

Updates from the Chair

March, 2010

Rhoda M. Alani, MD

Herbert Mescon Professor and Chair



Dear Colleagues:

March has been an extremely busy month for the department as we all headed south for the AAD meeting in Miami where our faculty and trainees gave outstanding presentations of their exciting work. It was wonderful to have such broad representation of the department at the meeting and to see BU Dermatology shine. Of course, it was also nice to be able to catch up with colleagues during the meeting in a more relaxed setting and our Alumni Reunion at the Bass Museum provided a nice venue for all to get re-acquainted. For me, it was a wonderful opportunity to share my vision for the future of our department, to get to know our former trainees, and to encourage alumni to get more involved in departmental activities. We also officially launched our alumni Facebook site this month and encourage all BU Dermatology alumni to become “fans” and look to the site for departmental news and photos (including those from the recent reunion). This month we also bid a fond farewell to Dr. David Goukassian who will be leaving BU Dermatology for a new faculty position at Tufts. Dr. Goukassian has been a member of our department for over 15 years and he



will be missed by all. Our farewell celebration allowed colleagues to reminisce about the wonderful times in the lab and David’s many contributions to the department. We are

delighted that he will maintain a relationship with our department as an adjunct faculty member and look forward to continued interactions with David for many years to come. While we bid farewell to David, we also welcomed our newest faculty member to the department, Dr. Ron Yaar. Ron is familiar to all as one of our current

dermatopathology fellows and we are excited to have him on board as a full-time faculty member in dermatopathology beginning this summer. Ron has taken a special interest in the training of our residents and we look forward to having him remain involved in developing educational programs for our departmental trainees.

With Spring in the air, it seems that we are all looking forward to spending more time outdoors. Personally, I am looking forward to getting back to running along the Charles, since I promised my kids I would run the Boston Marathon again before my 50th birthday...

Residency Program Notes

Amit Garg, M.D.



Matches Made in Heaven

This year’s recruitment season culminated with the National Resident Match which took place on March 18th. BMC faired very well once again this year, as we were successful in matching 5 highly sought after candidates. The Training Program in Dermatology proudly introduces its Class of 2014.

Nidhi Avashia (University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine)

Angela Beckford (University of the West Indies)

Erica Dommasch (UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School)

Stephanie Gan (Boston University School of Medicine)

Jessica Luis (University of Connecticut)

Candidates from BUSM and BMC were also incredibly successful in the match, and this is a credit mostly to their own efforts over the course of the past 4-5 years, but also to the many faculty and residents who served as mentors, counselors and advocates. Congratulations to the candidates, and to all of you. The following is a list of advanced matched positions in dermatology achieved by candidates supported by the Department:

Angela Beckford, Boston Medical Center
Stephanie Gan, Boston Medical Center
Nikki Hill, University of Texas at Houston
Sailesh Konda, Howard University
Lisa Nguyen, SUNY Stony Brook
Sarah Pace, National Capital Consortium
Silvina Pugliese, Loma Linda

Many of us also got to know visiting medical students that spent a month in our clinics. The following is a list of advanced matched positions in dermatology achieved by students that rotated with us and were also supported by the Program:

Summer Chong, University of Southern California
Danielle Levine, Harvard Combined
Medicine/Dermatology
Nicole Russell, University of South Florida
Jane Yoo, Albert Einstein

International Program Update

Thomas Ruenger, M.D.



Of the ten current students in the IGPD, eight are heading for graduation this June.

Dr. Ploypailin Jungcharoensukying (Lin) and Dr. Nicha Rungsimanond are

very busy preparing for the defense of their graduation theses, both for the Doctor of Science in Dermatology degree, the highest mark conferred by the IGPD. Following successful completion of the 2-year core curriculum with a Master of Science in Dermatology in 2008, they have been completing further coursework, both here at BU Dermatology and at the BU School of Public Health and have been working on their thesis projects for the last 2 years, under the mentorship of Drs. Demierre and Sharov, respectively. Please look for the announcements of their thesis defenses, which will be followed by a small reception. These are wonderful events to celebrate the achievements of our trainees and the program itself. The students deserve a great showing of faculty, residents, other IGPD trainees, fellows, students, etc.

Dr. Njood Algannas (Judy), Dr. Passaratep Anurukpaiboon (Pat), Dr. Kittaya Loichuen (Kitty), Dr. Alaa Naif, Dr. Muhammad Khawar Nazir, and Dr. Anongluck Rattanasirivilai (Annie) have been very busy preparing for the in-service exam on March 25, just like their resident comrades, but with the added pressure that passing this exam is a graduation requirement. In addition, they will also have to pass a comprehensive final oral exam that will take place later in June. Add to this the upcoming mid-term exams for the courses they are currently taking and the various coursework assignments, and you can hopefully understand the significant stress the students currently endure. I would like to applaud them for their hard work, and I am sure they will harvest the benefits from all these efforts, by becoming excellent dermatologists, well-prepared for rising careers in their home countries.

I was very happy to meet several former IGPD graduates at the recent BU Dermatology Alumni Reunion during the AAD meeting in Miami Beach. Hearing about their highly successful careers in dermatology shall be a source of great pride for everyone who was involved in their training at BU and is a major motivation for us to continue the program for many years to come.

For the first time, at the end of the fall semester, the IGPD students were asked to anonymously evaluate the program overall, the courses, and the individual faculty. They took this opportunity very seriously and I am very grateful for the honest and constructive feedback they provided. While we received much praise and positive feedback, these reviews nevertheless also identified areas for improvement. I will meet with the students soon (after the in-service exam, as requested) to discuss these results and any potential changes or adjustments that can be made accordingly. Constantly thriving for improvement is the only way to maintain the high standards of this training program that were set 25 years ago. I would like to encourage all course managers and faculty to also have similar discussions with the students.

Last fall, the IGPD Admissions Committee, consisting of Drs. Kurban, Park, Yaar, and myself,

admitted four new students into the program. One of the admitted students has rescinded her application since then. This is unfortunate, as this would have been the first student to train in our program from Nigeria. Our current incoming class consists of four students from Thailand. While we are thrilled to have such strong representation of these outstanding Thai trainees, our admissions committee is also actively seeking ways to promote even more diversity among our excellent international trainees in the future.

Of note, the Admissions Committee also admitted Dr. Passaratep Anurukpaiboon (Pat) into the doctorate program, pending successful completion of the MS program in June. Pat is currently in the process of choosing a thesis project. His two presentations at the AAD meeting were excellent. Together with the current first-year MS students, Dr. Kellen Liu and Dr. Palinee Rattanasirivilai (Pauline), we will have a total of seven IGPD students in the next academic year.

We will continue to reassess this outstanding and unique training program and work towards optimizing international dermatology training experiences within our department in the coming years.

DermPath Update

Jag Bhawan, M.D.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Meera Mahalingam has been promoted to Professor of Dermatology and Pathology here at BUSM. She published two papers recently. One in [Modern Pathology](#) and one in [Human Pathology](#).

I am also pleased to announce that Dr. Ron Yaar, who received his M.D. and Ph.D. from BUSM followed by a residency in pathology program at Emory University, will be joining us as an assistant professor of dermatology and pathology on July 1, 2010 after two years of DermPath fellowship with us.

Dr. Lynne Goldberg continues her excellent work in disorders of the scalp. She directed a new forum called *Alopecia CPC* at the recent AAD meeting. She

also presented a unique case of perineural inflammation in the alopecia associated linear morphea en coup de sabre at the annual meeting of the International Society of Dermatopathology preceding the AAD meeting. Please check out her recent publication: [Journal of Cutaneous Pathology](#).

I presented premalignant and malignant tumors at the “basic dermatopathology course” and challenging neural tumors at the “advanced dermpath course” at the AAD meeting. May I suggest you review this article on Squamous cell carcinoma in situ: [Journal of Cutaneous Pathology](#).

Dr. Wolpowitz and I are working on a project that would enable evaluation of intra-epidermal and dermal nerve fibers to diagnose small nerve neuropathy and other neurological disorders; more in the next newsletter!

Departmental Kudos

Marie-France Demierre was elected to membership in the American Dermatological Association. No more than 20 dermatologists are inducted into this society each year and her inclusion indicates recognition of her accomplishments as a leader in dermatology by her colleagues.

Notable Publications

Kosmadaki M. G., **Naif A., Park H.Y.** (2010) “Recent progresses in understanding pigmentation” *Giornale Italiano di Dermatologia e Venereologia* 2010 February;145(1):47-55

Emley A, Nguyen LP, Yang S, **Mahalingam M.** Frequency of somatic mutations in GNAQ in primary, pigmented dermal melanocytic proliferations. *Society of Investigative Dermatology Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, 2010

Anurukpaiboon P, Tierney E, Mahalingam M. Retiform hemangioendothelioma in a 7-year-old boy for 4 years *American Academy Of Dermatology Annual Meeting*, Miami, 2010; [‡]Platform presentation

Lectures/Presentations

On 3/18 **Barbara Gilchrest** gave the Khosrow Momtaz Memorial Lecture at Harvard/MGH in honor of her prior colleague there. Dr. Momtaz was Director of the Phototherapy Unit until his untimely death.

On 3/25 **Barbara Gilchrest and Tania Phillips** were invited speakers at the FDA Hearing on Tanning Beds. The hearing addressed concerns that tanning beds cause damage to users' skin that may include basal and squamous cell carcinomas and especially melanoma, in light of the increasing incidence of these malignancies in young women who have frequented tanning salons. Amazingly, at present the beds are in the FDA's lowest risk device category. Suraj Venna, a BU/Tufts residency graduate and now Director of the Washington, DC, Melanoma Center, also testified.

Passaratep (Pat) Anurukpaiboon, MD gave two short case presentations in the Gross and Microscopic Symposium at the 68th AAD conference in Miami earlier this month.

"Retiform hemangioendothelioma in a 7-year-old male", **Dr. Mahalingam** was the senior presenter.

"Primary dermal melanoma in a 53-year-old male" and **Dr. Tierney** was the senior presenter. Both went well and I'd like to acknowledge both attendings as well as **Drs. Ron Yaar and Ossama Abbas** for much the much appreciated assistance in preparing these presentations.

Other Departmental News

Jaime Zagami will be running in a 9K road race through the streets of Boston and ending at Fenway Park on May 23rd. This race is sponsored by a collaboration between the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital, called "Home Base." This project is co-founded by Dr. Gilchrest's significant other, Dr. John Parrish, a Vietnam veteran. The project seeks to help New England veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan manage the two largest health issues they face upon returning home: post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Jaime will be running with her brother, Jonathan, a combat veteran of the Iraq

War who has personal experience with both of these health concerns. If you would like more information or are interested in donations, please visit Jaime's race site:

<http://www.runtohomebase.org/runtohomebase/JaimeZagami>

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL/MAY 2010

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 8:30-11:45 AM

LECTURE: "Treatment of psoriasis in difficult clinical scenarios" by Dr. Bruce Strober

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 8:30-11:45 AM

LECTURE: "What I learned from patch testing" by Dr. Vince DeLeo

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 12:00 – 1:00 PM