

Thanks to the Medical Dermatology Society's Mentorsip Award program, I had the privilege of spending the month of September 2014 at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Dermatology under the mentorship of Drs. Carrie Kovarik and Misha Rosenbach.

During this month-long elective with a focus on medical dermatology and infectious disease, I had a packed and incredibly rich schedule. Most mornings, and some afternoons, were spent in the complex medical dermatology clinics, including sarcoidosis clinic with Dr. Rosenbach, GVHD clinic with Dr. Micheletti, psoriasis clinic with Drs. Van Voorhees and Gelfand, lymphoma clinic with Dr. Kim, and connective tissue disease clinic with Dr. Werth. I also spent several afternoons with Dr. Kovarik in her faculty practice seeing a variety of patients, many with HIV and other infectious diseases. In these clinic sessions I had the opportunity to learn practical pearls from some of the world's experts in each of these diseases and the privilege of meeting their very grateful patients.

Most of my afternoons were spent rounding on the consult service with Drs. Rosenbach, Micheletti, and Kim seeing patients requiring intensive inpatient dermatology care. I saw patients with toxic epidermal necrolysis, cryoglobulinemic vasculopathy, multiple patients with severe graft versus host disease, and several patients with life-threatening infections including disseminated trichosporonosis, E. coli cellulitis, and an enterovirus-induced Stevens-Johnson syndrome. I also spent several Monday evenings volunteering at the city free clinic with Penn faculty and residents, primarily seeing patients with sexually transmitted infections.

With Dr. Kovarik, I also explored my interest in teledermatology by seeing cases with her from both Penn's sister hospital in Botswana and from the city's local free clinics. It was very rewarding to try my hand at diagnosing these patients remotely and then review the cases with Dr. Kovarik. This experience furthered my desire to pursue teledermatology as part of my future career in academic dermatology – I have already witnessed the potential for teledermatology to greatly increase access to dermatologic care for a large variety of underserved patient populations, and I hope to join in this endeavor in my own future career.

During the month, with the guidance of Drs. Kovarik and Rosenbach I put together a presentation on three important emerging viruses: measles, dengue, and chikungunya, which I presented as my senior Grand Rounds talk at UCSF shortly after my return. I also created a didactic clinical unknowns session for my co-residents based on some of the most interesting cases I saw at Penn.

In sum, my elective at Penn was an unbelievably valuable, eye-opening, rich month in which I learned many new pearls of practical dermatology, saw and helped manage very complex and critically ill dermatology patients on the inpatient service, and furthered my interests in infectious disease, medical dermatology, and teledermatology. I met and worked closely with people who have become valued mentors and teachers and with whom I look forward to collaborating on many projects in the near future. I heartily recommend this rotation to other dermatology residents, and I am deeply thankful to the MDS for providing me with this opportunity.