

April 2010

Medical Dermatology Society Mentorship Award Summary

Mentor – Jean Bologna, MD (Yale University)

Mentee – Diana Bolotin, MD PhD (University of Chicago)

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity afforded to me by the Medical Dermatology Society mentorship grant to spend a month with Dr. Jean Bologna at Yale University. Dr. Bologna is, unquestionably, a leader in dermatology and it was an honor to be able to spend this time with her. This experience was an invaluable adjunct to my residency training that I will look back upon fondly throughout my career in dermatology.

Dr. Bologna's clinical focus is on pigmented lesions and cutaneous malignancies. Our residency program does not yet have a dedicated pigmented lesion clinic so the ability to spend time with Dr. Bologna and learn her approach and clinical reasoning was very useful to me. The rotation was designed to allow me to spend time with Dr. Bologna in her clinic, attend resident didactics and take part in dermatopathology signout and teaching, which was the perfect complement to my own interest in cutaneous oncology. Dr. Bologna did a great deal of teaching during her clinics and I am so grateful for her taking the time to do so. Her encyclopedic knowledge of dermatology is truly impressive and I am a better dermatologist for having worked with her.

Aside from taking the time to teach during a very busy clinic, Dr. Bologna took time to give me practical advice about running a skin cancer clinic, practicing in an academic center and future career development. To me, her well rounded approach to teaching combined with practical advice is the very definition of mentorship and was exactly what I was looking for in this opportunity.

In addition to time spent with Dr. Bologna, I also had the opportunity to spend time with the dermatopathology attending and with Dr. Aasi at Yale dermatologic surgery. The diversity of pathologic diagnoses and rich dermatopathology educational resources were fantastic learning opportunities, especially in my last year of residency training. And during my brief time spent with Dr. Aasi, I learned several surgical techniques that I have not been exposed to previously. I also was fully integrated into the didactic curriculum of the residency program at Yale. I am deeply grateful to the residents and fellows at Yale for their hospitality and sharing their resources with me.

I am so thankful to both the MDS and Dr. Bologna for affording me this opportunity and hope I can pass on the same rewarding mentorship experience to others as my own academic career progresses.