been practicing dermatology with that group since 2008. Dr. Graber is the recipient of an American Society of Dermatologic Surgery Preceptorship Award and an American Acne and Rosacea Society Mentorship Award. She has vast experience in clinical trials for acne/roacea and cosmetic dermatology and has published and lectured extensively in both of these areas. She has a particular interest in teaching and will take on a leadership role as Associate Program Director for our residency training program in dermatology. Dr. Graber has academic interests in both acne and cosmetic dermatology research. She will be the Director of our Boston University Cosmetic and Laser Center on Commonwealth Avenue while Dr. Claire Mansur will be Director of our Boston University Dermatology Associates practice at this same location. Dr. Graber will also pursue her academic interest in acne/roacea and cosmetic dermatology at our DOB practice site and will be seeing patients at the Whittier Street Community Health Center.

Yuval Bibi, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Yuval Bibi received his MD and PhD in neuroscience and metal biology at Ben Gurion University of The Negev. Subsequently, he pursued post-doctoral training, working with Dr. Elliot Androphy on human papillomavirus innate immunology and carcinogenesis at The University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. He completed his clinical training at the combined Boston University - Tufts University Dermatology Residency Program. Dr. Bibi recently joined The Department of Dermatology at Boston University as a clinician-investigator and is the recipient of Department of Dermatology Research Scholar Award. He will assume leadership roles as the Director of Dermatology at South Boston Community Health Center and as a member of the Melanocytic Biology Research Center. Dr. Bibi is interested in a broad gamut of subjects including the effects of innate immunity on tissue homeostasis, melanonogenesis, metal biology and human interactions in the clinical setting. Clinically, Dr. Bibi is intrigued by general dermatology, with an emphasis on mucosal and genital disease.

Kasia Szyfelbein Masterpol, M.D.

Dr. Szyfelbein Masterpol earned her BA from the College of the Holy Cross cum laude, and subsequently received her MD from Harvard Medical School in 2006. While at Harvard, she was involved in research in the area of dermatopathology and cutaneous malignant melanoma. Dr. Szyfelbein Masterpol completed her internship in Internal Medicine at Cambridge Hospital before joining our residency program in 2007, where she served as Chief Resident during her third year. Dr. Szyfelbein Masterpol will remain
with our Department as an Instructor of Dermatology at Boston University School of Medicine. She will pursue her teaching interests and has already initiated an agreement with Cambridge Hospital to have their primary care residents rotate through her clinics at the DOB.

**Departmental Kudos**

It is with great pleasure that I announce the promotion of **Dr. Lynne Goldberg** to Professor of Dermatology at Boston University School of Medicine. As you know, Dr. Goldberg has been a long-standing member of our faculty who has provided numerous outstanding academic contributions to our specialty. She is most widely recognized as an international leader in alopecias and the histopathologic distinctions of these disease entities and is known particularly for her dedication to the outstanding teaching and mentoring of residents and fellows within the department. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Goldberg on achieving this important milestone in her career.

**Publications**

Pongpudpunth M, **Bhawan J**, Al-Natour SH, **Mahalingam M**. Nestin-Positive Stem Cells in Neurofibromas From Patients With Neurofibromatosis Type 1-Tumorigenic or Incidental? Am J Dermatopathol. 2010 May 24. [Epub]


**Other Departmental News**

**Amit Garg** has been asked to participate on the Program Committees for the Association of Professors of Dermatology and the Medical Dermatological Society, as well as on the General Dermatology Curriculum Committee for the American Board of Dermatology. Amit will be serving on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Dermatology. He will be part of the Leadership Institute's Mentoring work group at the AAD. Amit will also be joining Tania Philips on the Executive Counsel for NEDS.
DOB Featured Staff Member
Edward Asare

Eddie was born in Ghana, W Africa and just celebrated a birthday on July 11. He lives in Taunton, MA with his spouse, Dorothy and four children Priscilla, 24, Annabelle, 13 and 9 year old twin boys Brandon and Bryan. Eddie has a BA from University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, W Africa. His preferred music is Jazz, Highlife (Ghana) R&B, Country, Reggae and all good music. His favorite food is rice and beans. Eddie started working for the Evans Medical Foundation in 1993, became a BMC employee in 2005 and joined the Dermatology Billing Department in October of 2008. Interesting facts: he is a political junkie, an ardent American football and soccer fan, was once a high school teacher in Nigeria and enjoys taking the stairs and bypassing the elevators to our 9th floor office.

Brockton Featured Staff Member
Lisa Brodeur

She starts work at 8 a.m. with a smile, enthusiasm and energy. However, Lisa's day actually starts at 4 a.m. She rises early to attend a boot camp that is an extreme work-out from 5 to 6 a.m. It is part of her routine to stay in shape for her favorite activity—karate. Lisa has been studying for 11 years and holds a second degree black belt. She teaches cardio-kickboxing and martial arts. She also enjoys hiking, dancing and traveling. Also keeping her busy are her two boys. Jacob graduated high school this year and is off to college in the fall. Jeremy is entering high school this September. Bristol, her bijon frise, has been with the Brodeur's for 11 years and is considered a member of her family. Lisa has been at Boston University Dermatology in Brockton for two years. She has a wide range of medical office experience from working in cardiology and orthopedic practices. She is also a former business owner. She ran Lisa's Day Care for eight years and had 10 children in her group. Currently, she handles referrals, medical record requests, schedules appointments and works at the front desk. Lisa’s favorite foods include pizza and Chinese food. She has a strong dislike for dishonesty.

Comm Ave Featured Staff Member
Pamela Interrante

Pamela Interrante is a practicing Licensed, Registered Electrologist and a Certified Laser Technician as well as a member of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, Inc. She has been successfully treating clients for over twenty years through electrolysis in Needham, Massachusetts and has 12 years of experience with laser hair removal. In 1998, Pamela was selected to receive comprehensive training on laser hair removal from Thomas E. Rohrer, M.D., then Director of the Boston University Center for Cosmetic & Laser Surgery as well as Boston University's Director of Dermatological Surgery. She has also had the opportunity to be involved in several laser hair removal studies at Boston University. Ms. Interrante was one of the first laser technicians to have significant experience with the Candela Nd:YAG laser for darker skin type patients and has been using this laser for over three years, providing invaluable information for the makers of the laser regarding different settings and results.

609 Albany Street Featured Staff Member
Swan Adikari

Swan Adikari is a Systems Operations Manager in the Dept. of Dermatology and Skin Pathology Laboratory. Swan is a Sri Lankan American who migrated to US. For most of his technical career as a Computer Systems Engineer he has been working with Toshiba Laptop computers in Sri Lanka and Dubai/Abu-Dhabi. He also trained in Singapore. Apart from his Information Technology career, Swan enjoys social services and he is also a board of directors in New England Lanka Academy. His hobbies include hiking, nature, music, social services and aikido. Swan plays the guitar and Sri Lankan traditional drums and will be performing in Clear Water and Orlando, FL this coming weekend. He enjoys traveling and has traveled to Sri Lanka, USA, Canada, UAE, Singapore, Turkey, India, Mexico, Bermuda and Thailand. Swan is married and has a 12 year old son. Lately he was greatly influenced by Buddhist Meditations. “I take every day as a gift. Breathing in I know I am alive. Breathing out, I feel the joy of being alive.”

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”
-Gandhi
I hope you enjoyed this latest edition of Dermatology Updates.

Please keep me posted on your news and feel free to send your suggestions for future topics and features to budermnewsletter@hotmail.com.

Don’t forget to also visit us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Boston-MA/Boston-University-and-Boston-Medical-Center-Dermatology/243883552117

Best regards,

Rhoda

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2010**

**GRAND ROUNDS**

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9th FLOOR  
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 8:30 – 11:45  
LECTURE: SIGNALING AND NETWORKS IN MELANOMA BY DR. DAVID FISHER

**FACULTY MEETING**

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

**NICHA RUNGSIMANOND THESIS DEFENSE**

PLACE: PETER POCHI CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR 609 ALBANY STREET  
DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 11:00 AM  
LECTURE: ROLE OF BMP-SMAD1 PATHWAY IN MELANOMA PROGRESSION

**GRAND ROUNDS**

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9th FLOOR  
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 8:30-11:45 AM  
LECTURE: TITLE TBA BY DR. MARIA TROJANOWSKA

**FACULTY MEETING**

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 12:00 – 1:00 PM
Please join the Boston University Department of Dermatology for a meet and greet

Inaugural Reception
Boston University Dermatology Alumni Association

Tuesday, September 21, 2010
6:30 - 8:30 in the evening
The Terrace at BU School of Management*
595 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA

Join your colleagues as we catch up with old friends, reminisce about the past, and learn about what’s new at BU

Kindly RSVP by September 10, 2010
617-638-5500 or derrn@bu.edu

*Parking is available in the garage beneath the School of Management. Please be sure to use the EAST ELEVATORS in order to access the terrace
Save the Date

A Celebration of the Life of
Dr. Marie-France Demierre

Monday, November 1, 2010
4:00 PM

Boston Medical Center

Please join us in remembering our dear colleague and friend. There will be speakers, music, pictures, and other tributes to the things she loved, as well as a lecture by Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health in the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Full invitation to follow at a later date
Special Benefit Concert

dedicated to Dr. Marie-France Demierre, M.D.

Saturday, September 25th, 6:30 pm
Roy Campus Center at Derby Academy
Hingham, Massachusetts

The Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation invites you to a special performance by the Neponset Valley Philharmonic Orchestra.

The evening will include cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction, followed by the concert and dessert.

All proceeds will support the Children’s Melanoma Prevention Foundation’s SunAWARE Program and the Demierre Family Fund.

To reserve tickets, visit www.melanomaprevention.org or call 781-875-1SPF (1773)

Neponset Valley Philharmonic Orchestra

Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation

Tax ID#: 51-0476866