

Even though I have had a fascination with autoimmune skin disease since the preclinical years of medical school, I have always hoped for an opportunity to immerse myself in a clinical rheumatic dermatology clinic, to make sure this luster shines just as bright up close. Through the generosity of the Medical Dermatology Society, Dr. David Fiorentino and the Stanford Department of Dermatology, I can say with confidence that my passion to study and treat autoimmune skin disease is stronger than ever.

I spent a month in Redwood City California, primarily in the autoimmune skin disease and complex medical dermatology clinics of Dr. David Fiorentino. Dr. Fiorentino was an engaging and dynamic mentor, who seemed eager to incorporate me into every aspect of the clinic. Of course we saw case after case of fascinating disorders, and we discussed cutting edge treatments, but Dr. Fiorentino also took time to talk about the structure of clinic, how he came to study autoimmune skin disease and his research. He even had a project ready for me to participate in regarding digital complications in systemic sclerosis. Dr. Fiorentino is one of those memorable individuals who doesn't teach out of obligation; rather it's easy to tell he is so excited and interested in what he studies that impromptu lectures flowed naturally from conversation.

Dr. Fiorentino is joined by Dr. Lori Chung, a Rheumatologist, in his clinics to jointly manage patients. I am very interested participating in a multidisciplinary integrated clinic, and being able to witness the benefits this partnership brought to patient care was invaluable. Dr. Chung helped me improve my musculoskeletal exam, and the cooperation between Dr. Chung and Dr. Fiorentino expanded my consideration of the patient's global well-being when approaching complex autoimmune cases.

Autoimmune skin disease has always held my fascination, but spending time in Dr. Fiorentino's clinic has cemented my desire to serve this special group of patients. I have the Medical Dermatology Society to thank for supporting my interest, and helping to foster my development through the generous support of the MDS mentorship award. Thanks to this support, I have been afforded the opportunity to lay the foundation for a career in medical dermatology. Thank you!