

January/February, 2011

Rhoda M. Alani, MD

Herbert Mescon Professor and Chair



Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to report that March is just around the corner and springtime should not be too far off (according to the groundhog). As many of you know, this was a bit of a rough winter here in Boston, with many snowstorms and lots of shoveling. While many of us enjoyed some of the best skiing in New England in years and others were thrilled with the sledding and days off from school, I must say I am very much looking forward to warmer temperatures and spending time outdoors without my long down coat.

As many of you know, our unpredictable weather did cause a bit of chaos at the recent American Academy of Dermatology meeting in New Orleans with many cancelled flights leaving registered participants unable to attend. Despite the obstacles, I was delighted to be able to catch up with the many of you who managed to find your way down to New Orleans to participate in the wonderful meeting and enjoy the sights and sounds of the French Quarter and environs. This year we were once again able to sponsor a lovely Alumni Reunion at the AAD with a wonderful jazz band, delicious regional food, and the company of so many “friends of BU Dermatology.” It was great to meet so many alumni and to hear stories of your days at BU and learn about your current activities. It was also fun to see everyone enjoying themselves at our “BU photo booth” and I would encourage you to take a look at the photos in this newsletter and on our Facebook site. Our Alumni Reunion event also allowed me to update so many of you on the recent changes in the department and the exciting plans for the year ahead. We were also delighted to have Dr. Donald Grande with us to introduce the BU Dermatology Alumni Association and you can certainly expect to hear from Don soon as plans get underway for more alumni activities. You will also be receiving a very short survey via email regarding the Alumni Association that will help us learn more about how BU Dermatology might best serve our alumni community.

Please take some time to review the rest of the exciting news from the department in this issue of

Dermatology Updates and feel free to be in touch with your news, suggestions, and comments. I look forward to welcoming you at upcoming departmental activities, Grand Rounds, and Alumni Programs.

Alumni Reunion

Kavitha Reddy, M.D.

This year we had another wonderful alumni reunion at the AAD meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. More than one hundred of our esteemed alumni enjoyed the event. A jazz band, scrumptious appetizers, and our very own photo booth helped celebrate our time reconnecting with each other. We also had the pleasure of an update with the latest news from the Department and the alumni



association by Dr. Rhoda Alani and Dr. Donald Grande, our alumni association leader. They encouraged our alumni to reach out and contribute ideas, time, or other helpful

resources to help all current and future alumni continue to succeed. Thanks to everyone who attended and we hope to see you again at the next AAD party!

Comm Ave Updates

Emmy Graber, M.D.

Cosmetic and Laser Center

Our next open house will be on April 28, 2011 at 6:30 pm and 930 Commonwealth Avenue West. There will be food, a lecture on cosmetic dermatology and gift bags given. Please feel free to tell your friends, family and patients to attend.

They can RSVP by calling: **617-414-6760**.

There is an online seven-part laser course by Dr. Graber available for CME credit. Information can be found at www.bucosmeticcenter.com. In addition, there is now a Twitter and Facebook blog regarding practice updates. There is a link to this on www.bucosmeticcenter.com.

Dermatology Associates at Commonwealth Avenue

Two new clinical acne studies will be starting within the next few months. Dr. Graber and Dr. Emily

Wise will be conducting a study with Johnson and Johnson on a novel topical acne cream. Dr. Graber and Dr. Cindy Bae also received a grant from the American Acne and Rosacea Society to study patient and parent perspectives on oral isotretinoin. Stay tuned for more details about these studies once patient recruitment gets underway.

Society for Investigative Dermatology Annual Meeting Presentations

Meera Mahalingam, MD. *A genetic appraisal of the frequency of functional RET G691S polymorphism in the pure versus the mixed variants of desmoplastic melanoma.* Poster Presentation 106.

Mark Eller, PhD. *Neuropilin-2: A novel biomarker for malignant melanoma.* Poster Presentation 760.

Andrei Sharov, MD, PhD. *Epigenetic control of gene expression programs in the skin: Distinct nuclear architecture and higher order chromatin organization of cell-type specific genes in melanocytes and keratinocytes.* Oral & Poster Presentation.

Andrei Sharov, MD, PhD. *BMP-Smad signaling pathway inhibits proliferation and migration of melanoma cells.* Poster Presentation.

Vladimir A. Botchkareva, MD, PhD. *Dynamics of three-dimensional organization of the nucleus during terminal differentiation of the epidermal keratinocytes.* Poster Presentation.

Vladimir A. Botchkareva, MD, PhD. *Lhx2 is a part of the hair follicle-specific signaling/transcription network and regulates expression of stem cell-associated genes during skin development and regeneration.* Poster Presentation.

Ratao Cui, MD, PhD. *Linking UVB irradiation to pigmentation induction through FGF2-STAT3-PAX3 signaling melanocytes.* Oral & Poster Presentation.

Departmental Kudos

Meera Mahalingam - **Dr. L. Marquis Memento Award.** This award is given to a guest speaker at the National Conference of IADVL for best scientific speech.

Dr. Michael Krathen received the **Women's Dermatologic Society mentorship award** to study for two weeks with Dr. Ellen Kim at the University of Pennsylvania. He will focus on enhancing his knowledge of CTCL while working with her.

Recent Publications

Stine MJ, Wang CJ, Moriarty WF, Ryu B, Cheong R, Westra WH, Levchenko A, **Alani RM.** Integration of Genotypic and Phenotypic Screening Reveals Molecular Mediators of Melanoma-Stromal Interaction. *Cancer Research.* 2011 Feb 15. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 21324919 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Kessides MC, Wheless L, Hoffman-Bolton J, Clipp S, **Alani RM,** Alberg AJ. Cigarette smoking and malignant melanoma: a case-control study. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology.* 2011 Jan;64(1):84-90. Epub 2010 Mar 23. PMID: 20334951 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Bowers EM, Yan G, Mukherjee C, Orry A, Wang L, Holbert MA, Crump NT, Hazzalin CA, Liszczak G, Yuan H, Larocca C, Saldanha SA, Abagyan R, Sun Y, Meyers DJ, Marmorstein R, Mahadevan LC, **Alani RM,** Cole PA. Virtual ligand screening of the p300/CBP histone acetyltransferase: identification of a selective small molecule inhibitor. *Chemical Biology.* 2010 May 28;17(5):471-82. PMID: 20534345 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Bhattacharya R, Kowalski J, Larson AR, Brock M, **Alani RM.** Id1 promotes tumor cell migration in nonsmall cell lung cancers. *Journal of Oncology.* 2010; 2010:856105. Epub 2010 Apr 18. PMID: 20414347 [PubMed - in process] Free PMC Article

Silverthorn CF, **Alani RM.** Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase expression is altered by hypoxia in melanoma cells and primary human melanocytes. *Melanoma Research.* 2010 Feb;20(1):61-3. No abstract available. PMID: 20051782 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Catching Up With Our Alumni!

Gary Mendese, M.D.

Dr. Donald J. Grande has a long history with the Bay State, particularly with Boston Dermatology.

Dr. Grande grew up in Boston's North End, went to UMass Boston for his undergraduate studies, then onto Boston University (BU) for medical school. He completed his dermatology residency in 1977 here at BU in 1977 and then served his country as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force. He then went on to complete a fellowship in Mohs Micrographic Surgery at the University of Iowa in 1981 followed by a staff position at Tufts University under the leadership of Dr. David Feingold. He served as a Mohs surgeon for several surrounding hospitals until moving into private practice in the suburbs, where he

remains today. He also remained quite active in the military, retiring three years ago as a colonel in the United States Air Force.

He has maintained a clinical teaching appointment at BU and has offered anatomy courses and surgical clinics, and has been a fellowship director in Mohs surgery for many years.

During a recent brief but thoughtful discussion about the Department, I learned a little more about one of our most active alumni.

What is the most “bizarre” or “interesting” thing you remember about residency?

“I was accepted as a resident without an interview.”

Things were a little different then, obviously.

“On my first day, Peter Pochi saw me and asked, ‘Who are you?’ I interviewed with him and Dr. Mescon shortly thereafter.”

What are your interests outside of medicine?

“I love to run and I enjoy cooking and sailing.” He also takes Italian lessons.

Any advice/words of wisdom for current residents or recent alumni?

“We have a pretty nice gig here [in dermatology]. We have nice lives, have happy patients and enjoy ourselves. It’s important to give something back, be it to the military, the Department, free clinics, the medical school, etc.”

Anything else you’d like to add?

“I have fond memories of my time as a resident and Dr. Mescon ‘set the tone’ of the Department, giving it the family feel that Dr. Alani is continuing.”

As always, you can share any updates with the Department and alumni by emailing budermalumni@gmail.com.

Other News

Jaime Zagami

I’ll be running in the second annual Run to Home Base on May 22nd for my brother, Jon, a combat veteran. The Home Base program, a collaboration between Massachusetts General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation, was formed to give care to veterans returning home to New England suffering from PTSD or traumatic brain injury. My brother Jon has been diagnosed with both and has been seeking care there for a year now. This program is free to veterans, so I run to raise money to support it. Any donation you can give would be greatly appreciated. You can donate or find more information at: www.runtohomebase.org/runtohomebase/jaimzagami.



Brockton Featured Staff Member

Christina Moschella



Chris is the practice manager at Boston University Dermatology in Brockton. She has two children and is a proud grandmother of three. “Nicolas, our newest addition, was born this month on my birthday!” This June she and her husband, Gerry, will celebrate their 38-year anniversary.

Chris and her husband have belonged to a dinner group for over 30 years. “Almost every month, fourteen of us get together for a gourmet dinner.” Chris enjoys indoor gardening and has over 30 plants. Her husband, Gerry, is the outdoor gardener and plants a vegetable garden every year.

She is the oldest of six. “For almost 40 summers, my parents have been renting three chalets for a week in New Hampshire. Thirty-five of us have a great gathering. Dinner gets a little crazy because we all eat together. It takes several grills to cook 35 steaks and cooking 40 lbs. of turkey and all the trimmings require a couple of kitchens.”

Chris enjoys reading. “I usually read 6-8 books a month and listen to a couple of audio books.” She

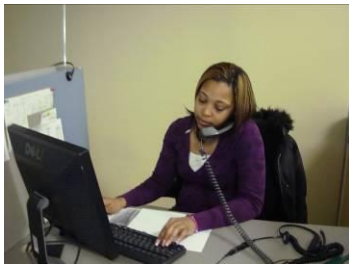
also enjoys her Karate classes. "I took Karate classes in my 30s and signed up for classes again a few years ago."

Chris is a Certified Medical Practice Executive (CMPE), a Fellow in the American College of Medical Practice Executives (FACMPE) and holds a master's degree in taxation from Northeastern University. She has had 11 articles published in national magazines.

She teaches a medical billing course at a local college and facilitates an online course: MGMA Boot Camp: Essentials of Group Practice Management on the following topics: Organizational Governance, Human Resource Management, and Business Operation Essentials.

DOB Featured Staff Member

Janette Jenkins



Jannette "JJ" Jenkins is a Practice Assistant from Dorchester. After graduating from south Boston High School, JJ started her career path in dermatology in May of 2007 at Beth Israel

Deaconess Medical Center. She joined the Boston Medical Center in March of 2009. JJ enjoys listening to R&B and Hip hop and is addicted to shoes. During lunch, you can find her snacking on her favorite food, pizza. She is a proud mother of her 9-year-old daughter, Kiki.

609 Albany Street Featured Staff Member

Barbara Farrar

Barbara is the Accounts Payable Clerk for the Department of Dermatology and joined the BU family three years ago. Originally from Virginia, Barbara worked in finance for over twenty years. She enjoys singing in her free time and has earned a black belt in Kung-Fu. Barbara is a proud mother of one.



Notes:

If you know of anyone who is not receiving these newsletters and should be, please send an e-mail to Jacy Bernal at jlondon@bu.edu. We realize some e-mail addresses we have may be outdated.

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.

Please visit us at our newly updated Facebook page!
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Boston-MA/Boston-University-and-Boston-Medical-Center-Dermatology/243883552117>

Best regards,

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH/APRIL 2011

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND, 8:00-11:15 AM
LECTURE: LINES IN THE NAIL: LONGITUDINAL ERYTHRONYCHIA AND LONGITUDINAL MELANONYCHIA BY DR. NATHANIEL JELLINEK

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH, 8:00-11:15 AM
LECTURE: TBA

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

ACNE SYMPOSIUM

PLACE: FGH CONFERENCE ROOM
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MAY 11TH



Department of Dermatology
Alumni Reunion
2011



