Bridging the Past to the Future:

The First Five Years
of the Department of Dermatology
at the
University of Wisconsin
The Department of Dermatology: 
Looking Forward at Five

Welcome to this overview of the Department of Dermatology as we celebrate our fifth anniversary.

We became a department on July 1, 2002 and like any thriving 5 year old, we have more than met our developmental milestones. Thanks to our outstanding faculty and staff, as well as the visionary support of our UW Health partners, we have been able to grow and advance on many fronts. In the past, dermatology operations here at UW were divided among multiple other departments. We have harnessed the synergy of our consolidation to create a new department that is far greater than the sum of its original parts. As a result, our faculty has tripled since 2001. We now generate in excess of $15 million annually from clinical and research activities. We contribute more than $6 million each year to support the missions of UWSMPH, UWMF and UWHC.

Clinical productivity and revenue have grown 2.5-fold since 2002. We provide a comprehensive array of dermatology services organized along subspecialty lines to enhance patient care and education. Our expertise in dermatologic surgery, cutaneous oncology and photomedicine is world-renowned.

We have established the first pediatric dermatology program not only at UW, but also in the history of Madison. Our clinical strength is supported by a stellar dermatopathology service whose case volume has grown seven-fold since its inception in 2002. Many of our faculty are rated repeatedly as “top docs” locally and nationally. Each of our faculty researchers is an internationally recognized authority in his field. In five years, our research program has developed from minimal activity into a highly productive enterprise involving 40 researchers focused on skin and other cancers. In NIH grants alone, we now rank among the top 15 dermatology programs nationally. Our researchers are also supported by the Department of Defense, VA, industry and several private foundations. Overall, we manage a portfolio of active grants of almost $14 million in total costs.

We are national leaders in education. In addition to a standard dermatology residency program, we were the first to offer a permanent residency combining internal medicine and dermatology. We were also among the first to convert our traditional Mohs surgery fellowship into the new ACGME-approved procedural dermatology fellowship. Currently, we are restructuring dermatology education for medical students and developing novel dermatology training programs for interns and primary care physicians already in practice.

We have come a long way in only five years. Clearly, none of our success would have been achieved without our talented department leaders: Eric Berg, MD (clinical operations), Hasan Mukhtar, PhD (research), George Reizner, MD and more recently Will Aughenbaugh, MD (education), Jack Longley, MD (dermatopathology), Steve Snow, MD (dermatologic and Mohs surgery) and Barbara Lies (administration). We owe a special debt of thanks to former Dean Philip Farrell, Vice Dean Paul DeLuca and former Department of Medicine Chairman Jeffrey Glassroth, all of whom were instrumental in our transformation to departmental.
2001:
Dr. Gary Wood was recruited as professor and chair-designee for the planned department of Dermatology. In his first year, he established the molecular diagnostics lab and was named to the Geneva F. and Sture Johnson Chair. He identified leaders and let them do what they do best – giving George Reizner, MD, responsibility for leading the education program and Eric Berg, MD, responsibility for clinical operations. B. Jack Longley, MD, was recruited to establish a Dermatopathology program. Hasan Mukhtar, PhD was recruited to lead and develop the research program in skin disease and cancer research.

Dermatology outpatient services were restructured at the VA, the student health service, UWHC and UWMF, as well as inpatient consultative care at three hospitals. This was enabled by the successful integration of the former Physicians Plus and UW Health dermatology clinical programs. Dermatology was one of the first units to seamlessly merge the two programs.

2002:
The division became a department, and an invigorated team of clinicians, teachers, researchers and staff moved forward.

In the late 1940s and 1950s the full time section of dermatology consisted of Dr. Johnson and one resident in a one-year residency program with the other two years served elsewhere. I was one of the last residents in this program before it evolved to the full three-year program here in Madison. I returned to Madison in 1962 and have been on the volunteer clinical faculty ever since.

For me one of the most remarkable aspects of the department is the opportunity for us as clinicians to continue to learn and teach new things every week in Grand Rounds. This makes us better doctors. It is wonderful to be able to participate in the care of difficult patients with difficult problems and to learn and share different approaches and treatment options.

Dermatology is truly the study of the skin and its contents.”

Don Schuster, MD, Dermatology ’56
Shortly after Dermatology became a department in 2002 and George Reizner, MD, assumed the role of Vice Chair of Education, we rolled out an ambitious, five-year combined Medicine and Dermatology residency in conjunction with the Department of Medicine. Graduates of this program are board eligible in both internal medicine and dermatology. We were the first to offer this type of innovative training on a regular basis. Now a growing number of other programs have followed our lead and offer a med/derm residency option. The goal of the program is to foster an interest in medical dermatology and attract candidates to an academic career. Our first med/derm resident, Lindsey Bennett, MD, finishes her program in June 2008.

In addition, Dermatology examined its Mohs fellowship program. Under the guidance of Stephen Snow, MD, the department revised the program to conform to the new AGCME-sponsored procedural dermatology fellowship. In its first formal review in 2006, the program received not only a five-year approval but also a commendation, a rare achievement for a newly accredited fellowship.

Today, in addition to the Procedural Dermatology Fellow, 11 residents work with the faculty and staff of Dermatology at UW-Madison:
- Six in general dermatology, including a first-year resident at Marshfield Clinic
- Five in medicine/dermatology

The educational experience is comprised of several approaches, from traditional lectures and grand rounds, to an innovative Problem-Based Learning program designed by Erik Stratman, MD, a former UW resident and current Director of the Division of Education at the Marshfield Clinic. This program encourages active learning as residents work through a series of case-related questions ranging from clinical diagnosis to finding translators for non-English-speaking patients.

Dermatology residents also receive greater exposure to subspecialties within the field through the department’s clinics in psoriasis, melanoma, contact dermatitis and cutaneous lymphoma. Mentoring programs between faculty and residents give personal feedback and guidance as residents work their way through the program.

Molly Hinshaw, MD, takes time to teach the diagnosis and management of dermatologic conditions as well as the art of compassionate caregiving.
Newly-graduated residents may take advantage of the Clinical Scholars program, which encourages combinations of study to create unique subspecialties. The first Clinical Scholar, Apple Bodemer, MD, explored a synthesis of dermatology and integrative medicine and was the first dermatologist to complete formal fellowship training in integrative medicine.

**Spotlight on the Future**

In 2007, Dr. Reizner stepped down as Vice Chair of Education and Program Director and Will Aughenbaugh, MD, accepted the roles. Dermatology education continues to move toward a more integrated program, incorporating the essentials of clinical, surgical and pathologic aspects of the specialty. More experience in research including clinical and basic science projects is an additional goal.

The initial successes of the Problem-Based Learning curriculum have been encouraging, and Dr. Aughenbaugh hopes to expand the use of this innovative teaching technique. Formalized mentoring between faculty and residents is another goal to both educate tomorrow’s leaders in the field as well as encourage trainees to consider careers in academia.

Vice Chair of Education Will Aughenbaugh, MD, believes a multi-faceted approach to education, best prepares dermatology residents for professional practice.

“Four years ago, when I was accepted as the first Med/Derm resident in Dermatology, I knew I was getting an incredible opportunity, but I had no idea of the journey I was beginning. Only now, in my final year in the program, can I fully appreciate both the attention to detail in creating this residency and the expertise of those who taught it. The faculty of this department have fostered my enthusiasm for a systemic approach to dermatology and helped me embrace this integrated Med/Derm knowledge base as a unique asset for patient care. It has been a privilege to be a part of this new and quickly evolving program and department.”

*Lindsey Bennett, MD (5th year Med/Derm resident)*
Clinical Services. Clinical activities in Dermatology went through a significant shift in 1998, when Physicians Plus and UW Health merged. By 2002, the two groups had integrated smoothly – the former Physicians Plus dermatologists were eager for the opportunity to both teach and practice as full-time UW faculty.

Today, Eric Berg, MD, is Vice Chair for Clinical Operations for the 18 Dermatology clinicians and four midlevel providers who work out of clinics in the UW Health system as well as a busy clinic at the William S. Middleton Veterans Administration Hospital in Madison. Dermatology also practices at Transformations, UW Health’s cosmetic procedures clinic, and is one of the few departments nationwide to maintain a permanent presence at a university student health clinic.

As the field has changed, so has clinical activity within UW Dermatology. Becoming a department allowed for greater specialization of services, including unique clinics in:

**CUTANEOUS LYMPHOMAS**
This clinic is led by Gary Wood, MD, who is recognized internationally for his expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of lymphomas involving the skin.

**PSORIASIS**
David Puchalsky, MD, leads this clinic working with both adults and children with the disease.

**MELANOMA**
The Melanoma Clinic has been co-directed by George Reizner, MD for the past 13 years and is now fortunate to add Molly Hinshaw, MD to the team. They work closely with Pathology and Oncology to provide comprehensive care.

**CONTACT DERMATITIS**
Led by Rita Lloyd, MD, this clinic examines skin reactions to environmental factors including those in the home and workplace.

**DERMATOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY** (psychocutaneous medicine) Ladan Mostaghimi, MD, offers services relating to psychiatric issues that are caused by – or that themselves cause – skin disorders.

**PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY**
In 2006, Dermatology recruited Joyce Teng, MD, Madison’s first pediatric dermatologist. Dr. Teng also sees patients at American Family Children’s Hospital, which opened its specialty pediatric outpatient clinics in August 2007.

**TRANSPLANT DERMATOLOGY**
Organ transplant patients are particularly susceptible to abnormal skin conditions. This special group of patients is cared for by Erin Vanness, MD, and David Grekin, MD.
COSMETIC SERVICES
Dermatology offers a wide range of aesthetic procedures. Eric Berg, MD, works with the multidisciplinary team at UW Health’s Transformations clinic. Juliet Gunkel, MD, was the first dermatologist at UW to offer tumescent liposuction in the Madison Surgery Center. Other dermatologists offer cosmetic services such as laser hair removal, Botox, injectable fillers, sclerotherapy and chemical peels.

DERMATOPATHOLOGY
UW Health has also benefited from the new Dermatopathology program directed by B. Jack Longley, MD. Recruited in 2001, Dr. Longley opened the dermatopathology lab and examined 3,000 specimens in its first year. In 2007, the lab is on track to surpass 20,000 specimens from a variety of sources within the University as well as outside referrals. The service now includes board-certified dermatopathologists Molly Hinshaw, MD, George Reizner, MD, and Gary Wood, MD, and offers diagnosis and consultation for routine skin pathology as well as molecular diagnostic studies.

MOHS SURGERY
Frederic Mohs, MD, developed the procedure that bears his name at UW-Madison, so it is no surprise that the Department of Dermatology is home to a growing Mohs Surgery Clinic. In this clinic Stephen Snow, MD, and Juliet Gunkel, MD, broaden use of the procedure beyond basal and squamous cell carcinomas and melanoma.

Spotlight on the Future
Except for a select few areas of the country, Dermatology continues to be an area of medicine with greater demand than supply. Future goals for clinical operations in the Department of Dermatology are geared toward meeting this need for a growing and aging population.

One program in development is a coordination of care strategy between dermatologists and primary care providers in south central Wisconsin. The plan allows dermatologists and generalist physicians to partner on patient care, facilitating timely appointments as well as thorough implementation of care plans.

The Department will continue to explore new subspecialty areas in dermatology. Aesthetic procedures, innovations in Mohs surgery techniques and rising interest in the genetics of skin disease will each play a role in future clinical activity.

“The excitement about treating children and infants with dermatologic conditions is the integration of my area of expertise with the fun and creativity of working with children. I feel privileged to be part of the fast growing Dermatology Department. Adding to my joy is the new state of the art American Family Children’s Hospital and the endless resources from others working there.”

Joyce Teng, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor
Meet our researchers

HASAN MUKHTAR, PHD
Skin is the largest organ in human body and is most susceptible to damage by sunrays and chemical pollutants present in the environment. Ultraviolet radiation coming from the sunrays is responsible for impairing the beauty of the skin, and is responsible for many inflammatory skin diseases, skin aging and cancer. The research in my laboratory is focused on understanding the pathways through which ultraviolet radiation causes skin damage. As a corollary to this research, we are defining agents that humans can use to prevent these damages.
NIHAL AHMAD, PHD
The research in my laboratory is focused on understanding the mechanism of cancer development, and developing novel and more effective approaches for prevention and treatment of cancer. We have found that an antioxidant called resveratrol that is present in grapes, red wine, nuts and berries, imparts anti-cancer effects against skin and prostate cancers. Further, our recent work has demonstrated that Sirt1, a gene involved in aging, is over-expressed in certain epithelial cancers including skin and prostate cancers. We believe that our research will lead to development of new drugs and approaches for the management of cancer.

B JACK LONGLEY, MD,
Work in my laboratory focuses on the KIT protein. It is produced by a gene that can mutate and cause a number of diseases including mastocytosis, gastrointestinal sarcomas and malignant melanomas. We have developed algorithms that predict which tumors will respond to different drugs and that are widely used to guide therapy. Our studies have shown that certain proteins, called the MAGE antigens, appear in a wide variety of tumors and promote tumor survival. Interference with the MAGE proteins can kill tumor cells and make them more sensitive to conventional chemotherapy. We are developing methods to inhibit them in diverse tumors including malignant melanoma, multiple myeloma, and ovarian and gastrointestinal carcinomas.
VIJAY SETALURI, PHD
Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. It is curable if diagnosed early and removed from the skin. Unfortunately, once the cancer spreads beyond skin it is difficult to cure. The research in my laboratory is focused on understanding what makes melanoma an aggressive cancer. In our research we found that melanoma in the skin shows certain features of cells in the brain, and patients with brain cell-like melanoma have lower risk of having their cancer spread beyond the skin. We hope this knowledge will help us offer appropriate treatments early to those patients at higher risk to minimize the spread of cancer and also stop the growth and spread of advanced melanoma outside of the skin.

VLADIMIR SPIEGELMAN, PHD
A major reason for unsatisfactory management of cancer is our poor understanding of the biology of tumors. We especially need to understand how certain genes called oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes are controlled. The current efforts of our laboratory are focused on understanding the ways these oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes are regulated in cells. We will use this knowledge to provide novel approaches for the treatment and prevention of human malignancies, especially melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.
The research in my laboratory is focused on skin cancer, specifically cutaneous lymphomas and melanomas. Our work spans basic, translational and clinical research. Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) is a rare form of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma mainly affecting the skin. We have hypothesized that CTCL arises because of decreased cell death leading to the accumulation of white blood cells within the skin. We are defining the molecular basis of this abnormal cell death, called apoptosis. Translational research projects are also underway to determine the effects of green tea on human cutaneous lymphomas and melanomas. Lastly, we are involved in various traditional clinical trials of novel treatments for skin cancers, especially cutaneous T-cell lymphomas.

Spotlight on the Future
Future goals are two-fold: to maintain current areas of success and to expand in new directions.

Bench research on cancer pathogenesis and chemoprevention will be supplemented by new programs that will allow direct translation of basic discoveries into clinical practice. A clinical trials program is well into development, with multiple trials started and more in negotiation. A program in outcomes research is also planned.

“At the Department of Dermatology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, in the midst of an extremely distinguished faculty and, a milieu replete with academic and research activity and facilities at the cutting edge of technology, I have seen and continue to see a tremendous opportunity for developing goal oriented research aimed at developing novel approaches for prevention of skin diseases.”

Vagar Adhami, PhD; Associate Scientist
Philanthropy. *Building on the past to make a difference for the future.*

The transition from division to department has been an invigorating one for Dermatology. The infusion of energy and talent over the past five years has led to exciting innovations in care, opened new doors in research and trained capable, enthusiastic physicians in practice throughout the nation and world.

Philanthropy is extremely important to our new department. The foresighted generosity of our benefactors will enable us to continue the upward trajectory of UW Dermatology.

**THE HUBERT AND MARY MOSS LECTURESHIP**, a regular program bringing noted clinician educators and researchers to address the local dermatology community, was established by a gift from Dr. and Mrs. Hubert Moss. Moss conducted independent educational programs in Madison for over 15 years and joined the University of Wisconsin faculty in the later years of his practice.

**THE GEORGE REIZNER LECTURESHIP**, established by Dermatology faculty member George Reizner, MD, funds a prominent speaker for the Wisconsin Dermatological Society's annual spring meeting.

**THE GENEVA F. AND STURE JOHNSON PROFESSORSHIP** was funded by a bequest from the Johnson estate. Sture Johnson, MD, was the first Dermatology section chief, president of the Wisconsin Dermatological Society and developer of the dermatology section of the Wisconsin State Medical Society. The Johnson Professorship was created to advance the academic mission of dermatology through support of leadership that will enhance research, teaching and clinical service in the area of skin diseases. Dermatology Chair Gary Wood, MD, is the current Johnson Professor.

**THE EVAN P. AND MARION HELFAER PROFESSORSHIP OF DERMATOLOGICAL CANCER RESEARCH** was funded by the Helfaer Foundation to honor Evan P. and Marion Helfaer. Their support of the UW, including service on the board of the UW Foundation, was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Alumni Association in 1972. The Helfaer Professorship honors faculty researchers and is currently held by Research Vice Chair Hasan Mukhtar, PhD.

**THE ACADEMIC PROCEDURAL DERMATOLOGY FUND** accepts donations to support the procedural dermatology fellowship in Dermatology. This fellowship is one of the first ACGME-approved PDF programs in the country. One fellow a year is trained in the program.
Giving Back

Dermatology is also a generous contributor to the community and the world in a variety of venues. The department has funded two state-of-the-art exam rooms in the new American Family Children's Hospital and has donated clinical earnings to the Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center. Members of the department contribute time on a monthly basis conducting free clinics at Madison’s MEDIC clinic serving disadvantaged people and our providers also participate in the annual free skin cancer screening clinic. Faculty members have used personal time to travel to remote countries to provide care to desperately needy people who would otherwise not be treated for their conditions.

Spotlight on the Future

In moving forward, however, we also look back. The Department of Dermatology has created new endowments to honor those faculty who shaped our beginnings, so we may shape our future in their honor. Our ambitious goal is to fund each of these endowments with $1,000,000 by a vigorous fundraising campaign.

For more information please contact:
Jill Watson
Director of External Relations and Development, Health Sciences
608-263-3173
jill.watson@uwfoundation.wisc.edu

THE FREDERIC E. MOHS ENDOWMENT FOR SKIN AND CANCER RESEARCH was established by the Department to honor Dr. Mohs for his pioneering work to develop the micrographic surgery technique now known around the world as Mohs Surgery. The purpose of this fund is also to support research in cancer and skin diseases.

Frederic E. Mohs, MD

THE CRIPPS ENDOWMENT FOR SKIN AND CANCER RESEARCH honors the second chief of Dermatology, Derek Cripps, MD, and his 40 years of research, service and teaching at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. This endowment will be devoted to research in cancer and skin diseases. The current recipient is Vijay Setaluri, PhD.

Derek Cripps, MD
Faculty and Staff.

Faculty
Gary S. Wood, MD, Chair
Nihal Ahmad, PhD, Assistant Professor
William Aughenbaugh MD, Assistant Professor
Eric Berg, MD, Associate Professor
Derek Cripps, MD, Professor Emeritus
Athena Danilos, MD, Assistant Professor
David Grekin, MD, Professor
Juliet Gunel, MD, Assistant Professor
Molly Hinshaw, MD, Assistant Professor
Linda Lee, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor
Rita Lloyd, MD, Assistant Professor
B. Jack Longley, MD, Professor
Ladan Mostaghimi, MD, Assistant Professor
Hasan Mukhtar, PhD, Professor
David Puchalsky, MD, Assistant Professor
George Reizner, MD, Professor
Anne Rosin, MD, Assistant Professor
Vijayasaradhi Setaluri, PhD, Associate Professor
Stephen Snow, MD, Professor
Vladimir Spiegelman, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor
Joyce Teng, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor
Erin Vanness, MD, Assistant Professor
Yaohui (Gloria) Xu, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor

Volunteer Clinical Faculty
Theresa Behrs MD, Assistant Professor
Neal Bhatia, MD, Associate Professor
Manish Gharia, MD, Assistant Professor
Robert Glintert, MD, Professor
Robert McDonald, MD, Assistant Professor
Donald Miech, MD, Professor
Tara Passow, MD, Assistant Professor
Stella Patten, MD, Assistant Professor
Harry Sharata, MD, Associate Professor
Donald Shuster, MD, Associate Professor
Ann Smith, MD, Assistant Professor
Erik Stratman, MD, Assistant Professor
Diane Thaler, MD, Assistant Professor
Stephen Webster, MD, Associate Professor

Administration
Jose Alcauter, USA II
Ruth Deweese, Program Assistant
Jennifer Hanser, Education Coordinator
Tisha Kawahara, Research Administrator
Barbara Lies, Department Administrator
David Lorman, Information Systems Manager
Janeen Running, Medical Program Assistant-Senior

Clinical
Jodie Cook, RN, Clinic Manager
Lois Deich
Dianne Johnson
Bonnie Kuska
Richard Likwarz
Linda Vesterdahl, RN, Clinic Manager

Administrative Leadership:
Seated: Barbara Lies, Department Administrator; David Lorman, Information Systems Manager; Standing Left to Right: Jodie Cook, Clinic Manager; Tisha Kawahara, Research Administrator; Linda Vesterdahl, Clinic Manager; Jennifer Hanser, Education Coordinator
“In my many years with Dermatology, I’ve managed to touch just about every piece of what we do. I’ve worked with the clinics, coordinated the residents, assisted the Chair and administration and acted as a liaison for new faculty hires. I’ve seen so many great minds come through, helping this program grow larger and stronger. It’s been a great ride.

With that perspective in mind, I can’t overestimate how much I enjoy being a part of Dr. Wood’s dream to create a Dermatology department and take it in new and more exciting directions. I once was the only person in the Dermatology administration office, but now I’m part of a team that includes a financial assistant, research administrator, education coordinator, IS manager and department administrator. It’s been wonderful to watch this program grow to the point of needing this expanded staff, and I can’t wait to see where it goes from here.”

Ms. Janeen Running, Medical Program Assistant, Senior
Dermatology Faculty, Fellows and Residents – 2007

(2nd Row) Athena Daniolos, Erin Vanness, Rita Lloyd, Rosemarie Liu, Ladan Mostaghimi, Joyce Teng, Apple Bodemer, Anne Rosin, Molly Hinshaw, Curt Vogel
(3rd Row) Lindsey Bennett, Vladimir Spiegelman, Nihal Ahmad, Amber Atwater, Nicole Fett, Will Aughenbaugh, Andrea Garrett, David Puchalsky
(4th Row) Anna Haemel, Vijay Setaluri, Phillip Hsu, Juliet Gunkel, Daniel Stewart, Linda Lee, Erica Liverant