

Leah Belazarian, M.D.

Medical Dermatology Society Mentorship Program

Mentor: Dr. Lindy Fox, University of California at San Francisco

I was able to spend four weeks with Dr. Lindy Fox at the University of California at San Francisco this past March. I am very grateful to the Medical Dermatology Society for allowing me this opportunity. Initially, I planned to primarily involve myself with the inpatient consult service as it is an interest of mine. However, once I began my rotation, I realized how many opportunities there are at UCSF, and I decided to take advantage of everything I could.

I was to be starting a pediatric dermatology fellowship this July. I jumped at the chance to work with Dr. Ilona Frieden and Dr. Amy Gilliam in their general pediatric dermatology clinics. In addition, I was able to partake in the Vascular Anomalies Clinic. This clinic is a multidisciplinary clinic with pediatric dermatologists, orthopedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, interventional radiologists, and dermatologic surgeons. The complexity and diversity as well as the management of the vascular lesions that I was able to see greatly contributed to my knowledge base and really helped me to prepare for my pediatric dermatology fellowship. There was also an Atopic Dermatitis Clinic, which I greatly enjoyed participating in. This was also a multidisciplinary clinic involving the pediatric dermatologists and the allergists. The patients could be prick tested at the visit allowing a discussion of avoidance of foods or environmental agents that could be affecting their eczema. Finally, I was able to see many inpatient pediatric patients. Overall, my pediatric dermatology experience was quite well rounded and valuable in helping me prepare for my fellowship.

The consult service was a great learning experience for me as well. I was excited to see how a fully developed service could function. The plethora of cases that I saw on the service was invaluable. I felt very welcome as a part of the team as well. The complexity of the cases provided great topics for me to study about and at night it was nice to explore the literature about these complicated cases. Dr. Fox was always willing to discuss how to keep an inpatient consult service functioning and successful. I was able

to personally witness how she balances both an inpatient and outpatient practice successfully.

Other clinics that I was able to become involved with included Dr. Tim Berger's immunobullous clinic where I was able to see complicated patients with such diseases as dermatitis herpetiformis and bullous pemphigoid. I attended several Hair and Nail clinics with Dr. Vera Price and also had the opportunity to work with Dr. Toby Maurer at the HIV clinic.

Also during my month at UCSF, I was invited to attend the resident lectures as well as the grand rounds lectures. Dr. Fox is clearly an active contributor to all of the residents' education and a valuable faculty member as well.

I cannot say enough about my time at UCSF with Dr. Fox. A very warm and generous hostess, she facilitated my participation in all of these different learning experiences. I would highly recommend visiting with Dr. Lindy Fox if you are interested in not only inpatient dermatology, but really all aspects of dermatology. Thank you again to both Dr. Fox and the Medical Dermatology Society for this unbelievable opportunity.