

I would like to thank the Medical Dermatology Society for giving me the opportunity to travel to the University of California, San Francisco and to spend a rotation under the mentorship of Dr. Lindy Fox. I am also thankful to Dr. Fox and the UCSF dermatology department for welcoming me in such a way that allowed me to explore my clinical interests.

My intention when applying for the MDS mentorship grant was to see how complex medical dermatology is practiced at other institutions. Many of the choices I make on a daily basis when faced with dermatologic conundrums are based on what my own faculty have taught me. By going to a different institution, and working with a different group of faculty, I found my own "accepted" ways of approaching both simple and complex dermatologic problems to be challenged. I would often be asked why I would approach a work up in a certain way, or why a certain option would have been chosen. The more I was challenged by others, the more I challenged myself. In this way, I feel that by participating in the MDS mentorship program, I have come to think more critically about my own choices even in the simplest of dermatologic cases.

It was not just the clinical work that was enlightening. By having a chance to work directly with Dr. Fox on the inpatient side, I was able to see a different way of managing a consult team. I was intrigued by the notion of rounding in the morning alongside primary teams in the hospital. This allows the dermatology team to be seen in the hospital by our colleagues and increases awareness of the work that we do. This also allows the residents on the consult team to function more like a primary team. As consults come in during the day, the primary work up is initiated by the resident who gains more autonomy and time to follow up on studies. This is something that I intend to take with me no matter where I may practice in the future.

I also had the chance to spend time in the clinics of Doctors Tim Berger, Toby Maurer, and Kieron Leslie. I was able to see the management of many complex medical dermatologic issues in the outpatient setting with Dr. Berger. With Drs. Maurer and Leslie, I was able to see a high concentration of HIV-related dermatoses. Only by seeing such a high volume of cases was I able to start to appreciate the nuances that may play a difference in the diagnosis and management of many of the complex HIV-associated skin findings that are less common seen. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Drs. Berger, Maurer, and Leslie for their generosity in teaching and mentorship during my time there.

I am most grateful for the time that Dr. Fox spent sharing her experience and discussing my potential future in the fields of dermatology and internal medicine. She has provided me with much guidance as I now approach the daunting task of applying for faculty positions. As I look for positions that include both components of internal medicine and dermatology, I needed a better understanding of the delicate nature of how these two departments potentially interact. After my time with Dr. Fox, I have seen how she was able to improve the stature of dermatology as perceived by the internal medicine department. I hope to utilize her tips wherever I may end up for my academic career.

The time I spent in San Francisco with Dr. Fox was undoubtedly valuable for my own education and growth. What I am thankful for is not only the opportunity to have participated in this program, but also the mentorship Dr. Fox has provided, which I hope will continue into the future. My time at UC San Francisco was a very formative rotation that has enriched my residency at Harvard. Again, many thanks to the Medical Dermatology Society for making this opportunity available. I will take the lessons I have learned and apply them to my own practice of medical dermatology in the future.